



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

## **A Devotion During This Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic Second Sunday of Easter, April 11, 2021**

### **Fellowship of the Resurrected**

by Mr. Daniel H. Wilcox

#### **1 John 1:1-2:2**

1:1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life--

1:2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us--

1:3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1:4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all.

1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true;

1:7 but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

1:9 If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1:10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2:1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;

2:2 and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Fellowship with someone comes from a common bond or common commitment. The novel work of Alexandre Dumas, *The Three Musketeers*, portrays persons uniting together for the cause of justice, challenging abuses and injustices. Their familiar refrain, “One for all and all for one,” indicates conviction of heart and spirit with dedication of mind. Thus, they forge a fellowship.

The writer of 1 John commends a fellowship with God through Christ that is based on our shared reality and responsibility. Human sinfulness that Moses discloses in Deuteronomy foreshadows our own fragile brokenness that leads to separation from God through sinfulness, regardless of type or severity. Therefore, fellowship with God is seemingly impractical. But we are reminded that willing confession of our misdoings receives the faithful forgiveness of God and the cleansing by the Blood of Jesus. Resurrection from the abyss of sin becomes possible through the resurrection of the crucified One. Christ Jesus reigns now as our Advocate and vindication of our belief in our Lord.

In Christ, we as believers, join with Him being raised from certain death of sin to the promise of eternal life through faith and witness in Him. We enter the Fellowship of the Resurrected by being in fellowship with the only Resurrected One.

**TALK:** Take a moment to be silent, reflect, and share (write down)—Reflecting on the scripture, share a time/instance when you have been forgiven for misdeeds? How did this experience make you feel or direct you?

**PRAY:**

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery has established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ’s Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Ghost, One God for ever and ever. AMEN

*Adaption from The Book of Common Prayer*

**ACT:** During the Easter season, share the blessing of forgiveness with someone who you perceived has done wrong to you who looks to a renewed fellowship. Journal your experience and reflect on your journey through Eastertide and toward Pentecost. In this Eastertide Season, do what you can to protect the health of others and yourself by practicing social distancing as much as possible, washing your hands often, wearing face covering to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, and prayerfully considering getting the vaccine when it is available—See: <http://www.amechealth.org>.

2. See also the activity that accompanies this devotion.

**Song:**

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine  
AMEC Hymnal, #525

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness,

What a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

*Refrain*

*Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.*

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path  
Grows from day to day,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.
3. What have I to dread? What have I to fear?  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
I have blessed peace  
With my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.

Physical space—You may wish to create a dedicated space for your time of devotion. You may choose to place a candle, bible, and special symbols or material/fabric to help you focus and center during this time of reflection and prayer.

If you use this meditation and exercise in a time of family or group devotion, share in the leadership; allow different persons to read or lead different parts of this meditation.



*Jesus and Thomas*

JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

*The Christian Education Department will continue to develop resources that can be used as times of personal and collective devotion and study during this pandemic to help us all sustain and strengthen our faith and resolve.*