

# Ocean Heights

Presbyterian Church



A More Light Presbyterian Congregation joyfully welcoming people from all walks of life, celebrating the difference of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and ability of all people as children of God.

April 11, 2021  
2nd Sunday of Easter

## GOD CALLS US TO GATHER

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Risen Christ, break into our lives and helps us to see you afresh.

**All: When we are totally immersed in doing your work, remind us to spend time with you.**

Liturgist: Risen Christ, break into our lives and helps us to see you afresh.

**All: When we stock our shelves with other people's prayers, surprise us and meet us in the very core of our being.**

Liturgist: Risen Christ, break into our lives and helps us to see you afresh.

**All: When we label people as 'problems' help us to see the unique individuals you love.**

Liturgist: Risen Christ, break into our lives and help us to see you afresh.

**All: Risen Christ, break into our lives. Help us to look again in- to the faces of those around us and to see you afresh.**

HYMN 250

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

*Gathering for Worship reminds us of God's Holy Breath that breathed us to life and is an occasion for us to share the love of God.*

**Cover Art:** *Daffodil on lawn by Blake Spencer.*

**Call to Worship:** *Taken from Let Justice Roll Down/A Worship Resource compiled by Geoffrey Duncan, p. 268*

**Hymn 250:** *The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T.S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning." Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.*

## JOURNEY OF RECONCILIATION AND HEALING

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

LITANY FOR RECONCILIATION (Thomas Reflection)

**All: I expected Jesus to scold me because I wasn't there.  
The others were present when Jesus appeared, I was absent.  
It wasn't their fault or Jesus' fault. It was mine. I had – for  
whatever reason – decided that it was all finished.**

**Jesus came back to say it was all beginning.**

**I expected Jesus to scold me. But that is not what happened.  
Instead, Jesus reached out a hand and more than that, I  
received the gift of peace.**

Pastor: We've all been in the shoes of Thomas. We say, "If only I see this  
and do that.... Then I'll believe." We make conditions with God.  
Forgive us, O Christ. Lead us with your love and grace that we  
might love and offer grace.

GATHERED IN SILENCE IN THE COMPANY OF OTHERS

SUNG RESPONSE God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me  
(stanzas 1 and 5)

(Music attached at bottom of document)

**1. God, be the love to search and keep me;  
God, be the prayer to move my voice;  
God, be the strength to now uphold me:  
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

**5. Christ in the eyes of all who see me,  
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,  
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:  
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

WORDS OF RECONCILIATION

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(May the Peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.)

### GOD'S GRACE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

FIRST READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the  
beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon, *a soft mist that comes during the summer,  
when the heat is greatest, and the country is burnt up with the terrible  
sunshine.* It falls on the mountains of Zion. For that is where Yahweh  
bestows the blessing, life forevermore.

SMALL TALK

SECOND READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

John 20: 19-29

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

*Litany for Reconciliation:  
taken from Stages on the  
Way/Resources for Lent, Holy  
Week and Easter; Iona Com-  
munity/Wild Goose Worship  
Group, p208*

*Scripture reading from the  
Inclusive Bible.*

*Small Talk—For all those  
young at heart we provide a  
small talk, a brief, informal re-  
telling of scripture, or expla-  
nation of worship or aspect of  
the faith journey*

Temple authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

Having said this, the Savior showed them the marks of crucifixion. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw Jesus.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As Abba God sent me, so I send you." Having said this, Jesus 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 the story. "We have seen Jesus," they told Thomas. But Thomas replied, "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound."

A week later the 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 Jesus 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 Savior and my God!"

Jesus then said, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

SERMON                      Touch and See                      Rev. Dr. Wm. Blake Spencer

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE**

### MISSION STATEMENT

**By the grace of God, the people of Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church, a member congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), gather for worship and ministry in the name of Christ.**

**We joyfully welcome people from all walks of life, celebrating the difference of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and ability of all people as children of God.**

**We strive to be the body of Christ in the world, working for peace and justice for all persons. We join with people of good faith to address the threats of climate change and the degradation of God's good creation.**

**As a progressive Christian congregation, we endeavor to understand and practice the faith we have from scripture, informed by the wisdom of science and the theological and cultural diversity of the world's people.**

**We give thanks to God for the community we share in worship and ministry for the sake of a world where love is more possible.**

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### BENEDICTION

***Mission Statement:** This Mission Statement for Ocean Heights Presbyterian Church was adopted by the Session on Tuesday, May 28, 2019.*

# God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

O Christ, Surround Me



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
 2 Bind to my-self the Name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness-  
 3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light-ning,  
 4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
 es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
 strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
 light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
 hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur-round me; O Christ, sur-round me.

This hymn is a 21st-century adaptation of the traditional Celtic prayer style known as a *lorica* (Latin for "armor" or "breastplate"). Many such petitions for God's presence and protection were never written down, but this one is based on an example attributed to St. Patrick.

# In the Bulb There Is a Flower 250

## Hymn of Promise

Capo 3: (D) (Em)  
F Gm

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

(A7) (D)  
C7 F

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

(D7) (G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (F#) (Bm)  
F7 Bb Gm F Dm Gm A Dm

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

(G) (Em) (D) (Bm) (Em) (A7) (D)  
Bb Gm F Dm Gm C7 F

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

The writing of this hymn was spurred by a line from the poet T. S. Eliot: "In my end is my beginning." Shortly after this piece was completed, the author/composer's husband was diagnosed with what proved to be a terminal malignancy, and the original anthem version of this hymn was sung at his funeral.