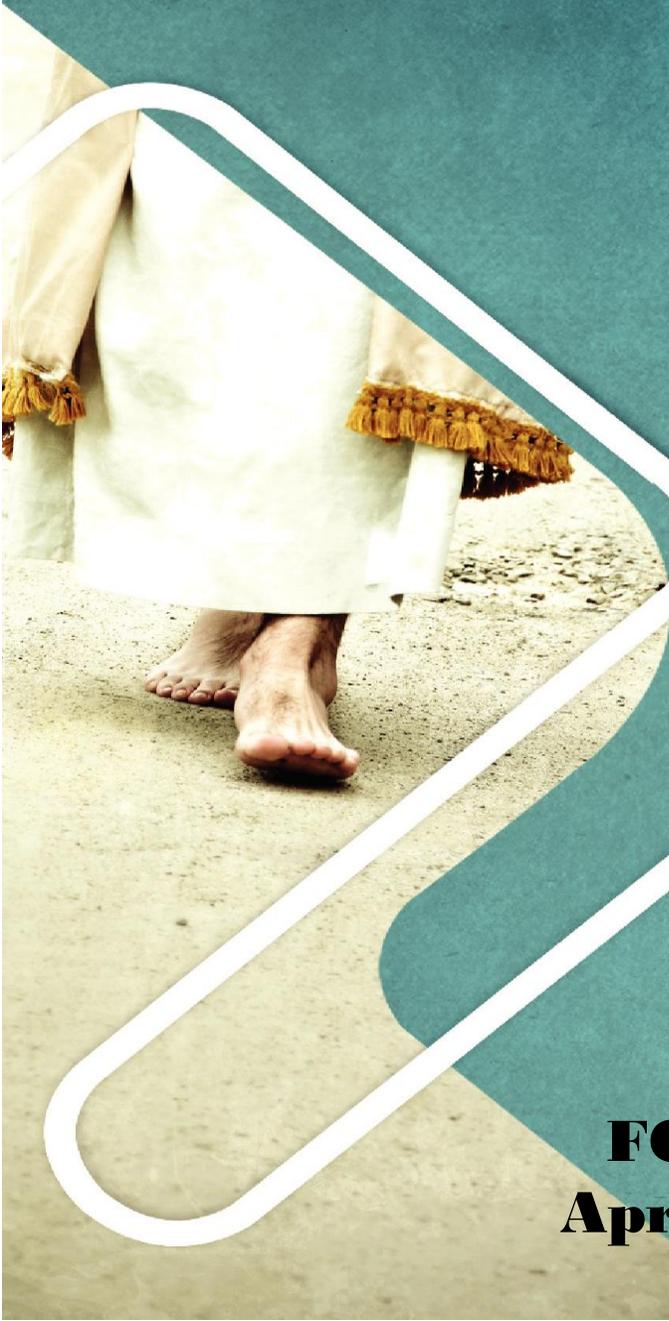


The Up There
is Down Here!



FCBC Fresno
April 11th, 2021

“Peace In His Presence” – Jill Prince

Announcements

“How Great Thou Art” – Jill Prince

“He Lives”

Call to Worship

P: Like pilgrims on a dusty road, we ask that you journey with us.

ALL: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus we are longing to hear more. We have heard stories that you are alive. we are hoping to meet you.

P: Like pilgrims on a dusty road, we ask that you show us the way. We have stopped here on our path to wait for you.

ALL: We are waiting to meet you, but some of us aren't sure that we will. Some of us have lost our hope. Some of us are skeptical. Some of us need you now.

P: Like pilgrims on this dusty road of life we have come here to wait for you. Lord, meet us here, greet us with your peace, bring us together and make us a blessing.

“While We Are Waiting Come”

Hear the Story Once More... (John 20:19-31)

P: It's evening, the first day of the week, and the disciples are together, behind locked doors; still in fear of the Jewish leaders.

ALL: Jesus is alive.

P: And they know it, because, suddenly, there he is standing among them! “Shalom,” he says. Just an ordinary greeting. But there's nothing ordinary about this moment, as he shows them his hands and his side. The disciples are overjoyed.

ALL: Jesus is alive.

P: “Shalom,” he says again. “Peace be with you.” And then he gives them a job. “My Father sent me,” he says. “Now I am sending you.” And he gives them what they need for the job, by breathing on them. “Receive the Holy Spirit,” he says. “What you forgive is forgiven; What you don't forgive is not.” And then he goes.

ALL: Jesus is alive!

P: The disciples have seen him. Well, all the disciples bar one. Thomas is his name. And when the others tell him what happened he is incredulous. (A much bigger word than “doubting”, which means much the same thing.) And before you start placing adjectives before his name,

consider, for a moment, how you might have reacted, had you, alone among your friends, missed the most amazing thing that was ever likely to happen to you. “You say you saw the nail marks in his hands?” Thomas asks. “You say you saw his wounded side? Well, until I put my fingers in those nail marks, Until I put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

ALL: Jesus is alive.

P: A week has passed the disciples are together again. And this time, Thomas is there, too. The doors are still locked. But locks don't keep Jesus from suddenly standing among them again. Jesus greets them, “Shalom.” And then he turns to Thomas and holds out his hands. “Put your finger here,” he says. “And put your hand into my side. Don't doubt. Believe!” But, instead of reaching out his finger or his hand, Thomas simply opens his mouth. “My Lord and my God,” he confesses.

ALL: Jesus is alive.

P: “You have seen me,” he says. “And because of that, you have believed.” “Blessed are those,” he continues, “who believe without seeing.” And that's why this book has been written, the writer John concludes. Not to tell everything that Jesus did, but to tell enough that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you might have life in his name. Because...

ALL: Jesus is alive.

“Open Our Eyes, Ears and Hearts” – Jill Prince

Offering

Message: The Up There is Down Here!

Communion

P: Thank you Father for meeting us in the breaking of bread and drinking the cup.

ALL: Open our eyes to see you walking with us every day.

P: Open our ears to hear your voice in every story.

ALL: Open our hearts to burn for you, that our lives may be a living sacrifice.

P: Send us out in the power of your spirit and the peace of your presence. Amen.

“Revive Us Again”

God Be with You...