

East Parish United Methodist Church

Established 1834

East Parish is a Church open to all, which nurtures and enables people to experience God's transforming love and serve others in Jesus' name.



St. Thomas Sunday

April 11, 2021

*The Book of Remembrance is opened to the Glory of
God, in loving memory of Albert G. Wallace.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you wish to become a member of our church family, or to be baptized, contact Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net

*** OPENING HYMN** *“Breathe on me, Breath of God”* **#420 (insert)**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Ministry Matters)

L: This is the good news which we proclaim to you.

P: Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!

L: Walk in the light of Christ's love.

P: Live in the light of Christ' teachings and healing mercies.

L: Come, let us worship the One who overcame death.

P: Let us celebrate the triumph of our God. AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of Resurrection surprises open our hearts this day to the presence of Jesus Christ. Erase our excuses for unbelief and exchange them for strong witness to the power of your mercy and love. Even as we gaze at the wounds we cause, give us courage. Challenge us to walk the path of discipleship, knowing that Jesus goes before us, leading and guiding our steps. In Jesus' name, we pray. AMEN.

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

SERMON

Pastor Nancy Wichmann

*** HYMN** *“He Lives”* **#310 (insert)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

You are invited to share your prayers of thanksgiving or petition. You may also send them to Pastor Wichmann at nan_wich@bellsouth.net; indicate whether or not they should be shared.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON)

Patient God, you wait for us to understand. You wait for us to remove the blinders of prejudice, fear, unbelief, confusion. You have offered to us the greatest miracle of all time, the resurrection of Your Beloved Jesus, our Christ. We sang and celebrated last Sunday, but a week has passed, and we have slid back into our old ways of perceiving your presence and love. Shake us up, God! Shake us up and cause us to look with new eyes on our Savior, who came that we might have life, abundantly serving all who are in need. Forgive our stubbornness and our complacency. Reach out to us so that we may reach out with healing love to others, for we pray this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

L. Please greet your neighbors with the blessing: "The peace of Christ be with you."

P. And also with you.

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY

No. 94

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SENDING

- * HYMN "Crown Him with Many Crowns" #327 (insert)
- * BENEDICTION
- * BENEDICTION RESPONSE "This is the Feast of Victory" #638 (insert)
vs. 3 - Antiphon

POSTLUDE

**Indicates that we rise in body or in spirit.*

United Methodist Church Staff and Worship Leaders

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1 John 1:1-2:2

¹ We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with God and was revealed to us— ³ we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with God and with the only Begotten, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵ This is the message we have heard from Christ and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷ but if we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus the only Begotten cleanses us from all sin. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and God's word is not in us. ^{2:1} My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with God, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² who is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

(New Revised Standard Version, adapted)

John 20:19-31

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After saying this, Jesus showed them the marks of crucifixion. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, Christ breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in Jesus' hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in the spear wound, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later the disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

²⁷ Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered, "My Savior and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the only Begotten of God, and that through believing you may have life in Jesus' name.

(New Revised Standard Version, adapted)

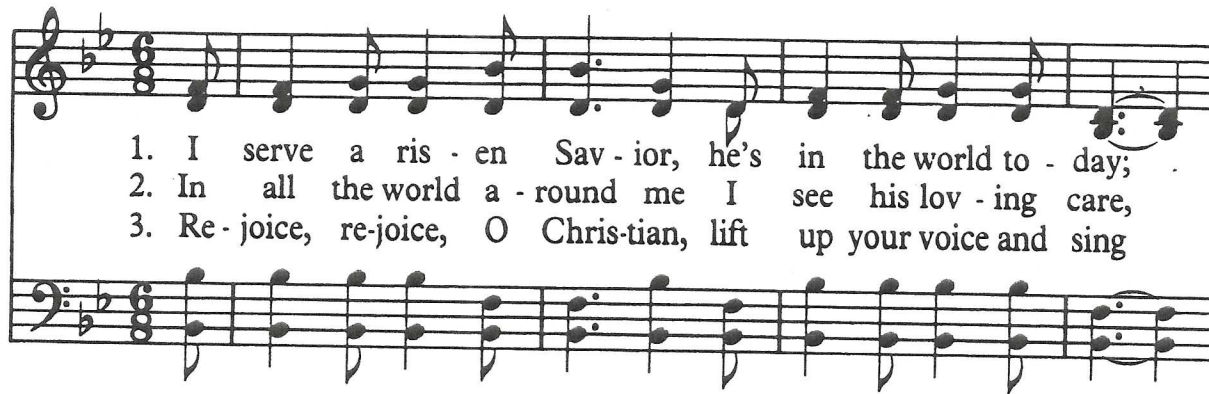
1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
 till all this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

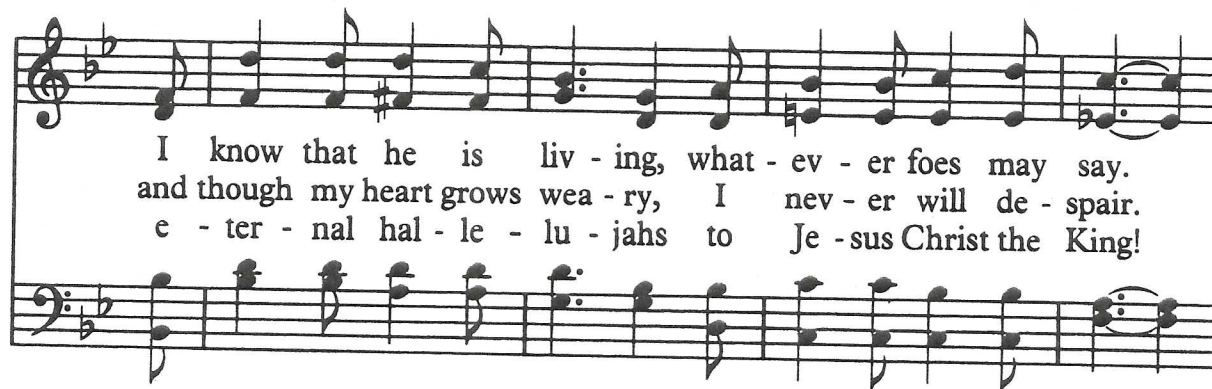
WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1878 (Jn. 20:22)
 MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
 SM

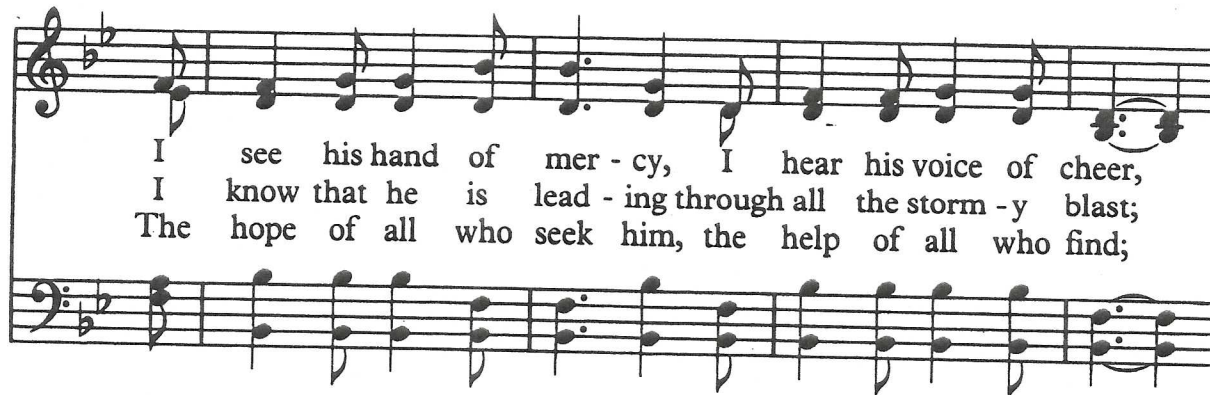
He Lives



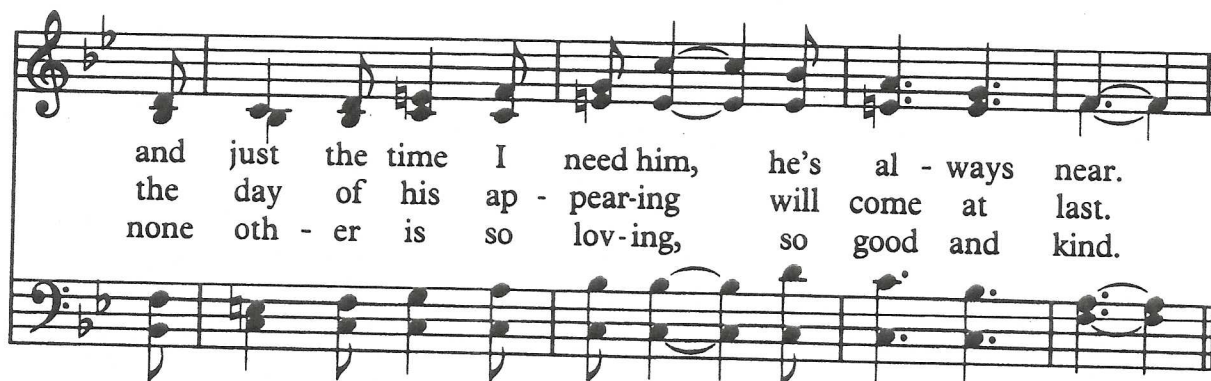
1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day;
 2. In all the world a - round me I see his lov - ing care,
 3. Re - joice, re-joice, O Chris-tian, lift up your voice and sing



I know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er foes may say.
 and though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair.
 e - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!



I see his hand of mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer,
 I know that he is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast;
 The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;



and just the time I need him, he's al - ways near.
 the day of his ap - pear-ing will come at last.
 none oth - er is so lov-ing, so good and kind.

HE LIVES, cont.

Refrain

He lives, (he lives) he lives, (he lives) Christ Je - sus lives to - day!

He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar-row way.

He lives, (he lives) he lives, (he lives) sal - va - tion to im - part!

You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with-in my heart.

327 Crown Him with Many Crowns

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.
 2. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave,
 3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,

Hark! how the heav-en-ly an-them drowns all mu-sic but its own.
 and rose vic - to-rious in the strife for those he came to save.
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
 those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 His glo - ries now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
 His reign shall know no end, and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re-deem-er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex-tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874 (Rev. 19:12)
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

DIADEMATA
SMD

RESURRECTION AND EXALTATION, *see further:*

636 Christian People, Raise Your Song 715, 716 Rejoice, the Lord Is King
 177 He Is Lord

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

This Is the Feast of Victory

Final Antiphon

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano and Bass, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The first system contains the lyrics 'This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.' The second system contains the lyrics 'Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!'. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing rests. The piece concludes with a double bar line.