



April 7, 2021



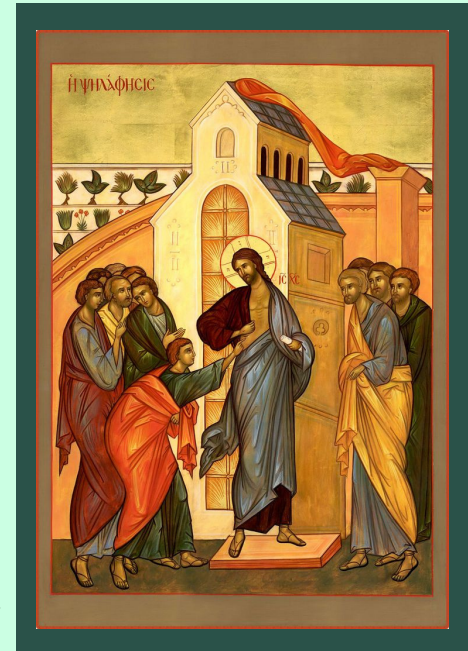
Pastor's Parable

Doubt. Brian McLaren's book Faith After Doubt: Why Your Beliefs Stopped Working and What to Do About It, addresses the doubt that millions of people experience when their faith is shifting. McLaren offers "You and I don't have to keep our doubts a secret any longer." Good news for the one that legend has called Doubting Thomas. Truth be told, I believe that Thomas displayed more faith after Easter than all the other disciples combined. Thomas can serve as an excellent example for us as we consider our own doubts. Where is God in the midst of life's changes and challenges? Why do our prayers never seem to rise above the kitchen ceiling?

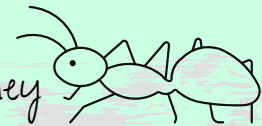
In the Sunday meditation for the 2nd Sunday of Easter, let's allow Thomas (and Brian McLaren) to guide us to see that our doubts are not the antithesis to our faith but, rather, a key ingredient in helping strengthen our faith. McLaren says, "Doubt need not be the death of faith. It can be, instead, the birth of a new kind of faith, a faith beyond beliefs, a faith that expresses itself in love, a deepening and expanding faith that can save your life and the world."

Thomas' expression when he recognize the risen Lord (or when the risen Lord recognized him, "My Lord and My God!" In other words, thank you for working in my doubt for because of it, I can now see You clearly." May it be so for us in these days of Easter. See you Sunday (in a manner of speaking 😊)

Easter Blessings. -Pastor Mitch



"Doubts are the ants in the pants of faith. They keep it awake and moving." - Frederick Buechner



[Click here](#) to sing with Christine to the hymn
Never Ending Joy



An Easter Message from the Moderator
[Click here](#) to read an Easter message
from the moderator of GA



Every year Presbyterian Churches (including St. Andrew's) contribute to Presbyterians Sharing in order to support Presbyterian ministry projects. Here is a thank you message yo St. Andrew's from Karen Plater Associate Secretary, Stewardship & Planned Giving:

Every year, through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, Presbyterians across Canada faithfully respond to God’s call to be generous people. We are so grateful for your congregation’s prayers and support. Your gift is helping equip congregations, start new faith communities, support international partners, empower youth, encourage new ministers, equip theological students, support Indigenous ministries, pursue justice – and so much more. Thank you.

Together with individuals and congregations across Canada, the Women’s Missionary Society, Atlantic Mission Society and others, you helped raise over \$5.63 million for Presbyterians Sharing.

At the beginning of 2020 we couldn’t anticipate the chaos and uncertainty that the global pandemic would bring. However, your generosity, combined with decreased expenses and salary support from the government, meant that not only were we able to continue the mission and ministry we had planned, we also provided additional support to help congregations and mission partners adapt and respond to the circumstances the pandemic created.

Hear some words of thanks from people grateful to God for you:

“Through this life-changing ministry and the work of our volunteers, we are able to provide hope and support to some of the most difficult places in Malawi.”

The Rev. Joel Sherbino, Prison Ministry, Blantyre Synod, Malawi

“Our little ministry is unlikely to end poverty or cure schizophrenia. But loneliness and isolation make both of those afflictions so much worse. And we can fight those by choosing to connect in the moment we’re given. We can feel the Spirit right there with us, delighting in us as we delight in each other.”

The Rev. Kate McGee, Executive Director, Boarding Homes Ministry, Toronto, Ont.

“The combination of lectures and breakout groups in the Transform online course, paired with mid-week homework and follow-up emails seems to be a really effective means of engagement for today.”

The Rev. Ken MacQuarrie, minister, Knox, St. Catharine’s, Ont.

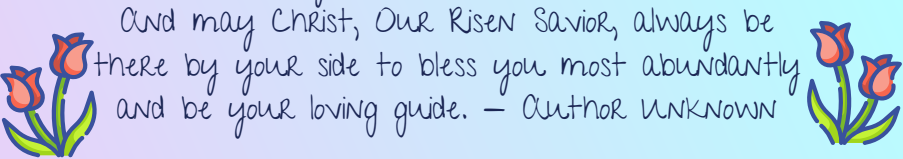
“We need programs like this in our community! I thank all the people who contribute to WICM and the First Steps to Employment program. To have a better society, we need the place and time to deal with underlying issues. Thank you for the opportunity to do this!”

Ruth Magnuson, Executive Director, Winnipeg Inner City Missions, MB

These good news stories are not be possible without your faithful support. Your gifts are a symbol of hope, a reminder that we serve a living, vibrant and generous God. I thank God for you, the lives you are touching in your community and the love we are sharing together in communities across Canada and around the world. I look forward to working with you in 2021 and into the future.



may the glory and the promise of this joyous time of year bring peace and happiness to you and those you hold most dear.



And may Christ, Our Risen Savior, always be there by your side to bless you most abundantly and be your loving guide. – Author UNKNOWN

Read From Your Bible This Week

- Acts 4:32–35
- Psalm 133
- 1 John 1:1–2:2
- John 20:19–31

