

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sky is filled with vibrant colors, transitioning from a deep blue at the top to a bright orange and yellow near the horizon. The ocean is dark blue and occupies the bottom third of the image. The text "Easter Stories" is written in a dark blue, cursive font across the middle of the image.

Easter Stories

Opening Song

“Teach Me”

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: A love that never ceases,

**Many: A creativity that designed the
universe,**

One: A hope that cannot be quenched,

Many: A truth for all time,

One: A pursuit of reconciliation no matter
what the cost: These are the things that are
of God,

Many: Then let us worship God.

Gathering Prayer

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

One: Dear God, we confess that we do not always trust the fullness of your love, or your mercy. We are often prideful and convinced we can do it on our own.

Deliver us, oh Lord, from the belief that we have to earn your love, from the fear that we are unlovable, from the false security that we have what it takes, from the fear of where trusting you might leave us.

Help us to put aside anxiety about the future, suspicion of your words and promises, resentment and preoccupation about the past.

Help us remember Your presence in the
midst of suffering and trial and relinquish us
from the fear of what love demands...

Now hear our silent prayers.....Amen.

We Are Forgiven!

One: Friends! God is our refuge and will not abandon us! God is continually holding us, sustaining us, and loving us! Trust in God's love...love that goes deeper than our sins and failings and transforms us.

Remember that not knowing what tomorrow brings is an invitation to lean on Him! God hears our prayers and forgives our shortcomings and through Christ Jesus, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

A Moment for Mission

A Time for Children

John 20:19-31

“The Eleven”

On the evening of that first day of the week,
when the disciples were together, with the
doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders,
Jesus came and stood among them and
said, “Peace be with you!”

After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!”

But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you!” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.”

Thomas said to him, “My Lord and my
God!”

Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

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Unpacking

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Song

“Chain Breaker”

Charge and Blessing

One: Friends, as you leave this house of worship today, go in peace, remembering that the church begins at the end of our driveway...be a light in the community, be a blessing and be blessed, love and serve the Lord!

Many: Alleluia! Amen!

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