

Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
Sunday, April 11, 2021  
SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTER

.....

.....

Order of Worship, including Scripture

*Seasonal Theme:*

Alive and out of the grave, the Risen Christ is witnessed in the real world.

*Theme for the day:*

Because of Easter, we are changed people, just like the first Easter disciples were.

*Call to worship:*

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer).*

Pastor: Come, walk in the light

**People: We walk together as children of light and love**

Pastor: Come, gather in the love of God

**People: We gather together as children of light and love**

Pastor: Come, live in the unity of God's Holy Spirit

**Unison: We live together as children of light of love. Amen.**

*Centering & Prayer of Illumination:*

*(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Light of the world, shine upon us with your Holy Spirit. Gather in our midst, that we might know you're truly here. Open our hearts to your message of unity. Open our minds to the light of your wisdom. Open lives to the call of your Spirit. Reveal to us your holy presence, as we listen and learn this day. Guide us throughout our journey in unity and love, that we might be a blessing of unity, love and light for the world. Amen.

*Readings from Scripture:*    **John 20:19-31**    **Acts 4:32-35**    **1 John 1:1-2**

*(readings begin on the next page)*

*Message:*       **THERE IS POWER IN THE FELLOWSHIP OF BELIEVERS!**

*Pastoral Prayer*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:*

*(please read along with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

From God’s immeasurable grace, we have been saved by faith. In thankfulness for this mighty gift, let us give thanks to the Lord and offer God homage, as we offer back our tithes and our offerings. Generous God, we offer you our gifts as best we can. Although we don’t share everything in common, as those first believers did, we are sharing these gifts, that they may be used for the common good. Bless these gifts with the power of your Holy Spirit. Bless us with a spirit of unity and love. And bless our ministries, that we may bring your message of unity and love for all the world to know. In your Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

*Blessing and Benediction:*

Let your life be a sign of Christ’s life so that others may come to believe that the Lord is risen indeed. Stay firm by living in the light of unity and love, faith and hope, and with God for all the world to know.

.....

SCRIPTURE READINGS for April 11, 2021

*first reading* – **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.

*second reading – 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.

*third reading – 1 JOHN 1:1-2*

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us.

.....  
Sebastopol United Methodist Church  
500 North Main Street, Sebastopol CA 95472  
sebumc@sonic.net sebumc.org YouTube channel: Sebastopol UMC

*Thank you for worshipping with us today.*