



First Church in Windsor, UCC: *Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope*

**The Second Sunday in Easter
Seminary Sunday
April 16, 2023, at 10 a.m.**

Holy Vessels: Holy and Whole in Easter

Gathering Music

FCW Drum Circle

Prelude

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Song

Celtic Alleluia

Words and music by Christopher Walker
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**Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia!**

Opening Prayer

Holy God, we praise you for the moving of your Spirit that gives purpose to our days and direction to our lives. We thank you for your call, compelling us to care for the vulnerable in our midst and to love your people as you do. On this day when we celebrate theological education, we thank you for the gifts and skills of those in professional ministry—for those who commit their careers and their very lives to studying your word and inspiring others to serve you faithfully. Help us to nurture those leaders as they seek to love and nurture your disciples. Help us to provide for future leaders in our midst so that our church might continue to serve you. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Response: **And also with you.**

Please make sure to wave to our online community, send a text message of peace to someone, or pass the peace in the chat on Facebook.

Opening Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Traditional Dutch melody

Words by Frederick William Faber

Public domain

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.**

**There's no place where earthly sorrows
are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings
have such kindly judgement given.**

**For the love of God is broader
than the measure of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.**

**If our love were but more faithful,
we would gladly trust God's word;
and our lives would show thanksgiving
for the goodness of our God.**

Children's Moment

Prayer of our Savior

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Scriptures

John 20:19-29

¹⁹When 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." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So 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."

²⁶A 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." ²⁷Then 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.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Sermon

Rev. Ned Parker, Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School
“Space for Doubt”

Anthem

Christ Is Risen!
Traditional Ghanaian
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Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

Sanctuary
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**Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy
Tried and true
And with thanksgiving
I'll be a living
Sanctuary, for you**

Announcements

Online Giving

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. If you wish, you may give online [here](#).

Seminary Sunday Video

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Words by Charles Wesley
Music by John Zundel
Public domain

**Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, on earth be found;
Fix in us a humble dwelling, all your faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, you are all compassion, pure, unbounded love impart;
Visit us with your salvation, enter every trembling heart.**

**Come, almighty, to deliver, let us all your life receive;
Suddenly return and never, nevermore your temples leave.
You we would be always blessing, love you as your angels love,
Pray, and praise for your unfailing, wounded arms outstretched above.**

**Finish, then, your new creation; pure and spotless may we prove;
Let us see your great salvation perfectly restored in you.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
Crowned as saints, we ever shall be lost in wonder, love, and praise.**

Benediction

Postlude

FCW Drum Circle
