

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

Pacific Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER

GATHERING

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The news astounds us, yet still we proclaim it.
All: He is risen! He is risen indeed!
One: Christ is no longer dead, but alive, and living in our midst.
All: He is risen! He is risen indeed!
One: So rejoice, and sing alleluia.
Unison: For Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

***OPENING HYMN** “Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers” GtG 231 [*Tune 509*]

**1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers;
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor:
Christ is risen, God is here!**

**2. Christ has risen for the people
whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
can't be silenced by the tomb.**

**3. Christ has risen and forever
lives to challenge and to change
all whose lives are messed or mangled,
all who find religion strange.**

(continued...)

**Christ is risen, Christ is present
making us what he has been:
evidence of transformation
in which God is known and seen.**

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UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Even as we rejoice in your victory in Jesus Christ, O God, we confess to you our sin. You say you will be with us, but we do not trust in your word. We turn our backs on you. We fret and worry over so many little things in life, yet we fail to focus our attention on the importance of life itself. Forgive us, gracious God. Tap us on the shoulder and return us to your side. Warm our hearts that we might learn to trust in you. Open our eyes to the path you would have us choose, and assure us of your presence; then grant us the courage to follow in the way of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(from Romans 5)*

One: "God proves God's love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us."
All: "If, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of the Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life."
One: Rejoice and believe in the good news.
All: **For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, we are reconciled, we are given new life!**

THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

(From your seat, a brief sign of peace may be shared: a wave of the hand, a nod of the head, etc.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON “Our Road to Emmaus ... and Beyond” by Pastor Bill Vincent
(Luke 24:13-35)

Luke 24:13-35 (Today’s English Version/Good News Bible)

¹³ On that same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them; ¹⁶ they saw him, but somehow did not recognize him. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, “What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?”

They stood still, with sad faces. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have been happening there these last few days?”

¹⁹ “What things?” he asked.

“The things that happened to Jesus of Nazareth,” they answered. “This man was a prophet and was considered by God and by all the people to be powerful in everything he said and did. ²⁰ Our chief priests and rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and he was crucified. ²¹ And we had hoped that he would be the one who was going to set Israel free! Besides all that, this is now the third day since it happened. ²² Some of the women of our group surprised us; they went at dawn to the tomb, ²³ but could not find his body. They came back saying they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. ²⁴ Some of our group went to the tomb and found it exactly as the women had said, but they did not see him.”

²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “How foolish you are, how slow you are to believe everything the prophets said! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and then to enter his glory?” ²⁷ And Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther; ²⁹ but they held him back, saying, “Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ He sat down to eat with them, took the bread, and said the blessing; then he broke the bread and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”

³³ They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven disciples gathered together with the others ³⁴ and saying, “The Lord is risen indeed! He has appeared to Simon!”

³⁵ The two then explained to them what had happened on the road, and how they had recognized the Lord when he broke the bread.

***HYMN “Day of Arising” GtG 252**

**1. Day of arising,
Christ on the roadway,
unknown companion
walks with his own.
When they invite him,
as fades the first day,
and bread is broken,
Christ is made known.**

**2. When we are walking,
doubtful and dreading,
blinded by sadness,
slowness of heart,
yet Christ walks with us,
ever awaiting
our invitation:
Stay, do not part.**

**3. Lo, I am with you,
Jesus has spoken.
This is Christ's promise,
this is Christ's sign:
when the church gathers,
when bread is broken,
there Christ is with us,
in bread and wine.**

**4. Christ, our companion,
hope for the journey,
bread of compassion,
open our eyes.
Grant us your vision,
set all hearts burning
that all creation
with you may rise.**

Text by Susan Palo Cherwien.

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***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

(from A Brief Statement of Faith, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: God of resurrection presence...
All: ...hear our prayer.

THE EUCHARIST

OFFERING

Invitation

Reflection

**Unison Prayer of Dedication*

We bring our gifts to you, O God, in response to good news. Christ is risen indeed and abides in us still. May all that we do be in response to new life. As you accept who we are, receive what we offer, and transform all of our being to conform with your will. May your resurrection never stop surprising us, disrupting us and transforming us, until Christ's kingdom comes. In his name we pray. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Sing "Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread" GtG 500

- 1. Be known to us in breaking bread,
but do not then depart;
Savior, abide with us, and spread
your table in our heart.**

(continued...)

2. **Here share with us, in love divine,
your body and your blood,
that living bread, that heavenly wine
be our immortal food.**

Words: James Montgomery, 1825
Music: ST. FLAVIAN, Day's *Psalter*, 1562
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Leader: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.
(The prayer continues...)

The Lord's Prayer (Contemporary)

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

(With the passing of the bread and the passing of the cup, please partake as soon as received as an expression of our personal relationship with Christ.)

Sing "We Gather Here in Jesus' Name" GtG 510

**1. We gather here
in Jesus' name;
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving Son
the Father makes us one:**

(continued...)

**come, take the bread;
come, drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.**

**(1) No one is a stranger here;
everyone belongs.
Finding our forgiveness here,
we in turn forgive all wrongs.**

**2. He joins us here;
he breaks the bread;
the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the one we love the most
is now our gracious host:
come, take the bread;
come, drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.**

**(2) We are now a family,
of which the Lord is head.
Though unseen, he meets us here
in the breaking of the bread.**

**3. We'll gather soon
where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate
the feast for which we wait:
come, take the bread;
come, drink the wine;
come, share the Lord.**

Words and Music (COME, SHARE THE LORD): Bryan
Jeffery Leech, 1984
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Prayer

SENDING

***CLOSING HYMN** “God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me” GtG 543 (*Verses 1, 4, & 5*)

**1. God, be the love to search and keep me;
God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

**4. Walking behind to hem my journey,
going ahead to light my way,
and from beneath, above, and all ways:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

**5. Christ in the eyes of all who see me,
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: ...And let the gathered people of God say...
All: ...**Amen.**
One: For Christ is risen!
All: **He is risen indeed!**

POSTLUDE

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