April 11, 2021 - 2nd Sunday of Easter

Andrew Glynn

GTG

 Prelude

 Welcome and Announcements

 Call To Worship

 Invocation

 Hymn #246

 "Christ is Alive" Verses 1, 2 & 5

 Call to Confession

 Demode Confession

Prayer of Confession

Generous God, faithful guide to life abundant, in the depths of our hearts we know that we are bound to your purposes; we know we are most whole when we are centered in your love. Yet with painful awareness, we know how often we stray from our true center. We organize our lives around our need and our greed, forever fretting, often doubting your promise of care. We wall up our compassion and close our eyes to hurt. We end up tense, cautious and defensive. Generous God, restore our trust in you. Let us find peace in your grace and discover again the joy and power of sharing. Let us know the pleasure of being with others on the journey of faith, who give with glad and joyful hearts. Let our gifts and our lives make a difference in the unfolding of your new community on earth. Fill us with your Holy Spirit and send us out in mission to proclaim your reconciling love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Time of Silence for Personal Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

<u>Gloria</u>

Prayer for Illumination

First Scripture 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,

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"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 Scripture Reading Acts 4:32-37

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. There was a Levite, a native of Cyprus, Joseph, to whom the apostles gave the name Barnabas (which means "son of encouragement"). He sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

<u>Sermon</u>

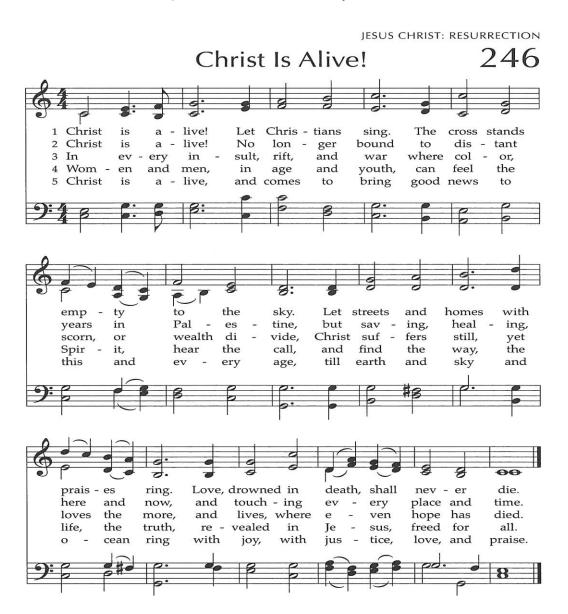
Affirmation of Faith A Declaration of Faith, Ch. 9, Christian Discipleship

Jesus broadened the definition of neighbor to include those ordinarily despised and excluded. His life in behalf of others led to persecution and death. He commanded his disciples to live the same way. We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives that recognize all people in all cultures as our neighbors on this planet. Christ teaches us to go beyond legal requirements in serving and helping our neighbor, to treat our neighbor's needs as our own, to care passionately for the other's good, to share what we have. It is part of our discipline to live in simplicity, avoiding greed and luxury that threaten our neighbor's survival. We are obligated to speak the truth in love, to listen with patience and openness, to love our enemies, to accept the risk and pain which love involves.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Call to Offering			
Prayer of Dedication			
<u>Doxology</u>			
<u>Hymn #250</u>	"In The Bulb There is a Flower"	verses 1-3	GTG
Charge and Benediction			
<u>Postlude</u>			

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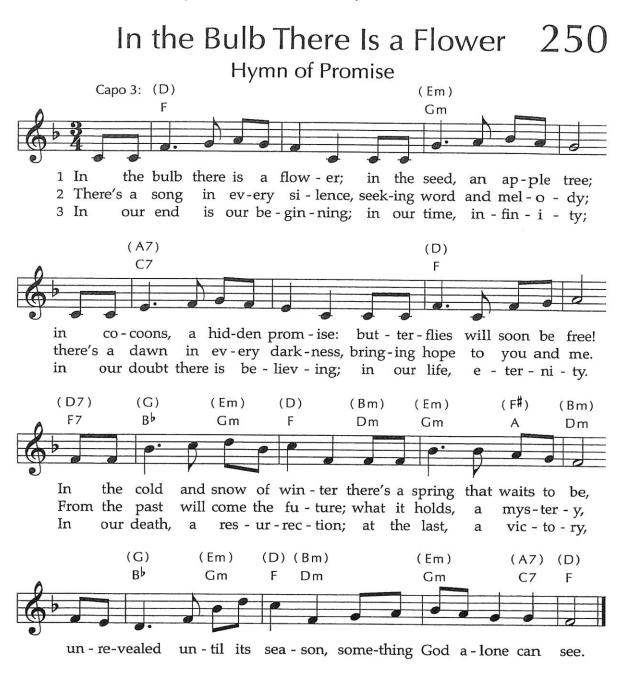
In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1995 MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778 Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

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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.

TEXT and MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1986 Text and Music © 1986 Hope Publishing Company

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