

Milliken Presbyterian Church

"No Doubt About It"

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

*Lead me from despair to hope from fear to trust. Lead me
from hate to Love, from war to peace. Let peace fill our hearts,
our world, our universe,*

Adapted from "The Unpanishads" by Satish Kumar

The Gathering of God's People

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Come with your doubts and fears.

This is scary

Call on God who will answer you.

God is hard to see these days.

Come to the One who will give your souls peace.
Come, claim your identity as beloved children of God.

**We come, uncertain, but longing to hear God speak to us
this morning.**

Opening Prayer (to the Worship Leader – use this one or one of your own)
Come to us God, for we are waiting and hoping that your word of peace will soothe our fearful and doubting souls. Open our hearts to the message you would share with us today through song, prayer and meditation, that our souls might reach out, touch you, and believe. Help us claim our identity as your children that we might radiate your love to others. Amen

Hymn

"SHOUT TO THE LORD"

My Jesus my Savior
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Shout to the Lord
All the earth let us sing
Power and majesty
Praise to the King
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy
At the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You
Forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You

Call to Confession

The One who calls us to repent, hears us. In trust that our Creator knows us through and through, let us open our hearts to the healing of God's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of our heart and lives, too many times we have doubted and turned away, failing to recognize you or your voice; denying our true identity. We despair that it is so hard to find peace in our lives, our church, our community. We long to hear you, O God, in the voices that overwhelm our senses and cloud our minds. Open our minds to understand the scriptures, and transform the happenings in our lives into a powerful witness of your radical love for all.

A Time of Silent Confession. . . In Christ's name we pray. **Amen**

Words of Assurance

Know that God has set us apart to be faithful.
Trust that God hears us when we call.
Believe that God makes us lie down in peace and safety!
Know. Trust. Believe.
There is no doubt about it
Thanks be to God!

The Hearing of God's Word

First New Testament Scripture Lesson: 1 John 3:1-7

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him. Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in them; they cannot go on sinning, because they have been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not God's child, nor is anyone who does not love their brother and sister.

Second New Testament Scripture Lesson: Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have." When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. And while they still did not

believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

The Message There's No Doubt About It! Donna Herman

Responding to the Word

Hymn

"In Christ Alone"

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

No guilt in life no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Prayers of the People, including the Lord's Prayer

The Sending of God's People

Benediction