



WORD

Prayer for Illumination

One: Let us pray.

**All: Holy Spirit, breath of the risen Christ, You who animated the disciples  
with courage and joy, come upon us now.**

**Open our ears to hear Your Word. Open our hearts to receive Your peace.**

**Open our lives to Your transforming presence.**

**Speak to us in the reading of Scripture, that we may encounter the risen Christ  
and be sent into the world  
as bearers of Your good news. Amen.**

Scripture

Psalm 16: 1-2, 5-11

One: 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."

**All: 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.**

One: I bless the LORD, who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

**All: I keep the LORD always before me; the LORD is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.**

One: 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.

**All: You show me the path of life.**

**In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

John 20:19–31 (NRSVUE)

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, 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 that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Sermon

Behind Locked Doors

Cobus Greyling

+ Hymn 256 These Things Did Thomas Count as Real

+ Affirmation of Faith

One: Let us affirm our faith together.

One: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

**All: And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;**

One: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

**All: He descended into hell. The third day, he rose again from the dead;**

One: He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

**All: From thence he shall come to judge both the quick and the dead.**

One: I believe in the Holy Ghost;

**All: the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,**

One: the forgiveness of sins,

**All: the resurrection of the body,**

**All: and the life everlasting. Amen.**

+ Somos Uno (Hymn 322)

**We are one in Christ Jesus, all one body, all one spirit, all together.**

**Somos uno en Cristo, somos uno, somos uno, uno solo.**

**We share one God, one mighty Lord, one abiding faith, one binding love,**

**One single baptism, one Holy Comforter, the Holy Spirit, uniting all.**

Prayers of the People

One: Let us bring our prayers before God, who meets us in every locked room.

*Brief silence*

One: For all who are locked in rooms of fear—those who cannot leave their homes,  
those paralyzed by anxiety, those who have lost their sense of safety in the world—

**All: Risen Christ, enter their locked rooms and speak Your peace.**

One: For all who are locked in rooms of grief—those who have lost loved ones,  
those whose dreams have died, those who mourn what will never be—

**All: Risen Christ, kindle hope within their grief.**

One: For all who are locked in rooms of anger—those who have been betrayed,  
those who have witnessed injustice, those whose rage has isolated them from community—

**All: Risen Christ, transform their anger into holy passion for justice.**

One: For all who are absent like Thomas—those who have left the church,  
those who cannot believe, those who feel abandoned by God and community—

**All: Risen Christ, come for them with Your unbounded love.**

One: For all who suffer and are oppressed—those we have failed to see,  
those whose voices have been silenced, those who cry out for liberation—

**All: Risen Christ, give us eyes to see from their perspective and courage to stand with them.**

*Brief silence*

One: Now let us give thanks: For Christ's peace that meets us in our fear,

**All: We give You thanks, O God.**

One: For the Holy Spirit's breath that transforms our grief into new life,

**All: We give You thanks, O God.**

One: For the community that refuses to abandon us, even when we are absent,

**All: We give You thanks, O God.**

One: For the mission You have given us - to be sent as Christ was sent, to go after the absent,  
to see from below, to carry peace into locked rooms,

**All: We give You thanks, O God.**

One: Hear now the prayers we offer in silence...

*Time for silent prayer*

One: All these prayers we offer in the name of Jesus Christ,  
who meets us behind locked doors and sends us into the world.

**All: Amen.**

## EUCCHARIST

Offering

Christ has given us everything - His peace, His Spirit, His very presence. He has entered our rooms and transformed our fear into mission. Now He dispatches us as the Father sent Him: to pursue those who are absent, to see from the perspective of the suffering, to carry His peace into a broken world.

Our offering, in whichever manner we can, is our response to this sending. We give not out of obligation, but out of gratitude for the One who pursues us. We do not give to earn God's favor, but to participate in Christ's mission of finding us and breathing life into death. Let us present our tithes and offerings with joy.



*Everyone is invited to place tithes, offerings, visitor cards,  
or any other communications to the Pastor or staff  
in the designated wall boxes beside each door at the back of the Sanctuary  
or signal an usher to bring you the offering plate.*

Monetary gifts and pledges to GPPC may also be given online at <https://www.ginterparkpc.org/giving>,  
or by using the QR Code to the left.

Offertory

Quia vidisti me, Thoma

Luca Marenzio

Because you have seen me, Thomas, you have believed.

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.

+ Doxology (Hymn 607)

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore.***

SENDING

+ Hymn 246 Christ Is Alive!

+ Charge and Blessing

One: Christ is risen!

**All: He is risen, indeed!**

One: We have gathered here behind locked doors - doors of fear, doors of grief, doors of doubt. We have heard again the voice of the risen Christ: "Peace be with you." We have felt the breath of the Holy Spirit upon us, transforming our terror into courage, our despair into hope.

Now Christ sends us into the world. As the Father sent Him, so He sends us. We go not as the fearful disciples hiding in that upper room, but as apostles of peace, bearers of the Spirit's breath, witnesses to the resurrection.

We go to unlock doors - the doors of isolation, the doors of injustice, the doors that keep the suffering hidden from sight. We go to pursue the absent and the afraid with Christ's relentless love. We go to see from below, from the perspective of those who suffer, and to stand with them in their pain.

We go as Christ's peace in a broken world. We go as the Holy Spirit's breath in places of death. We go as witnesses to the One who enters locked rooms and says, "Do not be afraid."

One: May the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding, guard your hearts & your minds in Christ Jesus.

May the Holy Spirit, who breathed upon the disciples and transformed their fear into courage,  
breathe upon you and animate your witness.

May the risen Christ, who pursues the absent and welcomes the doubting,

go before you into all the locked rooms of this world, opening doors and breathing life.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, & the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

**All: Amen.**

+ The Peace

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

+ Postlude

Erschienen ist der herrliche Tag

Ernst Pepping

ABOUT WORSHIP

OUR GUEST PREACHER TODAY is Cobus Greyling. Cobus Greyling is a PC USA Minister with over twenty years of experience as a chaplain and clinical pastoral educator in hospice and hospital settings and is currently pursuing psychoanalytic training while completing his certification as an organizational development consultant. He is married and has a 16-year-old daughter, and he calls Ginter Park his home church.

WORSHIP LEADERS: GPPC's Pastor is Carla Pratt Keyes, and our Director of Music is Doug Brown. Our liturgist is Lauren Ramseur and today's lector is Anna Creech. The livestream operator is Bob Roybark. Steve Booth is lead usher.

HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES AND LARGE PRINT HYMNS are available from an usher in the Narthex.

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