



**Plainfield Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

Plainfield, Illinois

**Second Sunday of Easter, April 11, 2021
"Out Looking for God"**

Welcome and Announcements

Centering

Seek God, and you will discover yourself. Discover yourself and you will realize your purpose for being in this life.

Song

Invitation to Worship (Tim Graves)

One: We gather as people on a journey....Though we are full of trust and full of doubt, we are here.

All: Speak to us, God! Continue creating us! Inspire our hearts. Enlighten our minds. Guide our actions. Amen.

Seeking God: Prayer

One: Too often we are seeking God for answers to our problems when what we should be doing is seeking God. Let us pray:

All: Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen.

Invitation to Generous Giving

Reminder of Generous Giving Opportunities

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Prayer of Dedication of Generous Gifts

All: Loving God, may what we share today with this church, this community, and this world bring blessings - both to those who receive these gifts as well as to those who so generously give of their time, talent and treasure. Amen

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Song

Prayer for Scripture

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, "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.

Meditation

Doubt (Criss Jami & Paul Tillich)

Doubt is a question mark; faith is an exclamation point. The most compelling, believable, realistic stories have included them both. Doubt isn't the opposite of faith; it is an element of faith.

Affirming Our Mission – in unison

We the members and friends of Plainfield Congregational Church United Church of Christ seek to embody and celebrate God's love by being a community that lives Christ's compassion and promotes justice, healing and wholeness of life; a joyous family where all are welcome to join together to grow in faith and love.

Blessing

May you trust God's promises to God's people; may you know that God's news is good news; and when you encounter doubt, may you strengthen your belief guiding you through life. Amen.

Chimes