

**First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City
Sunday, April 26th, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter**



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

Ringing of the Church Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (responsive)

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

Hymn "He Lives" #220

1.

I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He's always near. (Refrain)

Refrain

He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.

2.

In all the world around me I see His loving care,
And tho' my heart grows weary, I never will despair;
I know that He is leading thro' all the stormy blast,
The day of His appearing will come at last. (Refrain)

3.

Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind. (Refrain)

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,
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.**

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]

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: Luke 24: 1-35 [NIV]

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 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 morning 23 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 together 34 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.

Sermon: "Travelling the Road Together"

Rev. Dan McKenty

Hymn "Love Lifted Me" #505

1 I was sinking deep in sin,
far from the peaceful shore,
very deeply stained within,
sinking to rise no more;
but the Master of the sea
heard my despairing cry,
from the waters lifted me;
now safe am I.

Refrain:

Love lifted me!

Love lifted me!

When nothing else could help,

Love lifted me.

Love lifted me!

Love lifted me!

When nothing else could help,

Love lifted me.

2 Souls in danger, look above,
Jesus completely saves;
he will lift you by his love
out of the angry waves.
He's the Master of the sea,
billows his will obey;
he your Savior wants to be –
be saved today. [Refrain]

Affirmation of Faith—Apostles' Creed (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.

Sacrament of Our Lord's Supper (responsive)

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Glorious God,

we give you thanks and praise,

for on this day creation sings,

Christ is risen from the dead!

He has burst forth from the tomb

to break the tangles of despair and death.

Love is come again.

Therefore, we praise you,

joining our voices with the eternal chorus of rejoicing

who forever sing:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord,

God of power, Giver of life,

heaven and earth declare your splendor.

Praise, glory, and love are yours.

All-embracing God,

we give thanks for Jesus,

the risen Lord of life,

who rose victorious from the grave

and made the whole creation new.

He broke bread with sinners,

fed the hungry, and healed the oppressed,

then he poured out his life in death that we might live in love.

Christ is risen from the dead. Love is come again.

Recalling his life, death, and glorious resurrection,
we offer you these gifts of bread and wine,
and our lives in thanks and praise.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us
the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Breathe your Spirit upon the whole earth,
that we may proclaim good news to all the world
and rise together as children of your new creation.

Then bring us to that new heaven here on earth, O God,
where death and pain are no more
and you dwell with us forever.

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you eternally in songs of pure unbounded praise.**

Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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 those who suffer from the current pandemic;

God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

For the front-line healers and workers who give us sustenance and hope in the face of plague
and disease,

That they may be strengthened and encouraged by your love.

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.

For the sick and those in distress,
that they may find healing for their pain
and be restored to fullness of life; specifically, we pray for

God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

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

1 I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

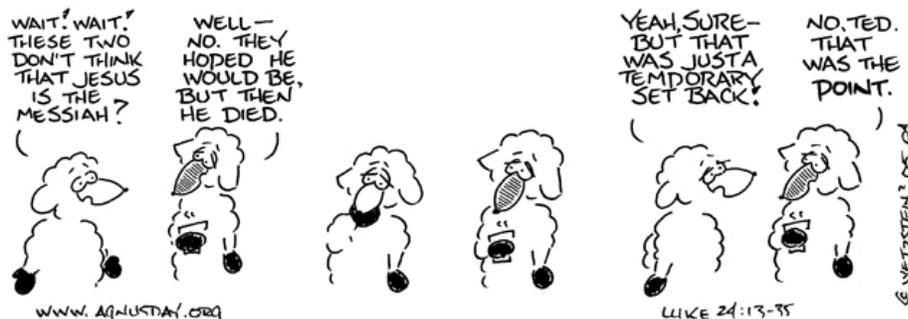
2 Thro' this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. [Refrain]

3 When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to
Thy shore. [Refrain]

Charge

Benediction

Postlude



**2020 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
A ZOOM INTERFAITH SERVICE
OF HEALING AND HOPE**

MAY 7 | 5 PM

HOSTED BY CURE

Atlantic United Methodist Church

Church of the Holy Spirit

First Presbyterian Church of Ocean City

St. Pauls By-the Sea Episcopal Church

St. Peters Lutheran Church

Temple Bat Yam



Praying for medical professionals, first responders, civic leaders, businesses, schools, our neighbors & friends

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