



HOLY LANGUAGE

Sunday, April 19, 2020

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open—minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God’s calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God’s grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio—economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

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Welcome

Thank you for joining us this morning. Please let us know you are here by signing a friendship card in your pew. If you are looking for a church home, please speak with us today.

Welcome Children. We invite children to full participation in worship. There are “creation bags” [with paper, crayons, colored pencils, etc.] available in the Gathering Space for the children to use. Infant/toddler care is available in Room 1. Ask an usher for directions.

Bell Rung During Lord’s Prayer, a tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop their work and join in prayer.

A Wheelchair & Walker [and crutches!] are located in the foyer and storage closet for Sunday use. To borrow them at other times, contact the office.

Hearing Assist Units available for use during worship. Ask an usher.

Please Recycle. If you are not taking your bulletin home or sharing it with a friend, please recycle it in the labeled basket in the sanctuary or in the blue container in the Gathering Space.

Photo and Personal Privacy Policy: Photos should generally not be taken of children in church except as part of organized activities and programs, and any requests of children or their parents or guardians should be respected. Please be respectful of privacy and mindful that this is a safe and sacred space for all who enter.

Subscribe to our email lists: Text your email address to 22828 or sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

Need a clip-on name tag? Sign the clipboard in the Gathering Space.

Guest WiFi: username: parkway-guest | password: parkway2841

Communications Requests: Please use the form at www.parkwayucc.org/communications for all announcements for the bulletin/eNews/website/social media/etc. Bulletin and eNews communications request deadline is noon Tuesday. Bulletin announcements will generally be run for three weeks prior to the event. However, all announcements will be posted via our various publications as fits in our communications strategy and as resources permit.

A Thank You Gift for Visitors: Please pick up a PUCC mug today or the next time you are here. They are located on the Welcome Table just inside the front doors.

2nd Sunday of EASTER

April 12, 2020 | 9:55am

Meditation *The good thing about science is that it's true whether or not you believe in it.* ~Neil deGrasse Tyson

Pre-service Interludes Improvisations on seasonal hymn tunes

Announcements Help build community by letting us know you're here!

Passing the Peace of Christ

Prelude *Christ Is Alive!* Based on the tune *Truro* by Thomas Williams, 1789

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *Now the Green Blade Rises*, vs 4



When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Refrain
Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

Scripture Psalm 16:1-2, 5-11 (NRSV – New Revised Standard Version)

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you.” The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot. The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage. I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit. You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Call to Worship

One:	Jesus is alive! It's bold and unbelievable news.
Many:	Show me.
One:	The women at the tomb dropped their spices and ran to tell the disciples.
Many:	Run to me.
One:	The stone was removed from the entrance to the tomb.
Many:	Roll the sturdy stone away from my stubborn spirit.
One:	Jesus came to see the disciples and breathe the breath of peace upon them.
Many:	Swing open my mind and heart and breathe this peace on me.
One:	Will you be persuaded? Will you see and be touched? Will you allow your unbelief to blossom?
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Song *He Lives*



1. I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day;
 2. In all the world a - round me I see his lov - ing care,
 3. Re - joice, re - joice, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing



I know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er oth - ers say.
 and though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair.
 e - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!



I see his hand of mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer,
 I know that he is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast;
 The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;



and just the time I need him, he's al - ways near.
 the day of his ap - pear - ing will come at last.
 none oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.

Refrain

He lives, he lives, Christ Je-sus lives to-day!
(he lives) (he lives)

He lives, he lives, sal-va-tion to im-part!

You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with-in my heart.

Opening Prayer *Thomas Merton*

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. Amen.

Response *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Children's Time

Zoom Sunday School classes for children and teens take place each Sunday.

Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves Me*

**Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to God belong, They are weak but God is strong**

**Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me still today, Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give, Life and love to all who live
Yes, Jesus loves me...**

Spirited Inquiry Moment Emma Landowski

Scripture John 20:19-31 (CEB – Common English Bible)

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, they are forgiven; if you don’t forgive them, they aren’t forgiven.”

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.

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon *This I Believe*

Song *When Thomas Heard from Jesus*

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D *The Church's One Foundation*

Text: 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.**

Call to Prayer

Song of Prayer *You Are Mine*



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence;
 2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less;
 3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
 (4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom: I



I will lift you from all your fear.
 I am eyes for all who long to see. (2) In the
 heal - ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
 am the peace the world can - not give.



You will hear my voice; I claim you as my choice. Be
 shad - ows of the night, I will be your light.
 All the blind will see; the lame will all run free, and
 I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here. (to stanza 2)
 Come and rest in me. (to Refrain)
 all will know my name. (to Refrain)
 up, now walk and live! (to Refrain)

Refrain



Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine." 4 "I

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] 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.

[A variety of names for God are welcome here – including in the Lord's Prayer.]

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude *I Love to Tell the Story*—William G. Fischer

Response

**Praise life that makes us change and grow
Praise love that makes compassion flow
Praise peace that ends all strife and fear
Praise hands that work for justice here**

Prayer of Dedication Diana Butler Bass

God, there are days we do not feel grateful. When we are anxious or angry. When we feel alone. When we do not understand what is happening in the world, or with our neighbors. God, we struggle to feel grateful.

But this day, we choose gratitude. We choose to accept life as a gift from you, from the unfolding work of all creation. We choose to be grateful for the earth from which our food comes; for the water that gives life; and for the air we all breathe. We make the choice to see our ancestors, those who came before us, and their stories, as a continuing gift of wisdom for us today. We choose to see our families and friends with new eyes, appreciating them for who they are, and be thankful for our homes whether humble or grand. We will be grateful for our neighbors, no matter how much we feel hurt by them. We choose to see the whole planet as our shared commons, the public stage of the future of humankind and creation.

God, this day, we choose thanks. And we will make thanks, with strong hands and courageous hearts. When we see your sacred generosity, we become aware that we live in an infinite circle of gratitude. That we all are guests at a hospitable table around which gifts are passed and received. We will not let anything opposed to love take over this table. Instead, we choose to see grace, free and unmerited love, the giftedness of life everywhere, as the tender web of all creation. In this choosing, and in the making, we will pass gratitude onto the world.

Song *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*

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Announcements

Express your Love of Creation by participating in the Three Great Loves Tree Planting Campaign!

Over the course of 50 days in 2013, the United Church of Christ planted over 141,000 trees as part of Mission 4/1 Earth. In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day on April 22nd, this year we are seeking to **plant over 50,000 trees in ten days from April 17th to 26th.**

Trees, one of God's precious gifts, provide us not only with beauty, but we depend on them for the air we breathe and the stable climate we inhabit. Through your campaign donation, more of these beautiful gifts of creation will be planted and nurtured.

In expanding the scope of our collaborative efforts in 2020, the [Ministry of Environmental Justice](#) for the United Church of Christ has partnered with Interfaith Power and Light to make this tree planting campaign part of their [Faith Climate Action Week](#). Many of the following tree-planting options come through [Global Ministries](#), a shared ministry of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

The United Church of Christ, Interfaith Power and Light and The Arbor Day Foundation are teaming up this Earth Day/Arbor Day 2020. See below to participate: [Plant a Tree](#)

For \$1 a tree, the Arbor Day Foundation will plant numerous trees on your behalf in a national park. Fires, diseases, and insects have taken their toll on natural settings. Your donation will help to rebuild these areas.

<https://shop.arborday.org/content.aspx?page=commemorative>

Plant your own tree or work with an organization of your choosing to plant trees. Report how many trees you planted in this manner to our partners at Interfaith Power and Light. [Report a Tree](#)

Alzheimer's News There is much new research to report. One such study is looking at the Glia cells in our brain which can remove amyloid-beta and tau tangles, but sometimes cause damage and inflammation. In Australia, ultra sound has been used to clear amyloid plaque. There has also been auditory/visual stimulation in MIT research to clear amyloid. Some drugs improve symptoms. Cholinesterase Inhibitors known as Exelon and Razadyne can help with symptoms for people with mild to moderate Alzheimer's. Aricept can help with all stage symptoms. Namenda can help with moderate to severe stage symptoms, as can Namzaric which is a combination of Aricept and Namenda. The large U.S. Pointer 2-year clinical trial currently underway is evaluating whether lifestyle interventions (eating a nutritionally balanced diet, not smoking, getting regular exercise and cognitive stimulation) can protect cognitive function. And, a new study is evaluating how amyloid beta is regulated by our sleep cycle and the circadian rhythm.

Prayer List

as of April 15, 2020

Celebrations

We are Easter people!

Happy Passover to our Jewish family and friends!

Pam Chastain – healed/home after hospitalized with Covid-19 (Akers).

Emma Landowski - CPE Residency for next year in the SSM System!

All the acts of kindness that are happening near and far!

Concerns

Donna Carey - pacemaker replacement surgery today.

Family/friends of Dick Wegner - grieving/giving thanks (McKenzie).

Roger Doyle - life-long friend who passed away last week (McKenzie).

Bill McMahon - cancer; removal of lung late this month (Svenson).

Healthcare workers and many others at risk as they care for people.

Social Distancing... if anyone needs groceries, medicine and/or other support, please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org; 314-330-0629

[If you'd like to be on the **Spring Care Team 2020**, please say so.]

Continuing

Andy and Kris Impastato - grieving/giving thanks for his mother.

Dwight and Charlotte Smith - rehab ctr after his days in the hospital.

Mike Mohl - several broken ribs after fall; multiple myeloma struggles.

Paul/Sue Stohr - healing after his stroke; making progress at home.

Randal Barnes - radiation for cancer has started (Steve's brother).

Cherie Stolze - ongoing health issues; navigating medications/fatigue.

Lori Connors - for strength, stamina through some health challenges.

Ruth Peace, Mary Whitney, Pinky Wilcoxon - health challenges.

Bill Darland - ongoing health issues.

Sister Mary Kay McKenzie - for health/wholeness (Tom's sister).

Nelson Spencer - began chemo treatments on March 30 (Svenson).

Pat Purdy - healing of unknown illness... not COVID-19 (Connors).

Chuck Miller and family - as he lives with cancer (William Tharp).

Alan Nichols - chemo for cancer of spine; pain management (Pleis).

Tina - undergoing tests for cancer; crafting a treatment plan (Scharf).

Anthony - multiple challenges as he lives his post-incarceration life.

Martha - receiving treatment for leukemia (sister of Mary Lynn Dario).

Gary - risky behaviors; seeking balance and stability (McKenzie).

Grateful Tran - in prison; struggles w/schizophrenia (Evelyn Buretta)

Bob - still struggling with Parkinson's (McKenzie).

Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges.

The extended Eggebrecht Family - healing and wholeness.

More Anti-LGBTQIA legislation being considered/debated in MO.

The United Methodist Church and our LGBTQIA siblings there.

Pregnancy

Rosanna & Kevin Hogarty will be first time grandparents mid-May.

Home/Care Facility/Rehab Center

Millicent Guerri - living with cancer... 14300 Conway Meadows Ct E, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: December 5]

Georgia Herpel - *Cedarhurst*: 12826 Daylight Cir, St. Louis, MO 63131

Marv Herpel - *Brookdale West County*; 785 Henry Ave, #217; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-227-5838 [birthdate: March 3]

Ruth Murray - *Villages of St Peters Memory Care*:

5300 Executive Centre Pkwy, #107; St. Peters, MO 63376; 636-477-6955. [birthdate: September 11] Best times to visit – before 11am or after 2pm.

Pearl Sellenriek - *Friendship Village Care Center*; #725-2

15201 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO 63017 [birthdate: March 31]

Ellen Surber - *Delmar Gardens*: 14855 N Outer 40 Road, #508;

Chesterfield, MO 63017 (Lisa Davidson's mom) [birthdate: November 3]

Sue Houser - *Bethany Ctr for Rehab & Healing*; 421 Ocala Dr - #209B; Nashville, TN 37211; 615-577-2049. [birthdate: July 8]

Other

Dan Connors - completed writing a novel... taking next steps.

President Trump, Congress, all local, national, world leaders.

The “me too” Movement - shining a light on sexual abuse.

Healing of relationships between police and the public.

All people who live with mental illness.

PUCC Family (and others) struggling with healthcare costs and limits.

Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC

Variety of Parkway members/friends - employment issues.

Victims of Natural and Created Disasters around the world.

Peace and Justice near and far.

US Military around the globe.

St Louis Assn UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending April 12 - **First Congregational UCC**, Webster Groves; firstchurchwg.org

Week ending April 19 - **First Congregational UCC**, Memphis; firstcongo.com

Anniversaries

4/21 DOMBEK, Charles & Claire (41)

4/25 WAITE, Phil & Laura (11)

Birthdays

4/19 CARTER, Cameron

4/23 BIEST, Warren

4/19 RUSSELL, Carol

4/24 RUNTZ, Joe

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 19, 2020

John 20:19-31

Holy Language *Orthodox Easter*

You might know today's scripture reading as the story of the guy you're *not* supposed to be. In fact, based only on this short passage, the disciple Thomas has such a bad name that any notoriously skeptical person is still called a Doubting Thomas. But was Thomas really a doubter? Or did he clearly understand and believe in Jesus? Maybe Jesus, who meets us where we are knows what we need, is telling us through this story that one way to gain understanding is the way Thomas did.

The other disciples had already seen Jesus' wounds while they were hiding out in a locked room. And where was Thomas during that time? Maybe he was out getting supplies or gathering information. It's possible that he was the bravest of the bunch. In any case, he returned from his outing and when he hears from the others that they have seen Christ, risen, he says that he'll have to see and touch Christ to believe them.

Then in one of those occasional, be-careful-what-you-ask-for-or-you-might-get-it moments in the Bible, Jesus appears and says, "Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Jesus does not say, "believe **ONLY** in things you cannot see." Instead, he comes gently to Thomas and asks for touch, thus affirming the wisdom and knowledge we gain from paying attention to the wisdom of our bodies.

Jesus goes on to say, "blessed are those who believe without seeing," but he does not say "more blessed are those who believe without seeing." He does not say, "you are not blessed because you had to see to believe."

In fact, Jesus gives his own body as a great gift to Thomas. And he gives Thomas the gift of using and trusting in his own senses – Thomas sees Jesus, he hears Jesus, he touches Jesus. And Thomas understands immediately and calls Jesus by his true name: Messiah, My Lord and My God. Maybe we should call this hero by his true name – Believing Thomas.

How do you best encounter the risen Christ?

