

TIKKUN – HEALING THE WORLD

GOD HAS WOUNDS, TOO THE GIFTS OF DOUBT AND VULNERABILITY

OCTOBER 25, 2020



Whether your faith is that there is a God or that there is not a God, if you don't have any doubts, you are either kidding yourself or asleep. Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving.
-Frederick Buechner

PREPARE YOUR WORSHIP SPACE

**As we light this candle we pray for you to come,
Holy Spirit. Fill this place. Fill our lives. Unite us as the
Church of Jesus Christ. Set our hearts on fire. Amen.**

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Trompette Jubilante* Penfield

CALL TO WORSHIP

O Lord our God, here we are before you with our firmness and our infirmity.

Preserve the first and heal the second.

Here we are before you with our strength and our ignorance.

**Where you have opened the door to us, welcome us
at the entrance; where you have closed the door to
us, open to our cry;**

In this worship, enable us to remember you,
to understand you, and to love you. Amen.

--Adapted from Saint Augustine

HYMN *Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know* no. 163

**Ask ye what great thing I know,
that delights and stirs me so?
What the high reward I win?
Whose the name I glory in?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

**Who defeats my fiercest foes?
Who consoles my saddest woes?
Who revives my fainting heart,
healing all its hidden smart?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

**Who is life in life to me?
Who the death of death will be?
Who will place me on his right,
with the countless hosts of light?
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

**This is that great thing I know;
this delights and stirs me so:
faith in him who died to save,
him who triumphed o'er the grave:
Jesus Christ, the crucified.**

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

When we keep our faults and failures locked safely away, we have no need to confess. But God comes into our hearts when we least expect, so we can be filled with forgiveness, with hope, with peace. Please join me as we pray, saying,

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord God, you made the hearts of the disciples glad with the knowledge of the resurrection of Jesus, your Son. Forgive us because we find the truth of resurrection so hard to believe; forgive us that we are so easily downcast, and given to despair; forgive us that, although we claim to live by the resurrection faith, we so often appear to believe that suffering is simply a tragedy and that death is the end; forgive us that we take so much convincing of the hope that your Son came to give to all. Forgive us for our sin...

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Come to us, Lord God, in the power of the risen Christ.

Take away our crippling doubts and fears and through your Holy Spirit bring us to life in your service;

for your Kingdom is built on a foundation of resurrected people. Thanks be to God. Amen

♦ SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

(Had any God sightings this week? Share them on the chat.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Job 23: 1-9 CEB

Job answered: Today my complaint is again bitter; my strength is weighed down because of my groaning. Oh, that I could know how to find him—come to his dwelling place; I would lay out my case before him, fill my mouth with arguments, know the words with which he would answer, understand what he would say to me. Would he contend with me through brute force? No, he would surely listen to me. There those who do the right thing can argue with him; I could escape from my judge forever. Look, I go east; he's not there, west, and don't discover him; north in his activity, and I don't grasp him; he turns south, and I don't see.

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

MUSIC *Above the Voices of the World Around Me*
Vocal Quartet K. Lee Scott

*Above the voices of the world around me,
My hopes and dreams, my cares and loves and fears,
The long-awaited call of Christ has found me,
The voice of Jesus echoes in my ears:
"I gave My life to break the cords that bind you,
I rose from death to set your spirit free;
Turn from your sins and put the past behind you,
Take up your cross and come and follow me."*

*What can I offer Him who calls me to Him?
Only the wastes of sin and self and shame;
A mind confused, a heart that never knew Him,
A tongue unskilled at naming Jesus' Name.
Yet at Your call, and hungry for Your blessing,
Drawn by that cross which moves a heart of stone,
Now Lord I come, my tale of sin confessing,
And in repentance turn to You alone.*

*Lord, I believe; help now my unbelieving;
I come in faith because Your promise stands.
Your word of pardon and of peace receiving,
All that I am I place within Your hands.
Let me become what You shall choose to make me,
Freed from the guilt and burden of my sins.
Jesus is mine, who never shall forsake me,
And in His love my newborn life begins.*

Timothy Dudley-Smith

SCRIPTURE John 20: 24-31 CEB

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!" But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe." After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!" Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe." Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

SONG *There is a Longing* Anne Quigley

Refrain

**There is a longing in our hearts, O Lord,
for you to reveal yourself to us.
There is a longing in our hearts for love,
we only find in you, our God.**

**For justice, for freedom, for mercy, hear our prayer.
In sorrow, in grief, be near, hear our prayer.
For wisdom, for courage, for comfort, hear our prayer.
In weakness, in fear, be near, hear our prayer, O God.**

Refrain

**For healing, for wholeness, for new life, hear our prayer.
In sickness, in death, be near, hear our prayer.
Lord, save us, take pity, light in our darkness.
We call you, we wait, be near, hear our prayer, O God.**

Refrain

MESSAGE *God Has Wounds, Too:
The Gifts of Doubt and Vulnerability*

CALL TO PRAYER no. 500, vs. 4

**Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh;
teach me the struggles of the soul to bear.
To check the rising doubt, the rebel sigh,
teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (a silent meditation based on Wesley's rules for living)

1. Ask God if you have harmed anyone or anything this week, and listen.
2. Ask God how you can do more good this week, and listen.
3. Ask God how you can stay in love with God this week, and listen.
4. Bring before God the deepest needs on your heart. Don't doubt. Believe.

THE LORD'S 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING (If you are worshipping with us in the sanctuary and have an offering, please place it in the offering plate on the table by the door.)

Your offering changes lives. In 1988 the UMC founded Africa University. The school has been introducing students to quality education and the awe and wonder of the Word of God ever since. Videos about AU are available on youtube. AU is changing lives, Africa, and the world. Thank you for supporting our connectional church.

OFFERING VIDEO

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious God, you have blessed us with much and we are grateful. Accept our offering.

**We give not because we pledged to ,
and not because we must. We give because
we can. We give in response to the life of Christ,
given for us.**

We give in joy because of love, overflowing and unconditional. Through these gifts may your love flow to others. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN *When Thomas Heard from Jesus*
Tune: AURELIA ("The Church's One Foundation")
Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

**When Thomas heard from Jesus,
"Now come and follow me,"
He surely went with gladness,
for there was much to see.
He witnessed Jesus' teaching
and saw his healing touch;
He found a faith to guide him,
a friend he loved so much.**

**When Jesus spoke of heaven,
bold Thomas dared to say,
"We don't know where you're going!
How can we know the way?"
He wanted understanding
of what he could not see.
Then Jesus reassured him,
"The way is here — through me."**

**When crowds began to murmur
and leaders raised their cry,
Brave Thomas spoke out firmly,
"Let's go with him and die."
He ate at Jesus' table,
partaking wine and bread;
Yet later with the others,
he saw the cross and fled.**

**What joy on Easter evening
when many saw the Lord!
Yet Thomas was not with them
and would not trust their word.
When Christ appeared before him,
his doubts were quickly gone;
He gladly knew that evening
the joy of Easter dawn.**

**That man of faith saw Jesus
at breakfast by the sea;
At Pentecost he witnessed
so others would believe.
O Lord, may we — like Thomas —
keep growing day by day;
Increase our faith and guide us,
for Lord, you are the Way.**

BENEDICTION

Go to live, love, and serve in awe and wonder,
following Jesus.

The resurrection of Christ has changed everything.
You have nothing to fear. You are never alone.
**We are more than conquerors through him who
loves us. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Praise and Exultation

Smith

Bold text indicates congregational response.

*Please join us in our Gathering Area Coffee Zoom
following the service.*

See weekly email for instructions.

Worship Participants

Message: Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks
Liturgists: Rev. Molly Dee Rounsley, Rev. Allen Keller
Readers: Janet Bauver, Sue Haugh
Children's Message: Kristi Largoza
Organist: Steve Campitelli
Minister of Worship and Music: Mike Muzzo
Vocal Quartet: Grace Muzzo, Alix Kownurko,
Mike Muzzo, Denny Wright
Live Stream Producer: Cory Smith
Sound: Brad Rush
Videographer: David Maxwell
Song Leader: Cory Smith
Hymns Led By: Mike Muzzo
Ushers: Tony and Mary Piccone

Doubts for the Future that We Need to Explore (from a Quaker Spiritual Perspective)

-Thomas Cahill is a writer who knows something about the spiritual life of civilizations. A few years ago he was asked: "Every former civilization has died. What gives you hope that ours will survive?" His response was, "I am not at all sure that ours will survive."

-Alistair Cooke made this prophetic statement about the United States several years ago: "I think I recognize several symptoms that Edward Gibbon saw so acutely in the decline of Rome...A love of show and luxury; a widening gap between the very rich and the very poor; an obsession with sex; freakishness in the arts masquerading as originality...The original institutions of this country still have great vitality and much of America's turmoil springs from the energy of people trying to apply these institutions to forgotten minorities... In this country, a land of the most persistent idealism and the blandest cynicism, the race is on between its decadence and its vitality.

--"The 21st Century will be spiritual or it will not be. If our civilization is to be saved, it will be saved by saints." – Thomas Cahill, Quaker writer

- "...Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are written in a very foreign tongue. Do not seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer."

-Ranier Maria Rilke

A Healing Ritual for Children Dealing with Stress and Doubt

Part One: Acknowledging our stress

Sit down with your child and start shaking the pop can! This will definitely "get their attention! And when they ask you about it, say, "This pop can is you and this pop can is me! And we have been shaken! Each bubble in this can is a feeling we are having. Let's see if we can name the bubbles in our pop can! Because, do you know what will happen if we don't let our bubbles out? This can will explode! When we don't let our feelings out, they grow and we explode (we say things we wish we hadn't, we yell at the people we love, and we might even hit someone or throw something and hurt someone!). So, let's name our feelings right now and get them out of our can.

Spend some time naming your feelings. And then you and your child should spend a few minutes thinking of some ways you might get your bubbles out of your cans. Things like: kick a ball, go for a walk, dance, sing, write in a journal, paint or draw a picture. Choose one activity to do regularly for the next week. Promise each other that you will do this activity during the coming week.

Part Two: Be still

After your child and you share time together identifying your feelings, and coming up with ways to express them, light the candle. Candle light is calming and kids are universally drawn to it. Light the candle and ask your child to sit with you in its light, breathing in and out the love of God for 1 minute. After a minute, invite your child to blow out the candle, and hug them!

Part Three: Bless them

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." Jesus, Mt. 18:20 (NIV)

A blessing is a time where you look your child in the eye and tell them that they are strong, that they are resilient, that you know that they are trying their best and that God is always with them! Then, using your finger, make a symbol (a heart or cross) on your child's hand or forehead as a reminder of God's love for them!

Does this sound too easy?

It is a very simple ritual and an extremely healing ritual for children. The only difficult part of this ritual is that the adult who is guiding it must also share their authentic feelings. It is a shared ritual between adults and children. Let's face it, we are all stressed out right now and none of us wants to be interrogated about how we are doing. Kids resist being quizzed or pushed to share their deepest feelings as much as adults do. So instead, let's gather, share, light a candle, breath together, bless each other and trust, that where two or more are gathered, there God and God's healing touch will be! Ritual is a gift. It is my prayer that this healing ritual will become a regular part of your home prayer life and that, through it, you will find the strength and hope only God can truly bring us in uncertain times!

**The Rev. Leanne Hadley has spent her career working in children's ministry in a variety of settings. She is the founder of A Time for Children.*

Leadership

Senior Pastor.....Rev. Dr. Truman T. Brooks III
tbrooksumcwc@gmail.com
Associate PastorRev. Molly Dee Rounsley
mdrounsleyumcwc@gmail.com
Deacon.....Rev. Allen Keller
akellerumcwc@gmail.com
Visitation Pastor.....Rev. Dr. Lauren B. Meiswinkel
Worship & Music.....Mike Muzzo
mmuzzoumwc@gmail.com
Student Ministries &.....Cory Smith
Praise Team Leader cory@umcwc.org
Children's Ministries.....Kelly Lynn
Kelly@umcwc.org
Church Administrator.....Susan Haugh
shaughumcwc@gmail.com
Facilities..... Bill Johnston
bjohnstonumcwc@gmail.com

Finance..... Bob Wilcox
bwilcoxumcwc@gmail.com
Web Master.....Luanne Sims
lsimsumcwc@gmail.com
Hospitality Ministries..... Janet Bauver
Parish Nurse..... Kay McCoy
Organist..... Stephen Campitelli
Custodial Service.....Phillip Hardin Janitorial
Church Council Chair.....Cheryl Monturo
Leadership Chair.....Jacqueline Rush
Property Chair.....Bob McPherson
Finance Chair.....Denny Wright
District Superintendent.....Rev. Evelyn Kent Clark
Residing Bishop.....Rev. Dr. Peggy Johnson
Ministers to the World.....ALL OUR PEOPLE