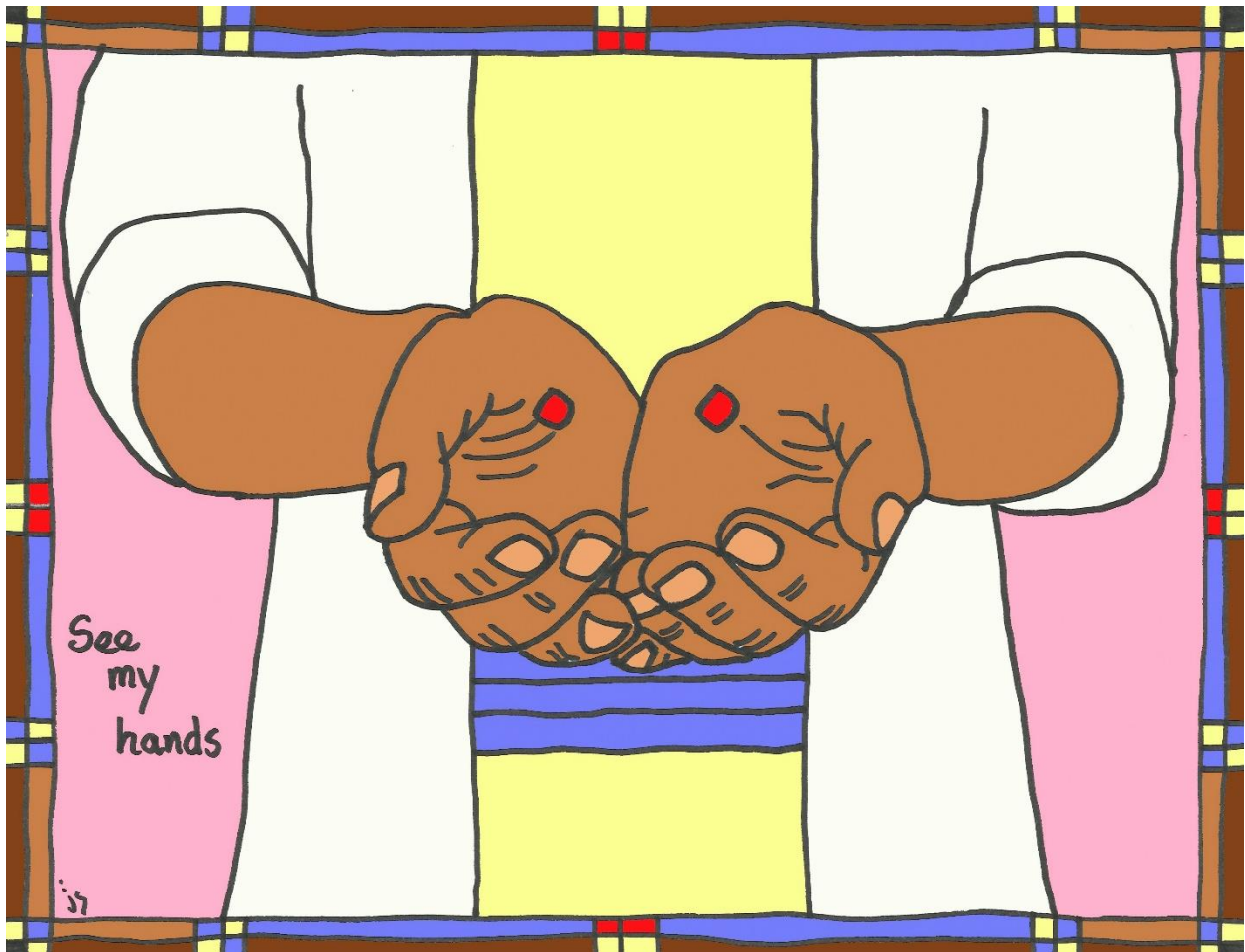


*First Presbyterian Church of Monroe
Second Sunday of Easter
April 11, 2021*



*So the other disciples told [Thomas], "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."*

John 20:25, NRSV

Welcome

Tom Bajkiewicz, Liturgist

Prelude

Call to Worship

Tom Bajkiewicz, Liturgist

This is the Easter Season! Easter is not just one day of proclaiming that life and love are more powerful than death and hatred, but a whole “week of weeks,” as we call it—seven more weeks of daring to dance our dances with hope and passion. Dancing requires that we pay attention to those who dance with us and near us. It requires finding a rhythm together. The Sunday after Easter brings the story of Jesus appearing to the disciples and breathing the Holy Spirit on them. Other scriptures this week point to the power of being together, of finding fellowship in the presence of Jesus and the presence of the community. What does it take to dance together?

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

Dare to Dance Again! This is the call!

We lift up our eyes to meet the day.

Raise your hands in grateful praise.

We fortify our hearts with compassion and action.

Open your umbrellas of determination and go into the world with love.

We dare to dance again!

Prayer

Tom Bajkiewicz, Liturgist

Holy One, Justice-Seeker, Lover of Creation –

You are the restorer of life, the conqueror of all that is death-dealing
in our hearts and in this world.

Tune us to each other.

Come and dance with us, engage with us, as we seek you –

And serve the Risen Christ!

Be with us now, we pray. Amen.

Opening Song of Praise

“Thine Is the Glory”

Call to Confession

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Prayer of Confessionⁱ

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Creator God, you speak and we form

You breathe life and we awake.

Forgive us for seeing only “Red Seas” before us.

“Red Seas” that shout impossibility.

Forgive us for embracing limits and lies.

Call forth in us truer truths
Truths that confound, resist and deny limits and lies.
God, who stills the wind, still our souls.
El Roi, God who sees, see us
And love us for what we can become
Through the power of the risen Christ.
Immanuel, God with us, for us, within us,
Teach us to dance to the beat of your heart.
God, in your wholly otherness and holy witness
Heal us...make us whole. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

The peace of the risen Christ be with you.

And also, with you.

You are invited to turn to wave to each other as a sign of graceful greetings this day.

A Story for All Ages *(Time with Children)*

The Story

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Dare to dance with dreamers, sing their song,
Dare to dance their stories, sing out strong.
Dare to dance with freedom your whole life long,
Dare to dance again!**

Let's offer a repeat-after-me-prayer:

“We offer thanks
we offer thanks
for dreamers true
for dreamers true
for all they are
for all they are
and all they do.
and all they do.
Let us become
let us become
dreamers too
dreamers too
and bring new life
and bring new life

to me and you!
to me and you!
Amen!
Amen!

Reading of the Word

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35 (NRSV)
Second Reading: I John 1-2:2 (NRSV)

Tom Bajkiewicz, Liturgist
Tom Bajkiewicz, Liturgist

Sounds of Resurrection

Musical Selection

Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

**Teach me to dance to the beat of your heart,
teach me to move in the power of your Spirit,
teach me to [move] in the light of your presence,
teach me to dance to the beat of your heart.**

Offering Our Resources and Our Energy

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Our dance with God needs fuel and energy. If we are to dance the dance of justice, find the steps of service, invite others to dance with us, we must have the resources that will assure that we have the leadership and the music, the tunes and the teachers to continue this holy dance...a dance of generosity. Won't you give now so that the dance of God can be full and free in this place?

**Teach me to pray in the power of Easter,
following Christ in a life resurrected,
teach me to act with compassion and justice,
teach me to dance with the beat of your heart.**

Song for Stepping Out into the World

"The Summons"

Charge

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Doris Chandler

Postlude

Prayer of Confession Adapted from prayer by Rev. Gail Song Bantum. [A Rhythm of Prayer](#). Edited by Sarah Bessey. Convergent. New York. 2020. p. 12-13.

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