

Sunday, April 23rd, 2023
Third Sunday of Easter

WE ARE AN
Easter
PEOPLE



The Road to Emmaus

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Rev. Dan McKenty - Pastor

"An Experience to be Shared"

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We Prepare Our Hearts and Minds: "I believe that whether we recognize him or not, or believe in him or not, or even know his name, again and again he comes and walks a little way with us along whatever road we are following. And I believe that through something that happens to us, or something we see, or somebody we know, who can ever guess how or when or where? He offers us, the way he did at Emmaus, the bread of life, offers us new hope, a new vision of light that not even the dark world can overcome." - Frederick Buechner

Ringling of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (responsive)

Elder Sue Latour

Followers of Jesus,

by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

Alleluia!

By his rising we are free from the fear of death.

Alleluia!

By his love we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

Alleluia! Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prelude

Choral Introit: "#####"

* Hymn "Because He Lives" #213

* Passing the Peace

Sharing our Concerns, Joys, and Affirmations

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Almighty God,

our world is filled with corruption: power disguises itself as truth; convenience masquerades as goodness;

selfish pleasure imitates love. We confess to you, O God, that we have been caught in the web of the world's sin.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

Current Prayer Concerns:

Shane Warren, Kent Mitchell, Dixie Porter, Hudson Day, Margy Kreppel, Christina Moore, Amy Etheridge, Connie Ellis, Bonnie Hancock, Margie Bauer Cramer, Eric Richardson, Samantha Kilgore, Janice Beckham, Russ Shallcross, Joyce & Jack Vavrek, Bob Lebo, Lydia Frasca, Diane Devanna,, Larry (Black) Blackwell, Marie McCallister, Larry Dickerson, Bonnie Machen, Betty Ignash, Bob Hopper, and Tom Taylor.

Those homebound or undergoing treatment:

John Snyder and Marie McCallister (Marty Cropper's sister)

Berlin Nursing Home: For all those who we were unable to visit or sing with during this time of virus.

Fellowship Hosts Coming Up:

April 30 Sue Latour & Peggy Webster

May 7 Sarah Dypsky

May 15 Jan Owens & Barbra Kipila

May 21 Jackie Bates & Dawn Butler

Volunteers Needed ...

We are seeking volunteers to help at our **Wednesday Food Pantry**. From **9AM - 11:30AM** greet people, guide them to the Food Pantry, and help restock the pantry from our storage, as needed. A sign-up sheet is on the glass table in the back of the sanctuary. Please consider participating in this much needed ministry.

Jewelry Found

A nice piece of jewelry was found in the parking lot. If you are missing a piece and think you may have lost it here, please contact the office.

Calendar, Birthdays ... and more!

Sun, April 23	Boy Scout Troop # 2173	4:00 PM
Tues, April 25	Mobile Showers	9:30 AM
Wed, April 26	Food Pantry	9:00 AM
Wed, April 26	Choir Practice	6:00 PM
Wed, April 26	Girl Scouts # 812	6:00 PM
Fri, April 28	Dedication of Engine #702 For Leroy Cropper Keyser Point Road Fire House	11:00 AM
Fri, April 28	Narcotics Anonymous	7:00 PM

Birthdays: Paul Whitson (04/24)

Flowers: ~ A basket of flowers is placed to the Glory of God by the Ocean City Volunteer Fire Company in recognition of Leroy Cropper's 32 years of service with the department. On Friday, April 28th a ceremony will be held dedicating Tanker Engine #702 to Leroy; who at the time of his Line of Duty Death, was its Captain.

Household Prayer: Morning

*Lord Jesus,
your rising from tomb heralds the dawning of life eternal
as the dawning of this day holds the possibilities of life anew.
Open my eyes to the signs of your resurrection
and confirm in my heart the power of your amazing love,
that I may with confidence sing "Alleluia." Amen.*

Household Prayer: Evening

*Loving God,
you have upheld me with your love
even when I have not been aware of your presence.
As I rest from my labors
let me sleep without fear of darkness or death
and rise refreshed to begin a new day in humble service,
through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

save us from these deceptions and free us for glad obedience,
that we may see the joy of Jesus' resurrection
and receive the promise of everlasting life. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (responsive)

Followers of Jesus:

God has promised salvation to us, to our children,
and to all who are near and far.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*** Gloria Patri** (unison)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As
it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without
end. Amen. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

1st Peter tells us to love one another deeply, from the heart. We
do that by giving generously of our time, our talent, and our
treasure. We give not out of obligation, but with joy in our hearts
that Christ's church continues to thrive and be a blessing to
others.

*** Doxology** (unison)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures
here below. Praise Him above ye heavenly Hosts. Praise Father,
Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious and eternal God, take from our bounty which you have
so generously provided to us and use this offering for your work
of love, comfort, healing, and reconciliation. In Jesus' name we
pray. Amen.

Choral Anthem: "Heaven Came Down"

Prayer for Illumination (unison)

Lord, you opened the meaning of the Scriptures to the disciples
on the road to Emmaus and set their hearts ablaze.

By the power of your Spirit kindle our hearts as we hear your
word proclaimed, that we may receive you with joy. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 1: 17-23 [NIV]

Elder Nancy Wright

¹⁷ Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸ For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰ He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹ Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. ²² Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for each other, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³ For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

2nd Scripture Reading: John 20: 19-31 [NIV]

Rev. Dan McKenty

On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. ⁴ While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. ⁵ In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶ He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ⁷ 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " ⁸ Then they remembered his words. ⁹ When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. ¹⁰ It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But they did not believe the women, because their words seemed to them like nonsense. ¹² Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. ¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things

Emmaus 1

Malcom Guite

Luke 24:17 'He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast'.

And do you ask what I am speaking of
Although you know the whole tale of my heart;
Its longing and its loss, its hopeless love?
You walk beside me now and take my part
As though a stranger, one who doesn't know
The pit of disappointment, the despair
The jolts and shudders of my letting go,
My aching for the one who isn't there.

And yet you know my darkness from within,
My cry of dereliction is your own,
You bore the isolation of my sin
Alone, that I need never be alone.
Now you reveal the meaning of my story
That I, who burn with shame,
might blaze with glory.

Thanksgiving for Deliverance of Crisis

I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray, save my life!"
What shall I return to the LORD
for all his bounty to me?

I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,
I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.
O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.
I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the LORD.
I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.
Praise the LORD!

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.¹⁷ He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast.¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"¹⁹ "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people."²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him;²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place.²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning²³ but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."²⁵ He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?"²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther.²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight.³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Time with Children & Youth
Rev. Dan McKenty

Sermon: "An Experience to be Shared"
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* Hymn "Love Lifted Me" #505

Affirmation of Faith - (unison)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of Saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting, Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer (unison)

Let us unite our hearts in prayer, saying, God of resurrection, hear our prayer. For the church throughout the world, that as we celebrate the great fifty days of Easter, we may renew our faith and strengthen our witness in Jesus' name.

God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For pastors, teachers, and ministers, that they recognize the risen Christ in Word and Sacrament and lead your church with wisdom, humility, and courage; God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the governments of the world and its leaders, that they may resist the corruption of sin and serve the common good; God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our planet Earth, that all people may be good stewards of its resources and share in its abundance; God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For the poor and the stranger, that they may receive a place of refuge and hope, and that the church may offer the hospitality the first disciple offered to Jesus on the road to Emmaus; God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

God of resurrection, hear our prayer. For the sick and those in distress, that they may find healing for their pain and be restored to fullness of life. God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.** And we pray for

For our neighbors, that we may live together in peace and share in our resources; God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our enemies, that they may receive good things, and that we, your servants, not return evil for evil; God of resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, receive these prayers we offer, and by the power of your Holy Spirit make us witnesses to the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray to you by saying, **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

* Hymn "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" #380

Charge

Benediction

Postlude and Response "Four-Fold Amen"