



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

Christ Church UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor
Organist and Pianist, Matt Lawrenz
Matt Lawrenz, Musician
Nancy Charles, Song Leader

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Today marks the third Sunday of Easter. On Easter morning the empty tomb astonished Mary and the other disciples. However, Jesus was soon discovered in community, alive and present in a new way. In this season, our sermon series, *Resurrection Every Day*, calls us to look for the resurrection in our daily experiences. This week's Old Testament lesson 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? The Risen Christ is among us, perhaps where we would least expect him to be.

Prelude

We Walk By Faith

Biery

Words of Welcome

Opening Song

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

1. **That Easter day with joy was bright. The sun shone out with fairer light, when, to their longing eyes restored, the glad apostles saw their Lord.**
2. **His risen flesh with radiance glowed; his wounded hands and feet he showed; those scars their solemn witness gave that Christ was risen from the grave.**
3. **O Jesus, strong in gentleness, come now yourself, our hearts possess, that we may give you all our days the tribute of our grateful praise.**
4. **Come, risen Christ, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide; your own redeemed forever shield from every weapon death can wield.**

Call to Worship

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!

Opening Prayer

Heavenly Stranger, Companion on the Road, we need you. We seek your wisdom. We search out your guidance. Remind us that your love is to be carried everywhere. Help us share the spiritual food you offer us with this world you love so deeply. Shine the light of your Spirit through us, so that we may show your Way those who long for peace and help to revive those in whom hope has died. *Amen and Amen and Amen!*

The Gloria **Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines On Me**
Glory to God, whose goodness shines o me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Music and Words: Paul M. Vasile

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.

¹ I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. ² Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. ³ The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. ⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD: "O LORD, I pray, save my life!" ⁵ Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful. ⁶ The LORD protects the simple; when I was brought low, he saved me. ⁷ Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you. ⁸ For you have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. ⁹ I walk before the LORD in the land of the living. ¹⁰ I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted"; ¹¹ I said in my consternation, "Everyone is a liar." ¹² What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? ¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, ¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. ¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones. ¹⁶ O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. ¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD. ¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, ¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Responsive Prayer

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.

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.

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." ²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.

³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Sermon **Resurrection Every Day: Strangers Among Us** **Rev. Dan Stark**

Sermon Response Song *We Walk By Faith*

**1. We walk by faith, and not by sight;
no gracious words we hear
from one who spoke as none e'er spoke,
but we believe him near.**

**2. We may not touch his hands and side,
nor follow where he trod,
yet in his promise we rejoice,
and cry, "My Lord and God!"**

**3. Help then, O Lord, our unbelief,
and may our faith abound
to call on you when you are near,
and seek where you are found:**

**4. That when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are
in full and endless sight.**

Prayers of the People

Hear Our Prayers, O God...

For health & healing: *God heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. Ps. 147:3*

We pray for:

~The cities of St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Chicago as they struggle to deal with the loss of young life, issues of race, justice, and policing.

~The state of Indiana in the wake of the mass shooting at a FedEx facility.

~Betty B who is healing from injuries from a recent fall. She has returned to her residence and will be receiving 24 hour nursing care.

~Ken and Susie K. as Ken will have surgery this Tuesday April 20th for prostate cancer.

~Alyssa R., Pastor Dan's neighbor, whose grandmother recently passed away.

~Nick, nephew of Nancy & Brad who has been using heroin again for about 6 months.

~Ian, that continued chemo and upcoming radiation will continue to work as hoped and side effects can remain minimal.

~Continued prayers for David Rothe, friend of John Helt who is rehabbing after a serious infection.

~Kim, friend of Mary Ann M who is in rehab with significant health issues.

~Mary Ann as she supports her friend Kim.

~Rick, Uncle of Laura P who recently had a “routine” heart procedure that did not go well and is now in critical condition. Prayers for the whole family.

~Prayers for strength, understanding and healing for Jack and his family as the bone marrow transplant has been postponed.

He will go through another round of induction chemo. Dick and Joan Gaeth

~Continued prayers Bob, cousin of Barb W, who has COVID. He is no longer sedated and finally is off the ventilator. He has a tremendous amount of healing and therapy ahead.

~Judy, niece of Ken K as she is on chemo for breast cancer.

~Kathy, Ken’s sister who was moved to a nursing home and has a serious chronic infection and vascular dementia.

~Susie K’s Aunt Evelyn who is in hospice and Aunt Eleanore who had a stroke and is in home hospice, also for her daughters and granddaughters who are taking care of her.

~Dan, friend of Molly as he and his young family navigate his illness.

~Johnny, friend of the Ken and Sue who has COVID and other health problems.

~Joe and Laurie, son in law and daughter of Jackie S as they navigate Joe’s medical issues.

~Dawn & Brad D, daughter in-law and son of Laurel as she manages diabetes and dialysis 4 times per week for her kidneys and Brad as he heals from a broken arm that required several surgeries.

~Tracy, daughter of Nancy K, who is at home with Nancy awaiting a liver transplant.

~Continued prayers for Julene F’s nephew, who is struggling with mental health issues.

~Bernee, friend of Nancy K who has end-stage lung cancer and is in a nursing home in hospice.

Prayer Song

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

v. 2

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged; take it to the Lord in prayer! Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness; take it to the Lord in prayer!

Call to Offering

Worship Ways

One: Today, we are reminded of the joy surrounding the witnesses to Jesus' resurrection! We remember that before their resurrection joy, these witnesses experienced grief at the cross.

Witnessing the Risen Christ in their midst challenges the disciples to turn their disbelief into joyful belief. Witnessing the Risen Christ challenges the disciples to turn their fear into a courageous proclamation of God's glory. God calls forth a transformative love that marks a change in the ways of repentance and forgiveness, by witnessing the Good News of salvation for everyone, everywhere.

So, let us give thanks for God's steadfast love by being witnesses to those who are hungry for food, encouragement, and relationship. Let us also witness to those who are poor in spirit, by allowing God's Spirit to loosen our grip on belongings and possessions, in order to awaken every troubled heart. And lastly, let us offer ourselves in gratitude and with generosity, as witnesses to God's goodness by our joyful giving. Please give as you are able. www.uccmke.org/donate

Prayer of Dedication

God of abundant love, we offer a portion of our time, spiritual gifts, and resources as a sign of our love for you and the world. O God, we give you our thanks for all that we have and ask a special blessing on these offerings. And God, we ask that our collective offering be an expression of healing, that brings hope to a hurting world. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
A-men.**

Confession

One: Ever-present God,
Forgive us when we stand in disbelief,
and comfort us when our fears outweigh your peace.
God, forgive us when we become too busy to pray.
Help us when we fail to see our neighbors in need.
Abiding God, forgive us when we are overwhelmed
with bad news, and shut down completely.

All: In these times, remind us that we are called to be your love-lived, your faithful witnesses, and your humble servants. Help us to wake up to the work of love, and to your renewing strength each day, we pray. Amen.

Blessed Assurance

O God, hear our prayers of repentance and forgiveness, and awaken us from doubt, disbelief, and distress by transforming us into your resurrection joy! God, we desire for your loving spirit to be among us, to comfort us in our fears, and to renew our faith. Amen.

Closing Song

This Joyful Eastertide

1. **This joyful Eastertide away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.
Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain. But now hath Christ arisen.**
2. **My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber
till trumpets east to west shall wake the dead in number.
Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain. But now hath Christ arisen.**
3. **Death's flood hath lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river.
Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.
Had Christ, who once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain. But now hath Christ arisen.**

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.

Postlude

The Joyful Eastertide

Kolander

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Some Prayers and Liturgies by UCC Worship Ways

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Praise!!

Ian's cancer appears to have shrunk half in size and the doctor said theirs is exactly what she was hoping for! Please pray that the continued chemo and upcoming radiation will continue to work as hoped and side effects can remain minimal. Molly.

Happy Birthday to these wonderful people!

Lauren Darling April 22

Loretta Senderhauf April 22

Announcements

DI SOS donations needed

Please help by donating the following for our Friday night meal distribution:

*Prewrapped plastic knife, fork, and napkin (please tie or tape shut)

*Fruit Breakfast/granola Bars (any flavors)

Volunteers Needed

Friday night volunteers for SOS DI meal distribution at Christ Church.

It would be helpful if we could get 2 more sets of Building Reps so that volunteers will repeat about every 6-8 weeks. Just 1.5 hours on a Friday evening starting at 4:45pm.

Please contact Jim Wick for information and/or to sign up. Thanks.

BVCC Food Pantry Donation Requests

This week's most urgent needs are:

***Pastas & Sauces, Mac & Cheese, Individually packaged chips, cookies, fruit, granola bars etc., Toilet paper, laundry detergent and/or monetary donations.**

As usual donations can be dropped off at the BVCC at 1320 E. Oklahoma Ave.

Tuesdays-Saturdays 9:30am-12:30pm.

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email pastor@uccmke.org.

Christ Church UCC, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

We are currently worshipping online-only until June 6th.

You can make your offering to Christ Church at www.uccmke.org/donate or by mailing a check to Christ Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207

