



"Be Thou My Vision" by Mike Moyers.

Christ Church **UNITED CHURCH**
OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, Minister and Matthew Lawrenz, Organist

www.uccmke.org

Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! On this third Sunday of Easter, we, like the disciples after Jesus' resurrection, are not always able to see the presence of God in our midst. Heck, we might not even feel God even if God is right in front of our faces! This week's Old Testament lesson from Psalm 116 reminds us that God is with us even in the deepest valleys of life. The New Testament lesson from Luke's Gospel is the story of Jesus encountering two disciples on the Road to Emmaus. They do not recognize him at first, but after he breaks bread with him, they know exactly who he is. Where is the Risen Christ revealed in our lives in the time of COVID-19? The Risen Christ is among us, perhaps where we would least expect him to be.

Words of Welcome

Opening Litany

Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

One: Christ is Risen!

All: **Christ is Risen indeed!**

One: Christ is with us on the journey, Christ is with us at the table.

All: **Christ is with us when we rest, Christ is with us when we wake.**

One: Christ is with us when we grieve, Christ is with us when we rejoice.

All: **Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!**



"Walk to Emmaus" Orsi, Lelio, 1511-1587

A Song for Today

Be Thou My Vision
arr. Franklin Ashdown

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way, we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and guidance. Remind us that your love is to be carried throughout the world. Press us to share the hope and joy of your love, so that someone who hungers for spiritual food may be filled by our witness to your grace. Shine the light of your Spirit through us, so that we may show your Way to those who long for peace and help to revive those in whom hope has died. Amen.

A Time for the Child in Us

[The Road to Emmaus](#)

Old Testament

[Psalm 116](#)

Psalm 116 is a psalm of thanksgiving for recovery from illness. In this poem, the psalmist praises God right out of the gates for answering their prayer. The Lord has delivered the psalmist from death and evil. Therefore, the psalmist has devoted themselves to adhering to God's ways, to fulfil their vows, to serve God in the presence of other persons, and to make their devotion public as they praise God.

The Gospel

[Luke 24:13-35](#)

Luke's Gospel offers an account of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Luke presents Jesus as the fulfilment of God's promises to the world. Jesus is the redeemer sent by God to the people of Israel and is the one who declares God's salvation to all people. In this story, Jesus joins two disciples, Cleopas and an unnamed companion, as they journey away from Jerusalem on the road to Emmaus. They do not recognize Jesus even though he explains to them that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer. When all three share a meal together, the two travelers recognize Jesus the moment he blesses and breaks bread with them.

"Christ at Emmaus" Louthembourg, Philippe-Jacques de, 1740-1812 ; Fittler, James, 1758-1835



Homily

Risen: Right In Front of Our Faces

Rev. Dan Stark

A Song of Response

Be Thou My Vision

A Prayer for the Day

Nathan Bierma

'Our patient teacher, our ever-pursuing Lord'

Lord Jesus, this story tells us so much about you.

You are: not passive ethereal being, but a pursuer.

Not a benign, nice associate, but one who risks speaking the truth in love. Not a coercive overpowering presence, but a patient teacher. Not an isolated, individualistic prophet, but a guest, even a host, whose true character is seen in table fellowship. We praise you as our patient teacher, our ever-pursuing Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

~Pastor Dan's friend Elliot Sizemore and his family as they cope with his brother Evan taking his life this past week.

~ Paul and Doris Mayeshiba's family member, Jerrilyn. After having gallbladder surgery, she is dealing with health complications.

~Ernestine Faja, Mary Ann Mowery's mother, who fell and required surgery for a broken femur.

~Lauralei Schmilding's sister-in-law's mother, who is in a long-term care facility without family or friends able to visit.

~Jessie and Adam, a friend of the Seguins, who will be having their 1st child in the next week by C-Section.

~The five healthcare workers within Gloria Konkel's immediate family.

~Joe, Jackie Struck's son-in law, who remains hospitalized at St. Luke's South Shore for COVID-19.

~Everyone in our church community, family and friends, those cut off from loved ones, medical and emergency personnel, scientists, researchers, leaders, workers, manufacturers, and patients in cities and states across our country and the world.

...God may come to us, unrecognized, as a stranger. The Risen Christ reaches out to us in unexpected ways as we travel our own Emmaus roads. May the Word of our Still-Speaking God have an impact on us today as we listen, pray, sing, and play. Amen!

The Lord's Prayer

Passing the Peace

Although we cannot be physically close to one another at this time, we can be relationally close. This Sunday morning, you are invited to pass the peace with your church family and loved ones by taking a moment to text, write, call, or message the people in your church family to let them know you are thinking of them. May the peace of Christ be with you.

A Song for Sending

The Four Seasons – Spring

comp. Vivaldi

Sending

Go, living in the love of Christ!
Go, serving in the name of Christ!
Let your love of God embrace
Your children
Your family

Your enemies
Those who are afar off
Those who are strangers met on the road
May your lives praise the Lord!
Amen.

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Thankyous

~For the prayers for Andy Oren's friend Tanya who had COVID-19 as she has been with a normal temperature for 72 hours straight now and is almost recovered.

~For the prayers for Jackie Struck's granddaughter, Jodie, who has recovered from COVID-19 and is now able to return to work.

~Christ Church received an acknowledgement from the UCC for our congregation's 2019 contribution of \$3638.49 in support of Our Church's Wider Mission Changing Lives. From John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President, Franz Rigert, Conference Minister

If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.
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You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

