



LAKE OF BAYS PASTORAL CHARGE

Pioneer, Hillside –10:30a.m.

Sunday Worship on April 7, 2024

Second Sunday of Easter

Preacher: Ms Lorna Bywater

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WE GATHER

Welcome

Announcements—Family Life and Work

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgement of the Land

Call to Worship

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: Our Lord has overcome the power of death.

People: In Christ we live forever.

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Hymn: This is God's Wondrous World V.U. pg. 296

This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.

3 This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:
why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!

WE LISTEN

Scripture Readings

Acts 4 32:35....Diana Scott

Psalms 133.....Diana Scott

John 20 19:31

Hymn: Breathe on me Breath of God #240 V.U.

- 1 Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.
- 2 Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine,
to do and to endure.
- 3 Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.
- 4 Breathe on me, breath of God:
so shall I never die,
but live with thee the perfect life
of thine eternity.

Meditation: Without a Doubt! Seeing is Believing

Early one cold January morning, the husband and wife were arguing over who would get out of that warm bed to make the coffee. Finally, the wife said, "You have to make the coffee. It's in the Bible." The husband was one who had to see to believe. He was shocked and said, "It's not. Show me!" Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, "It says right here, "Hebrews". That man had to see to believe.

We've just driven home from Florida, "The Sunshine State." We drove through Tennessee, "The Volunteer State". But the one that interests me today is Missouri, "The Show Me State". Apparently, a congressman in the late 1890's declared in a speech that being from a state that grew corn and cotton, any frothy elegance didn't convince him. He said, "I'm from Missouri. You've got to show me." Most of us live in Missouri, not physically but spiritually. In our gospel reading from John this morning, I'd say Thomas lived in Missouri too. He had to see to believe. When Jesus appeared to the disciples in the Upper Room, Thomas was not there. We don't know where he was but perhaps he was so devastated by the death of Jesus, he just had to be alone. The nickname, "Doubting

Thomas” has been around for over 2,000 years. I don’t think it’s fair to Thomas as he really was a good disciple following Jesus. He didn’t believe what the other disciples told him. He had to see for himself. He had to be sure. Each one of us has a bit of Thomas in us. We all doubt at times. A father said one day, “Remember son, a smart person always has doubts about something. Only a total idiot can be 100% sure about everything.” “Dad, are you sure?” “Absolutely!” Doubts help us learn and see. Some of us today are coming up empty at work, at home, with struggles in our hearts and with our faith. Just like Thomas. When Jesus appeared to Thomas and invited him to see and touch his wounds, Thomas believed immediately. Jesus showed him mercy and forgiveness and he said, “Peace be with you”. Jesus comes to give us a new start in the midst of whatever is going on in your life right now. Thomas had to see Jesus himself in order to believe. He needed his own experience of the risen Lord. Thomas is a symbol of courage. On his own, he had only his doubts for company. In community with the other disciples, he encountered the living Christ.....the same Lord who calls to us today. Jesus breathed on the disciples and they received the Holy Spirit. He sent them into the world to continue his work. The word disciple means one who learns. Now they will become apostles....one

who is sent. They would go and show by example how to live. We are also apostles, we go out to share our joy, our love, our hopes, all with the help of the Holy Spirit. That’s how others get a glimpse of our Risen Lord.

The Risen Christ confronted Thomas. Easter changed Thomas. Christ is alive. That reality can change your life too. Move through your doubts. Because of Easter, the gift of the Holy Spirit is now here. The Holy Spirit is the bondfast glue that holds us together as a community....the church. Only the Spirit can hold such diverse people together and transform them into a community of God’s people prepared to do God’s work.

People today meet Jesus in different ways. We can meet him in Scripture. We can meet him in love shown to us by others. Jesus may come to you when you least expect it. He may startle you as he did those disciples in the Upper Room and Thomas one week later. He may come into the secret depths of your very soul. Jesus enters our midst to assist at our points of need and helps us deal with our present situation. He strengthens us and shares our concerns. Often, he is nearest when all hope is gone, and he comes and says. “Peace be with you.”

The peace that Jesus gives transcends all understanding and will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. This peace isn’t the peace we usually think of

when all is well, when life is good, when things are going great and you are happy. It is a gift of a heart of peace in the midst of a messy life. When you are sitting at a funeral, when your teenager isn’t home after several hours, when you are told you have cancer, when everything around you is in the midst of a storm. Its at that moment Jesus comes to you saying, “Peace be with you. I’m still in control. I’m here.”

Albert Einstein, the brilliant physicist of Princeton University, was travelling by train one day. When the conductor came down the aisle to punch passenger’s tickets, Einstein couldn’t find his. He looked in his vest pocket, his pants pocket, and his briefcase.

There was no ticket. The conductor was gracious, "Don't worry, Dr. Einstein, I know who you are and I'm sure you bought a ticket. As the conductor moved down the aisle, he looked back and noticed Einstein on hands and knees searching under the seat. The conductor returned to Einstein. "Dr. Einstein, I'm sure you bought a ticket. You don't need one." Einstein got up and said, "Young man, I too, know who I am. What I don't know is where we are going." That's the good news of Easter. We know here we are going. Our Lord has promised Eternal Life. Nothing changes that promise, not illness, not loss of job, nor depression or failure; not even death.

We know because Jesus has promised. Without a doubt, that is faith. Amen.

WE RESPOND

Call for Offering

Doxology: V.U. 541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Offering Prayer: (In Unison)

Gracious and giving God,
You call us to acts of goodness,
We want to help others and show
them the wonders of your love.
Bless, we pray, our offerings and
ourselves that these wants may be
fulfilled.
We ask in Jesus' name. Amen

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn: Take my Life 506 V.U.

1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

- 3 Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee; take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.
- 4 Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine; take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.
- 5 Take my love: and I will pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Commissioning (In Unison)

In the power of the Holy Spirit
We go forth into the world
to fulfill our calling as the people of God;
the body of Christ.

Benediction

[Lorna Bywater is a longtime member of Knox United in Dorset and St. Paul's United in Midland with leadership experience at all levels of the church. As a trained lay minister she has preached over 300 sermons.]

Announcements

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|--------------------------|--|----------------|
| April 10-April 13 | Dramatic presentation in Pioneer Hall | |
| | BLOOMING VIOLET \$20 Details online. | |
| April 14 | Shared Worship 10:30 | |
| | Annual Meeting-following worship | |
| | Barbecue Luncheon after meeting | |
| April 17 | LOB Coffee and Conversation Zoom | 10 a.m. |
| April 18 | Healing Prayer Service online 6:30-8.00pm | |
| April 21 | Easter 4 Earth Sunday 10:30 a.m. | |
| April 25 | Circle Dance in Pioneer Hall 6:30-800p.m. | |
| April 28 | Easter 5 10:30 a.m. Worship Team Meeting | |
| May 5 | Last shared service at Pioneer. | |
| May 12 | Mother's Day. Knox Re-opens. | |

Ongoing Stewardship Options:

1. In person and on the plate.

2. Via PAR (preauthorized remittance). Money is withdrawn monthly from your bank account.

3. By e-transfer. The email address for donations via e-transfer is lobunitedchurches@gmail.com In the subject line/comment please identify to which of the Churches you wish to donate, Pioneer in Hillside, Stewart in Dwight or Knox in Dorset.

4. By cheque: If you send a cheque, please make it out to Lake of Bays Pastoral Charge and mail it to: LOB United Churches, P.O. Box 196, Dwight, ON, P0A 1H0, specifying for which church the donation is intended. Thank you.

Minister: Rev Meg Jordan (705-789-6600) jordanm@vianet.ca
lakeofbayspastoralcharge196@gmail.com
Bookkeeper/Administrator: Linda Pinkerton
Leadership Chair: Jennifer Parker
Musician, Knox: Cynthia MacLean