MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
May 3, 2020 – 11:00 a.m.

Opening Words

Introit

Greetings and Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Call to Worship

One: We gather in the name of the risen Lord.
All: Christ is risen! Alleluia!
One: We gather as sisters and brothers of the resurrected one.
All: Christ is risen! Alleluia!
One: We gather to share our faith and to worship God.
All: Christ is risen! Alleluia!
One: We gather to proclaim the good news of Easter!
All: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

"Thine Is the Glory"

Thine is the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
Rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes
Where Thy body lay.

Lo! Jesus meets us,
Risen from the tomb;
Lovingly He greets us,
Scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
Hymns of triumph sing,
For the Lord now liveth;
Death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]

No more we doubt Thee,
Glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without Thee;
Aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors
Through Thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan
To Thy home above.

Thine is the glory,
Risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.

Prayer of Confession
Creator God, We confess that at times we are skeptics. At times we doubt that You exist because of the evil we have seen in the world. Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world, and it is hard to see Your love and light. Sometimes, even those who bear Your name do not walk in Your ways. Help us to see Your goodness in this world. Help us to know Your love. Fill us with your love and goodness, so that we might love one another, and lift up one another in faith…..*Silent Confession***….Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon
One: …Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.
All: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Lesson John 20: 19-31

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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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 his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his 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." Then he 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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."

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

One: This is the Word of the Lord.
All: Thanks be to God!

Homily ***Living the Thomas Life in Gusti's Garden***

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.

Refrain
Lord of all, to Thee we raise,
This our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon, and stars of light. *(Refrain)*

For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight. *(Refrain)*

For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild. *(Refrain)*

For Thy Church, that evermore
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice of love. *(Refrain)*

Prayers of the People…concluding with the Lord's Prayer

After each petition, Pastor will say "Lord, In Your Mercy."
Congregation will respond with "Hear Our Prayer."

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Closing Song "**40"**

I waited patiently for the Lord
He inclined and heard my cry
He brought me up out of the pit
Out of the mire and clay

I will sing, sing a new song
I will sing, sing a new song

How long to sing this song
How long to sing this song
How long, how long, how long
How long, to sing this song

He set my feet upon a rock
And made my footsteps firm
Many will see
Many will see and fear

I will sing, sing a new song
I will sing, sing a new song
I will sing, sing a new song
I will sing, sing a new song

How long to sing this song
How long to sing this song
How long, how long, how long
How long, to sing this song

Benediction

Announcements for May 3

Grace, mercy, and peace. Welcome to the garden of Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church. We are delighted you have chosen to join us for worship this day.

Returning to In-Person Worship

Before we begin, I want to let you know about the steps we are beginning to take as it relates to our eventual return to this campus and in-person worship. Next week, the Worship Ministry Team will gather virtually to begin to discuss what a plan for our church will look like. We are relying heavily on what others, including our sister church, St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, have compiled. I have told the elders who co-chair this team that we are in no hurry and that personally, we don't need to set a date for return. In the church, we observe God's time, not our time. Right now, you are serving and being the body of Christ. I know you are restless, I know some of you are depressed, but I also know you are committed, like me, to serving one another, and to serving the least of these, and to ensuring your own personal safety and well-being. You are doing that by maintaining social responsibility, by gathering virtually, and by volunteering and by supporting those impacted negatively to the best of your ability. I give thanks to God for all you are doing. Going forward, I will continue to keep you updated as we enact and develop plans.

Zoom Tutorial

As I mentioned we are doing a great deal. Today at 1pm, Matthias and I invite you to join us for a Zoom Tutorial. I know some of you are feeling overwhelmed by the use of technology during this time and I am right there with you. If you would like learn with us and learn together, please email Terri Clayton, our communications person at terri@mvpchurch.org and she will send you the link to join us. We are doing this so you might feel more connected as we continue to gather in small groups, Sunday school, Fellowship gatherings, and even worship opportunities that we are exploring.

Youth Basketball Fundraiser

As you may have noticed, your church has also set up a special Covid-19 fund and task force to respond to the missional needs in our area. You can learn more about this fund in our newsletter posted on our website under the "news" tab. Tonight your youth is sponsoring a virtual fundraiser by playing PIG in our driveways. So if you are a basketball player, we invite you to give $10 to this fund, and then contact me at barrett@mvpchurch.org or Jon Barber and we will have fun together. The event starts at 5pm tonight and the winner will have the proceeds given to Covid relief in their name.

May 10th Worship Service

Next Sunday, we will celebrate Mothers and our Class of 2020 Seniors. We currently have 9 seniors: Melinda Carden, Jack McGuire, Lindsay Southard, Erin Jackson, Katie Sprung, McLaren Christensen, Julia Northop, Devin Wade, and staff singer Grace Rivord who will graduate from various high schools. Please join us and their mothers as they help us celebrate the love of Christ.