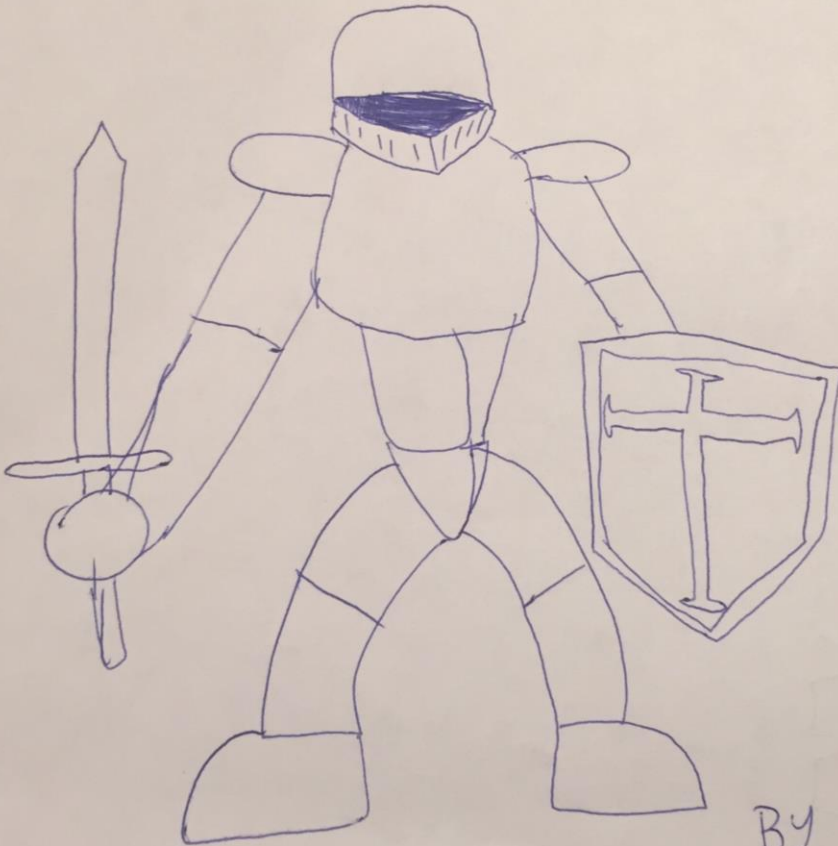


JESUS



By
Dylan yates


April 23, 2017

9:00 am Arise! Worship

Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Nelson

320 W Seventh St, Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

(248)541-4100 •  • www.rofum.org • office@rofum.org

Welcome to Royal Oak First United Methodist Church

Visitors are encouraged to fill out the Friendship Folder along with our members.

Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments following worship.

Hearing enhancement devices and large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

**All who choose may stand*

FWS: Song printed in black Faith We Sing Hymnal **UMH:** Song printed in blue United Methodist Hymnal

Welcome

- * **Song of Faith #89 (UMH)** Joyful, Joyful
composed by Ludwig Von Beethoven while he was deaf

- * **Call to Worship** Victor Lutes

One: Now is the time to sing the good news of God:
**All: who awakens us with dawn's embrace,
and surrounds us with joy and life.**

One: Now is the time to offer praise in every place, with every voice:
All: to rejoice in a love that leads with a gentle hand and a word of hope.

One: Now is the time for all creation from the depths of the sea to the farthest galaxies:
All: To sing the good news of Easter and rejoice in a love that will not fail us.

One: All are welcome here!
All: Thanks be to God!

- * **Song of Faith #2035 (FWS)** Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord

- * **Greeting Your Neighbor**

Welcome and Invitation to Mission

Music Ministry *Medley* Traditional Children's Songs
Treble Choir

Time with Children

Noisy Bucket Collection will follow Time with Children.

Music Ministry *This Is My Father's World* Malbie D. Babcock
Mark Sleeman

Time of Prayer

Call to Reconciliation

Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

Now that Easter Sunday is passed and gone we worry that we might easily slip back into temptation's familiar refrains. We desire to walk those paths of joy and wonder, but find

ourselves wandering the streets of doubt and fear. We yearn for the newness of life but find ourselves wanting to only do things the way they have always been done.

Wounded Healer, you know the way through the messiness of our lives, take us by the hand to lead us, create space in our busy lives for those who need our love and attention. Allow our wounds to bring healing to a hurting world.

We are so thankful for the forgiving ways of Jesus.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Why should we weep? Joy comes to us this morning, and every moment of our lives. The Lamb of God has come to share mercy and hope with us, so we can praise God with joyous hearts.

All: **We will lift glad songs of joy, for all the blessings God has given to us. We will offer our hearts and hands in love and service to others. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven! Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Our Gifts and Tithes

Musical Offering

Welcome
House Band

Mark A. Miller

Scripture

John 20:24-31

Common English Bible

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side I won't believe."

After eight days his disciples were again in a house and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus entered and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here. Look at my hands. Put your hand into my side. No more disbelief. Believe!"

Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Jesus replied, "Do you believe because you see me? Happy are those who don't see and yet believe."

Then Jesus did many other miraculous signs in his disciples' presence, signs that aren't recorded in this scroll. But these things are written so that you will believe that Jesus is the Christ, God's Son, and that believing, you will have life in his name.

Message

Disabled God

Jeff Nelson

* Song of Faith

Love Can Change the World

Blessing

Dear Friends,

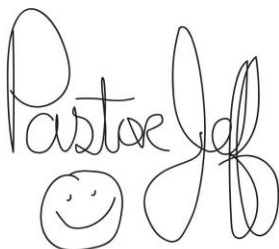
While in seminary I read the book *The Disabled God: Toward a Liberatory Theology of Disability* by Nancy Eieseland. This had a profound impact on my understanding of God and how I read the scriptures. By the time Nancy Eiesland was 13 years old, she had 11 operations for the congenital bone defect in her hips and realized pain was her lot in life. Having grown up in the church, Eiesland had come to see the healing texts in the scriptures, the stories where Jesus would miraculously heal the deaf, blind or lame with just the touch of hand, as texts of absolute terror. In fact, her church would pray over her, expecting that if her faith was strong enough then physical healing would naturally come. Because healing never came, she spent most of her young life convinced that there was something wrong with her and God, if there was a God, was punishing her. No wonder these stories were so terrifying.

Wrestling with God and the scriptures lead to the text for this weekend, John 20: 24-31 where the risen Jesus invited his disciples to touch his wounds. “In presenting his impaired body to his startled friends, the resurrected Jesus is revealed as the disabled God,” Eieseland wrote. God remains a God the disabled can identify with, she argued — he is not cured and made whole; his injury is part of him, neither a divine punishment nor an opportunity for healing.

A committed group of Royal Oak First members have started a group called Faith Abilities. This group is designed to help our congregation work towards our hope of being a place where “all God’s people are welcomed, affirmed and equipped for ministry.” They will do this by helping us be more aware and supportive of people and families that live with different “special needs.” This might be autism, downs syndrome, Asperger’s, anxiety, and any other “disabilities” that people and families have as a part of their life. Like the author of the book I read so many years ago, this group is hoping to help us see these not as differences to be overcome but as uniqueness that will open us up to new ways God is working among us.

Be on the outlook for different articles and learning opportunities that our new Faith Abilities ministry will be bringing us. We are so thankful for their leadership and know that they will help us become the church where all are truly welcome!

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Jeff". Below the signature is a simple line drawing of a smiley face with two dots for eyes and a curved line for a mouth.