

Scripture John 20:19-31

Sermon A Question of Faith

First Presbyterian Church

410 Second Avenue | PO Box 441 | Sterling, IL 61081 | (815) 625-0452

We Respond to the Word

Offertory Prayer

Leader: As we listen to the offertory, I invite you to consider deeply how you will express your commitment through your gifts of money, time, prayer and participation. As you have encountered the Risen Lord and have come to believe, how will your giving reflect your gratitude for the new life you have in Christ? Please pray with me:

All: Holy Presence, you have touched us with your divine mercy and gifted us with all that we need to live into our calling as your people. We give these gifts into your nail-scarred hands, so that you may bring about your realm of justice and love on this earth. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Song We Walk By Faith

We Are Sent Out to the World

Benediction

Leader: And let all God's people say...

People: Alleluia! Amen!

Response Dream Statement



Pastor - Rev. Dr. Christina Berry

Ministers - All the People

April 24, 2022

We Gather

Welcome

First Reading: The Place Where We Are Right, by Yehuda Amichai

From the place where we are right

Flowers will never grow

In the spring.

The place where we are right

Is hard and trampled

Like a yard.

But doubts and loves

Dig up the world

Like a mole, a plow.

And a whisper will be heard in the place

Where the ruined

House once stood.

Setting intentions to believe, even with questions. What faithful questions and doubts do you have in this season of your life?

Silence is kept

Call to Worship

Leader: Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?

People: Honestly, we envy certainty, but we have questions.

Leader: Come into this space that embraces questions and befriends doubts.

People: We are ready by faith to live the questions and to worship the God who raised Jesus from the dead!

Leader: And we believe that Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

All: Alleluia! Let us worship God!

Opening Songs

Christ is Risen

Surely the Presence of the Lord is In This Place

We Prepare our Hearts

Prayer of Confession

Holy One, you call us to be people of faith, yet we are often people with doubts. We doubt that love can grow again in relationships where anger and bitterness reign supreme. We doubt that peace can come among warring nations, or that there could be an end to racism. We doubt that the hungry can be fed; or the needy cared for. Most often, God, we doubt ourselves and our relationship with you – whether we can do the work to which you call us, and whether what you promise us is really true. Forgive us! Helps us to remember that you specialize in impossibilities; that your grace is bigger than our failure; that your love is bigger than our uncertainty. Help us to welcome our questions and trust in you, so that we might be signs of hope in a world filled with doubt.

Silence is kept

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the good news. Jesus said, “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” Have faith in the promise of God’s everlasting mercy!

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Response

Glory to God

Sharing the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Response

Peace Song

We Receive the Word

Children’s Message