



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Second Sunday of Easter • April 11, 2021 • 10 a.m.
178 OENOK RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG

Please prayerfully allow the silent, sacred space of where you are,
and the quiet stirrings of the Spirit to prepare your heart and mind for worship.

THE GATHERING

Prelude

Prelude to *Te Deum*

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

*Call to Worship

Courtney Steininger

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Leader: We have not seen the risen Christ,

People: **But we see him in the lives
of those transformed by God's grace.**

Leader: We have not seen Jesus face-to-face,

People: **But we have seen him in the faces
of everyone whose love encourages us.**

Leader: We have not touched the wounds from the cross,

People: **But we have been called to bring healing to the scarred of the world.**

Leader: And so we worship you, Creator God, Redeemer Christ, Holy Spirit.

People: **You are a sending God. As we worship you, send us into the world
renewed to share your love and peace with all!**

*PLEASE STAND IN BODY AND/OR SPIRIT.

If you are attending worship in-person, please hum the hymns with your mask on.

*Hymn

O Sons and Daughters Let Us Sing

O FILII ET FILIAE

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

le - lu - ia!

1 O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing with
2 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear; a -
3 When Thom - as first the ti - dings heard, how
4 "My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see; and

heaven-ly hosts to Christ our King; to - day the grave has
mong them came their Lord most dear, and said, "My peace be
they had seen the ris - en Lord, he doubt - ed the dis -
look up - on my hands, my feet; not faith - less, but be -

lost its sting!
with you here."
ci - ples' word.
liev - ing be."

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

Fine

***Invitation to Confession**

Julie Reeves

Leader: We acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord. And we are deeply grateful that we experience joy as we gather to worship God, to give thanks for the crucified-risen Lord and to give witness to the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Yet, there are times when we feel afraid, abandoned, and lonely; when faith leads to doubt and questions rather than a sense of joy or peace of mind. Unlike those first disciples, we cannot touch or see Jesus, but we trust that he comes to where we are, and breathes new life upon us as we need. So, with confidence in God's love and forgiveness, let us confess our sin together, then in silence.

***Confession of Sin**

People: **God of new life, forgive us when, like the disciples, we find the truth of Easter hard to believe. Come to us, risen Christ, come through the closed doors of our hearts and minds and take away our fears and doubts. Come to us, risen Christ, breathe on us and fill us with the joy and peace of your presence. Bless us as people who, though we have not seen you, believe that you are truly the risen Christ, Son of God...**

time for silent confession...

Leader: In Jesus' name.

People: **Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon**

Leader: Friends, "If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness," and, "if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world." So, hear and believe the good news:

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and made righteous. Amen!**

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

(Please greet one another with a sign of the peace of Christ.)

Children's Blessing

Courtney Steininger

THE WORD

Unison Prayer For Illumination

Jim Ely

Loving God, breathe your Holy Spirit on us that we may receive your Word and be filled with the peace of the crucified-risen Christ. Teach us his words of forgiveness so that we may be your Easter agents of reconciliation in a broken and wounded world. Amen.

First Lesson - Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second 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.

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

"Not Seeing and Believing"

The Rev. Scott Herr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Prayers of the People

Courtney Steininger

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Presentation of Tithes, Offerings and Ourselves

Jim Ely

*Offertory

He Never Said a Mumblin' Word / Did You Hear When Jesus Rose?

arranged by Roland Hayes

An' He never said a mumblin' word.
He bowed His head an' died!
Oh, not a word!

Mary set her table, In spite of all her foes.
King Jesus sat at de center place,
An' cups did overflow.
Children, did you hear when Jesus rose?
He rose an' ascended on high.
The Father looked at His Son an' smiled,
De son did look at-a Him.
De Father saved my soul from Hell,
An' de Son freed me from sin.

Prayer of Dedication

Jim Ely

If you are attending worship in-person, please hum the hymns with your mask on.

SENDING

***Hymn**

The Day of Resurrection

LANCASHIRE

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

***Charge and Benediction**

The Rev. Scott Herr

Ringing of the Church Bell

***Postlude**

Toccata

Michelle Leclerc

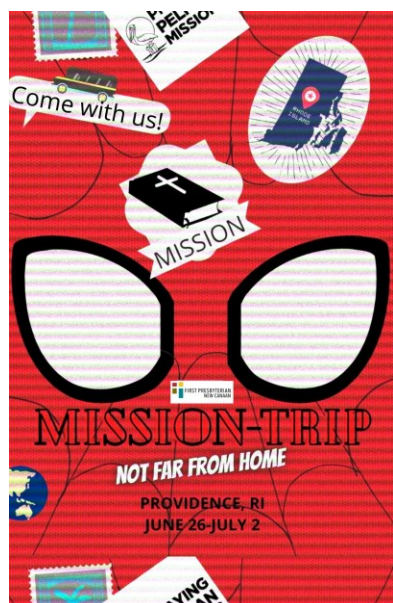
Welcome to worship with us, the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church in New Canaan. We are so glad that you are here and pray that you will experience the grace of God's welcome. Today, Scott will be preaching on this "Doubting Thomas" Sunday and, through the lens of the two lectionary texts, John 20:19-31 and Acts 4:32-35, exploring the importance of how Jesus comes to where we are and reveals a wounded God.



New Members' Orientation Class, via Zoom today at 11:30-1:00 pm. Despite the Pandemic, the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan is alive and well, albeit worshipping and connecting in different ways. Some of you have expressed an interest in becoming members of the church, so we will offer a 90-minute orientation class on Zoom. We will cover three main questions: "Who are we?" "What do we believe?" and "How do we live out our faith?" All are welcome! Contact tina@fpcnc.org, if you are interested and for the Zoom link.

Since in-person worship has resumed, FPCNC would like to remind all families that as part of our congregation's commitment to families with young children, please note that childcare (for ages 5 and under) is provided during in-person worship. All young children who are not comfortable sitting through any of the services are invited to a play space where they will be taken care of. For elementary-aged children, we encourage them to participate in the service as much as possible, while also providing in-worship resources for them like coloring pages, etc., before they go to children's worship for the duration of the sermon and return to sit with their families with the next hymn.

Children's worship during in-person worship is different than Sunday School, which is still be offered online in a breakout room from the coffee hour at 11:30. All children, whether they attended in-person worship or not, are invited to Sunday School. This week, Children's Worship during the 10 o'clock service will be about belief, and we will do some handprint art! Furthermore, our 11:30 am Sunday School lesson is entitled "Seeing is Believing" based on the doubting Thomas story. We will discuss what it means to believe that Christ is risen, and how we should act based on that affirmation. Parents, remember that on Saturday, you will receive an email that will include discussion questions for your family about our weekly theme and big questions, as well as the instructions for our Sunday School craft! Parents, remember that on Saturday, you will receive an email that will include discussion questions for your family about our weekly theme and big questions, as well as the instructions for our Sunday School craft! **The Sunday School Bulletin is Here!** [Click here](#) to download the children's bulletin: Jesus Appears to his Disciples. [Click here](#) for the Zoom link (Passcode is Joy!). There will be a waiting room to be accepted to the meeting. A gentle reminder: to avoid zoom bombing, please identify yourself clearly as you are coming into the meeting.



High School Mission Trip to Providence, RI • June 26-July 2, 2021. A few general details (because plans have been slightly altered with the mission trip agency due to Covid-19): We will be leaving in the afternoon of June 26 for Providence, Rhode Island, and we will be returning home by the evening of July 2nd. We will be helping a congregation with their Vacation Bible School (which will be superhero-themed) and doing various projects for them. If you are unable to make the meeting, please do not hesitate to reach out with questions! A mission trip info session for parents and their high school teens will take place this upcoming **Sunday, April 11, 2021, at 7 pm**. This info session will take place via Zoom, and I encourage you to attend, even if you are unsure whether your teen will be available for the mission trip. [Click here](#) to join the Zoom Meeting.

Please consider volunteering to help with our Sunday service. As we honor the requirements of COVID, please be aware that we need all our congregation to help with our services, whether on LocalLive, or in person. Please consider volunteering to read, carry the cross, greet and/or usher during our in-person service. Signing up is easy: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday>.



Listening Assist System: For people now attending in-person services at FPC, we have a new Listening Assist system for those needing hearing or listening assistance. The new devices are located on the table at the rear center of the Sanctuary in front of the stained-glass windows. The receiving devices are in a new charging station and the ear-pieces are in a basket on the table. If you need assistance with the device, please ask an usher.

Please keep the following people in your hearts. *Continued concerns:* Tim and Kate Albert (friends of the Holden family); Catherine Armstrong; Frank Banko; Gloria Bridgman; John Edwards; Mary Bolling Hoffman; Denise Lynch; Debbie Murphy Williams; The Abo Noktah family (our Syrian refugees): father Khaldoun, mother Khawla Alzob, daughters Hanin, Zain and Hayat, and sons Yaman and Ahmed, and Khaldoun's mother, Nam Abo Noktah.

THIS WEEK at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

**10 a.m. Worship Service via LocalLive
and in-person (see Protocol info)
The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr preaching**
10:15 a.m. Children's Worship
11 a.m. Coffee Hour, via Zoom
11:30 a.m. Adult Ed and Sunday School, via Zoom
11:30 a.m. New Member's Class, via Zoom
**7 p.m. Mission Trip Information meeting,
via Zoom**

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

10 a.m. Leadership Team
7 p.m. Session

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14

2 p.m. Musical Musings

THURSDAY, APRIL 15

3:30 p.m. Confirmation Class
6 p.m. Facebook Live

SUNDAY, APRIL 18

**10 a.m. Worship Service via LocalLive
and in-person (see Protocol info)
The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr preaching**
10:15 a.m. Children's Worship
11 a.m. Coffee Hour, via Zoom
11:30 a.m. Adult Ed and Sunday School, via Zoom

Participating in today's service:

Singers: The Flanagan Family & The Wallace/McNickle Family
Greeters: John & Ruth Laird; **Ushers:** Peggy Hooker & Stephan von Jena; **Cross Bearer:** Jim Ely
Lay Readers: Jim Ely and Julie Reeves

MINISTERS

The Entire Congregation

OUR PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor • The Rev. Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

OUR STAFF

Victoria Shields, Director of Music and Arts • Sherry Tate, Cherub Choir Director
Courtney Steininger, Director of Youth and Children Ministries
Jim Riehl, Interim Church Administrator • Tina St. Armand, Office Manager
Kate Stringfellow, Operations Manager

COVID VACCINE APPOINTMENTS - APRIL 1st

Governor Ned Lamont today announced that the State of Connecticut is on track to expand its COVID-19 vaccination program to the final group of adults, including all individuals between the ages of 16 and 44, on Thursday, April 1, 2021. Individuals in this age group will have access to schedule appointments.

To schedule an appointment, Connecticut residents should visit ct.gov/covidvaccine and enter their zip code in the space provided. From there, they will be presented a list of the closest available clinics and instructions for how to make an appointment at each clinic. Those without access to the internet can call Connecticut's Vaccine Appointment Assist Line at **877-918-2224**. The assist line is available seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Appointments are required in advance at all vaccination clinics in the state.

Individuals who are 16 and 17 years old are reminded that they should only sign up for a clinic that is offering the vaccine made by Pfizer, as that is the only vaccine at this point that has been approved for those ages by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

"With the recent increase in cases in Connecticut, it is crucial that everyone who wants a vaccine, gets one as quickly as possible," **Connecticut Acting Public Health Commissioner Dr. Deidre Gifford said**. "I am extremely proud of everyone involved in our vaccine program – the federal government, our local health departments and community partners, our vaccine providers, the National Guard – and thankful for the leadership of Governor Lamont and his team, who have all helped to speed up Connecticut's delivery of vaccines and make tomorrow's final expansion to all adults possible. Through everyone's efforts, we are now able to offer vaccine to all adults' months earlier than originally planned. While general availability of vaccines is a cause for celebration, we must also remember to keep up our guard against the spread of COVID-19. Even after you are vaccinated, you should continue to wear masks, social distance, avoid large gatherings, and test and isolate if you are sick."

All eligible age groups aged 16+ are encouraged to fill out a new request with this link if you are still in need of an appointment so the Health department has a current list. You must receive an appointment from the Health department and no walk-ins are permitted at the clinics. The link to the voluntary COVID 19 vaccination sign-up form can be found in the email of this message at <https://forms.gle/aNMu4eEPajyVJQDr6> and in the red COVID box on the town website. You must be a New Canaan resident.

Besides VAMS, eligible residents may also try one of the pharmacies on the CT Covid-19 Vaccine Pharmacy list that is posted on the town website (www.newcanaan.info) in the red COVID alert box. The list has the pharmacy name and address, but you will have to Google search for the phone number. The closest area pharmacy is the Walgreens in New Canaan on Pine Street. You can try Walgreens by visiting their website (www.walgreens.com) to find any appointments that may be available in the area. Some pharmacies are listed in VAMS and others have their own direct scheduling via their websites.

New Canaan residents that are eligible may try to register for vaccination appointments at Stamford Hospital which has a newly expanded community super COVID 19 vaccination site located at 1 Elmcroft in Stamford's Harbor Point in addition to their vaccine clinic on the hospital campus in the Wheeler building. For more information and to sign up directly with Stamford Hospital please visit [COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#) at Stamford Hospital's website. You will be asked a few questions to determine if you are eligible to be vaccinated with them. If you do not have an email address you may call 203-276-7300.

Another source of helpful information about vaccination appointments is the State of CT search tool at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccination-Scheduling-Options> Those that need computer

assistance may call the Vaccine Assistance Line at 1-877-918-2224 or 2-1-1.

Governor Ned Lamont and Attorney General William Tong are warning Connecticut residents to be on alert for scams related to COVID-19 vaccines.

One scam reportedly involves fraudsters posing as vaccine manufacturers Moderna and Pfizer seeking response to a "COVID-19 survey" and then asking consumers for a credit card, supposedly for "shipping purposes."

Another involves a letter impersonating the governor's office that suggests the vaccines are dangerous. Consumers are then directed to a website that attempts to obtain money and personal information.

And a third scam has fraudsters impersonating vaccinators who ask for sensitive information such as Social Security numbers and bank information.

State officials are offering the following tips for consumers to protect themselves against vaccine-related scams:

- Do not pay anything to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Ignore sales ads related to the vaccine.
- Beware of unsolicited emails or texts concerning the vaccine, including offers of rewards or payments.
- Do not share personal, financial, or health information with unfamiliar people.

If anyone becomes aware of a vaccine-related scam or believes they may be the victim of a scam, they should file a complaint with state and local authorities:

- Suspicious activities related to vaccine distribution practices or concerns for public health should be reported to local law enforcement or local public health officials.
- Suspected fraud or business-related scams can be reported to the Department of Consumer Protection by visiting ct.gov/DCP or sending an email to dcp.complaints@ct.gov.
- If anyone believes they have been the victim of a scam or have been contacted by a scammer, they should contact the Office of the Attorney General at 860-808-5318 or attorney.general@ct.gov.



Let's Talk About It New Canaan is a website that provides *behavioral health resources* for the citizens of New Canaan. Behavioral health is the scientific study of the emotions, behaviors, and biology relating to a person's mental well-being, ability to function in everyday life, and concept of self. This is an excellent resource for you and your neighbors, friends, and colleagues at school and at the office (online or in-person colleagues). Please take a moment to browse the "Let's Talk About It" website to discover various resources for promoting the health of our community: <https://letstalkaboutitnc.org>. Or see the promotional video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1d5PEm_rpM Special thanks to Dede Bartlett, a member of FPCNC who has been working with The NCCF Behavioral Health Partners over the past few years to provide a website with

resources for the larger community.