

# Service for the Lord's Day

Second Sunday of Easter

April 7, 2024

Westminster Presbyterian Church  
400 Rugby Road, Charlottesville, Virginia

www.westminsterva.org · 434-293-3133



**W**elcome visitors, newcomers, and friends worshipping with us today! If you're interested in joining our church community, please speak to a pastor after worship or contact the church office, 434-293-3133. We hope you will worship with us again, whenever possible.

## Preparing to Hear God's Word

Prelude

*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*

J. S. Bach

Welcome

Thomas' Story

by Ruth Burgess

read by Lynne Clements and Dorothy Piatt-Esguerra

*It was different for me; maybe it had to be.*

**All of my life it had been the same, the same as my twin brother – the same clothes, the same first day at school – at the synagogue, the same birthday – often the same presents. Even the same name, if people got us mixed up.**

*Jesus was the first person who really treated me as an individual. He knew what was important to me. He knew what made me, me.*

**So maybe, on reflection, Jesus had his reasons to meet with the other disciples when I wasn't there. It was a strange week for me. Everyone was talking about angels and ghosts, about stolen bodies, about journeys and broken bread.**

*I didn't know what to believe. I needed to see Jesus for myself – and a week later I did.*

**He stood in front of me naming me – Thomas – inviting me to touch him to make sure for myself that he was flesh and blood.**

*It was different for me – but maybe it's different for everyone.*

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

◆ Hymn 231

**Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers**

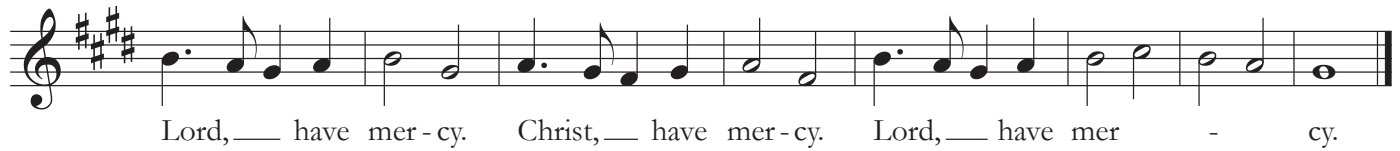
SUO GAN

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Lord, often we do not keep our eyes open for your presence among us. As we wonder at your resurrection, and the appearances you made to those close to you, we ask that our eyes might be opened to your presence. We are much like Thomas, full of doubt, needing assurances. You recognized his need and reassured him in the most tangible way in the touching of your flesh. We ask that you comfort and assure us that we might see your presence in the events of our lives as they unfold.**

Silent Prayers



### Assurance of Forgiveness

*God is ever with us, healing us with mercy and strengthening us for service. If God numbers the stars, surely our names are known by the One who loves us and offers us grace.*

*Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.*

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

### ◆ Sung Response

Glory to God hymnal 232

**Hymns of praise now let us sing: Alleluia!**

**Unto Christ our heavenly king: Alleluia!**

**Who endured the cross and grave: Alleluia!**

**Sinners to redeem and save: Alleluia!**

### ◆ Passing of the Peace

*May the peace of Christ be with you.*

**And also with you.**

Young children are invited to depart to the education building for a time of unstructured play.

## God's Word to Us

### Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

OT p. 659  
Virginia Rovnyak

Second Reading

John 20:19-31

NT p. 110

Communion Meditation

Seeing is Believing, Right?

Jewell-Ann Parton

## Responding to God's Word

### ◆ Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**

**Maker of heaven and earth,**

**and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;**

**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, dead, and buried;**

**he descended into hell;**

**the third day he rose again from the dead;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and sitteth on the right hand**

**of God the Father Almighty;**

**from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;  
the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body;  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

◆ Hymn 256                      **These Things Did Thomas Count as Real**                      KEDRON

Prayers of the Congregation

The Offering

Offertory                                      *The Day of Resurrection*                                      Georg Rhau  
Text can be found at Glory to God hymnal no. 233.

◆ Presentation of the Bread and Cup                                      Glory to God 607

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all people here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Lord's Table

The Great Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer                                      Glory to God Hymnal, p. 35

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Let us pray...*

*... Who forever sing to the glory of your name:*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;**                                      HS 72

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might;**

**Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

*...Great is the mystery of faith.*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**                                      HS 73

Breaking of the Bread and Communion of the People

Communion Music                                      *Alleluia*                                      William Boyce

Prayer after Communion

**Lord, use us to feed your flock, bring hope to those who despair,  
and love to those who need comforting. Amen.**

◆ Hymn 250                                      **In the Bulb There Is a Flower**                                      PROMISE

- ◆ Charge and Benediction

Postlude

*Postlude on "Llanfair"*

Robert J. Powell

- ◆ Please stand, as you are able.

*The flowers today are given by Liza Millett, in celebration for the life of her husband Lee Lewis, whose memorial service was held yesterday in this sanctuary.*

*The rose on the table is in celebration of the Nelson's newest grandchild born to Eric and Kara. Arlen James Nelson joins his big brother Elliot and parents in Denver, CO.*

Today's guest organist is Bruce Hively.

Today's vocal ensemble is Betsy Bloom, Elizabeth Dillon, Carolyn Kelly, Katie Nuss Louis, Dana Patek, and Annie Zhao.

## What's Happening *at Westminster*

### **Sunday, April 7**

9:30 a.m. Church School Hour

11 a.m. Worship with Communion in the Sanctuary

Noon UKirk and 20/30/40 Crew Bagel Brunch at Common Grounds

12:15 p.m. New Member Gathering in Room 208

1 p.m. UKirk & 20/30/40 CreW Feeding Families Service Project

### **Monday, April 8**

6:30 p.m. UKirk Dinner and Discussion in Common Grounds

### **Tuesday, April 9**

Noon Adult Luncheon in the Library

4 p.m. Tuesday Bible Study in the Lower Lounge

### **Wednesday, April 10**

7 p.m. 20/30/40 CreW Wind Down Wednesday (off site)

### **Thursday, April 11**

8 a.m. Breakfast Club in the Upper Lounge

7 p.m. Adult Choir rehearsal in the Choir Room

### **Sunday, April 14**

9:30 a.m. Church School Hour

9:30 a.m. New Member Gathering in Room 208

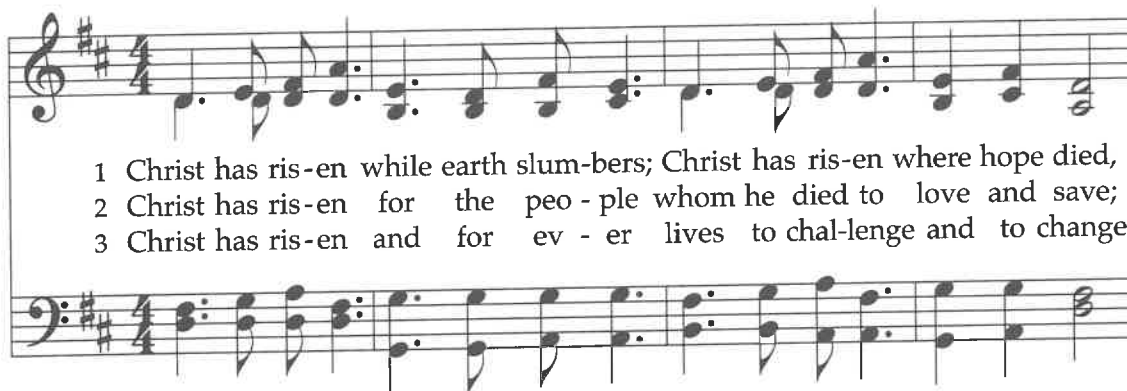
11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

Noon UKirk and 20/30/40 Crew Bagel Brunch at Common Grounds

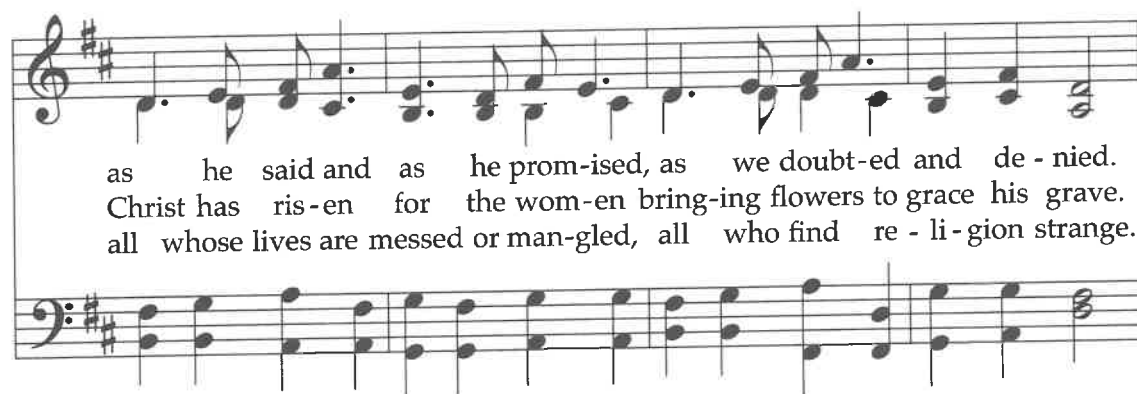
12:15 p.m. Singers Rehearsal in the Choir Room

12:30 p.m. Session Meeting in the Library

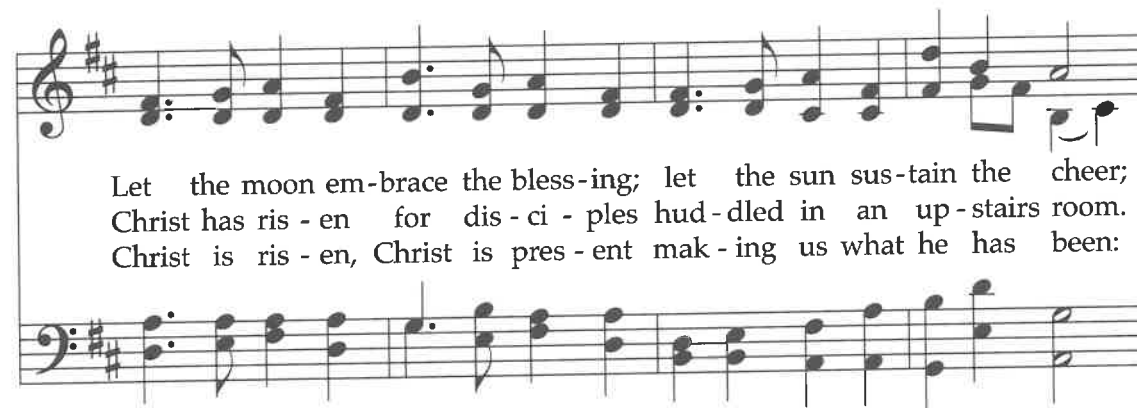
# Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers 231



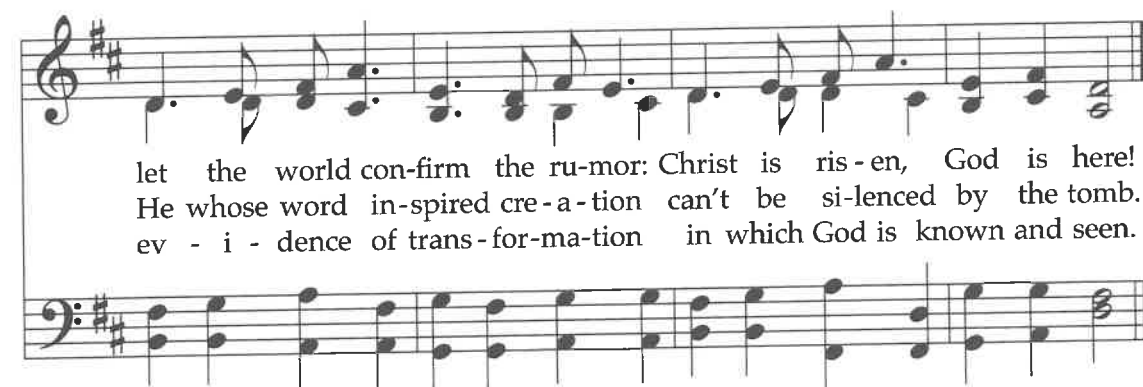
1 Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hope died,  
 2 Christ has ris-en for the peo - ple whom he died to love and save;  
 3 Christ has ris-en and for ev - er lives to chal-enge and to change



as he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de - nied.  
 Christ has ris-en for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave.  
 all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re - li-gion strange.



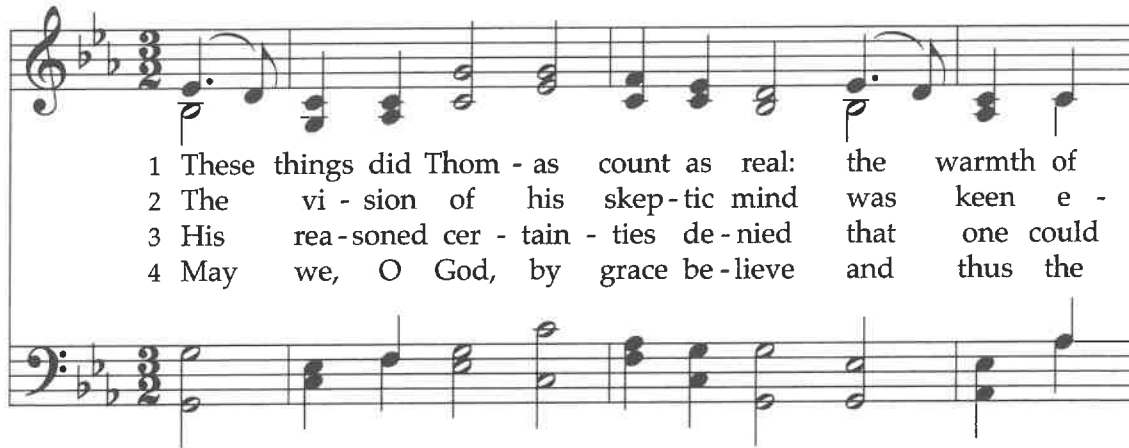
Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus-tain the cheer;  
 Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples hud-dled in an up - stairs room.  
 Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he has been:



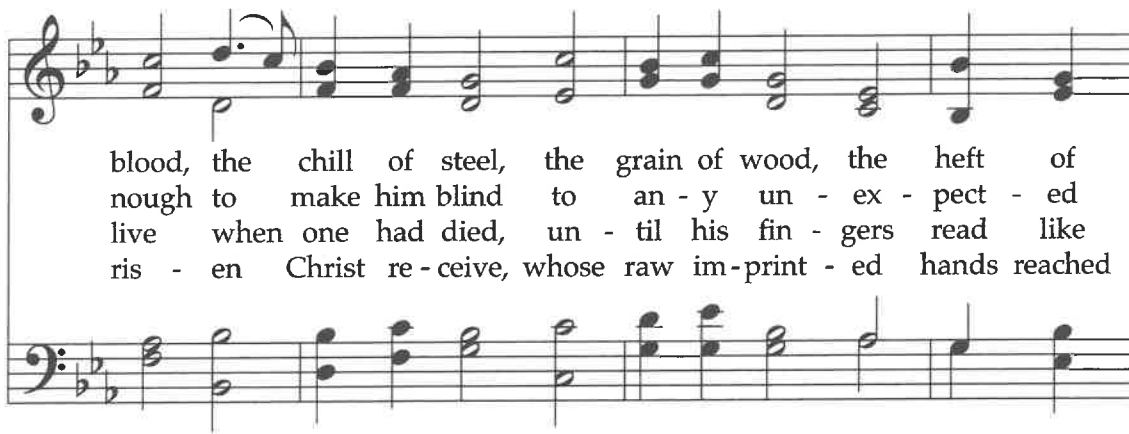
let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris-en, God is here!  
 He whose word in-spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced by the tomb.  
 ev - i - dence of trans-for-ma-tion in which God is known and seen.

Beginning with rather conventional Easter imagery, this text moves into unexpected territory by declaring that Christ's Resurrection is for "all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange." The name of this traditional Welsh melody simply means "lullaby."

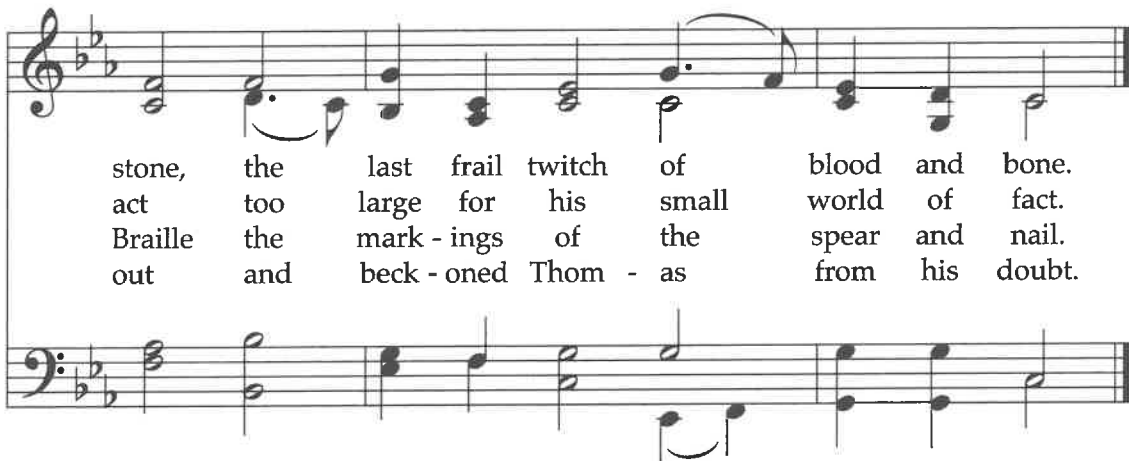
# 256 These Things Did Thomas Count as Real



1 These things did Thom - as count as real: the warmth of  
 2 The vi - sion of his skept - tic mind was keen e -  
 3 His rea - soned cer - tain - ties de - nied that one could  
 4 May we, O God, by grace be - lieve and thus the



blood, the chill of steel, the grain of wood, the heft of  
 nough to make him blind to an - y un - ex - pect - ed  
 live when one had died, un - til his fin - gers read like  
 ris - en Christ re - ceive, whose raw im - print - ed hands reached



stone, the last frail twitch of blood and bone.  
 act too large for his small world of fact.  
 Braille the mark - ings of the spear and nail.  
 out and beck - oned Thom - as from his doubt.

This 20th-century text provides a helpful corrective to a long history of negative attitudes toward Thomas for failing to believe the other disciples' report that Christ had risen. His fact-seeking "skeptical mind" sounds remarkably modern and makes him a more sympathetic figure.

# In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

## Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) F (Em) Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) C7 (D) F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)  
 F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)  
 Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning."  
 Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.