

First Congregational United Church of Christ

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit and with the help of God,
we open our doors and hearts to all, in service and love as modeled by Jesus Christ.*



Third Sunday of Easter

*The Lord's Day
Third Sunday of Easter
Nine o'clock in the Morning*

The Worship of God

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by God's holiness; the nourishment of the mind with God's truth; the purifying of the imagination by God's beauty; the opening of the heart to God's love; the surrender of the will to God's purpose—all of this gathered up in adoration.

~William Temple

The Prologue

Emmaus may indeed mean different things to different people, an out of the way hideaway, an escape, a pleasant memory, a favorite food, a fun activity. All of us have our special places and our own preferred forms of getting away from it all. Emmaus may be home! As the commercials for Southwest Airlines once asked, "Wanna get away?" Authentic, genuine Sabbath is always personal, customized to meet the specific needs of the individual, uniquely tailored, suited to fit only you! When life is at its most disjointed or disrupted, and we find ourselves fraught with fear and anxiety, two very unwelcome bedfellows, Emmaus opportunities provide respite and succor for our troubled, over-stimulated minds, our hurried and hurried existence. The familiarity of Emmaus offers a calming salve that allows us to regain our equilibrium and regroup whatever in our lives needs recalibrating and reordering. When we are at our best as beloved faith community, that is exactly what steeple-life is designed to do as we worship, enjoy fellowship, carry out our mission and ministry, all the while communing with God and with one another. Of all the adjectives that might be used to describe the First Congregational United Church of Christ, may it be said of us in our own unique and quirky way, that we provide Emmaus moments to everyone who travels their road to get here, "no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey."

Gathering Music

The Proclamation

An Ancient Easter Acclamation

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The Call to Worship and Welcome

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

And also with you.

The Music for Contemplation

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Gathering

Come and worship the One who opens our eyes to all that is resurrected within us!

The gift of the Holy Spirit is ours to receive, the promise fulfilled to all God's children near and far!

Call on the name of the Lord in this holy space and time! Give thanks to the One who fills us with hope and faith!

In spoken word and broken bread, our hearts burn with the presence of the Holy!

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 64 (*Chalice Praise*) *More Precious Than Silver*

Lynn DeShazo

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of mystery and wonder, we have gathered in the house of the Lord to call upon the name of the Holy, the One who is our faith and hope; we pray this day that you might incline your ear to us, that your Holy Spirit will come upon us in this hour that our eyes might be opened to see you; in spoken word and in the breaking of living bread, may we sense your holy presence in our midst; we pray that all of us who have gathered in this sacred setting might experience a moment of transcendence even in the mysterious way that it fell on those dejected disciples as they set out on their haunting journey to their home in Emmaus but were wonderfully transformed, suddenly filled with astonished amazement as they embarked that lonely road; as we travel to Emmaus in this time and space, may we too experience Emmaus in our worship of you; all this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy and still speaking Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Amen.

*The Opening Hymn, No. 231 *Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us* HOLY MANNA

*The Litany of Praise

O how we love the Lord, the Holy One who has inclined an ear to us! In the presence of all God's people, we call on the name of the Lord in this sacred setting!

As we call on the name of the Lord to save us, the Holy One hears our cries!

God hears the voice of our supplications, inviting us to call on the Holy with every breath we take!

In this time of worship we break living bread and lift the cup of salvation, keeping the promises that we have made as followers of Christ!

Considering the bounty God bestows unto us, what shall we return unto the Lord?

As servants of God, we give thanks for all good things! In the midst of the people, we offer ourselves and our humblest thanksgiving! Praise the Lord!

*Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Comforter!
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end! Amen! Amen!*

The Call to Confession¹

Peter preached: “Save yourselves from this crooked generation! Repent! So your sins may be forgiven!” All of us participate in society's alienation from God. All too often, we have joined the “me” generation in putting our own interests before all else. We have much to confess before we can claim the wholeness God offers. In the silence and stillness of these moments, let us confess before the Holy.

The Silent Confession

The Corporate Confession²

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of mysterious transcendence and mesmerizing awe and wonder, we confess that we are prone to rush through our days without recognizing your presence with us. We would follow our busy diversions without reference to your will for us. We often seem programmed like robots, pressured by the realities of our lives, to strive for financial success and personal recognition, while you call for obedience to truth and genuine mutual love. Purify our souls, we pray, and redirect our priorities, that we might be born anew through your living and enduring word.

The Assurance of Pardon³

Beloved faith community, hear the good news of Eastertide! The promise of forgiveness is for us and for our children, for everyone whom God calls. After all, God calls everyone! The gift of the Holy Spirit is ours to receive. Lift up the bread of life and the cup of salvation every day! The Holy Spirit is ours to receive! Give thanks for the words and deeds of Jesus, who revealed God's love for us and enlists us as disciples, followers one and all!

Thanks be to God!

The Witness from the Christian Scriptures

ACTS 2:14a,36-41

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say! Therefore, let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified!” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit! For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him!” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted

them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation!” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added!

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

Thanks be to God!

The Response, PSALM 116:1-4, 12-19

GIFT OF LOVE

*I love the Lord, who heard our voice, and answered our most earnest plea!
When snares of death our life would take, we call to God, and are set free!!*

*O what can we to good return for all the bounty from your store?
Seen with your grace, our highest prize is naught, what can we give you more?*

*We lift salvation’s cup from which you had us drink to seal our vow!
And in the sight of all around, we honor our commitment now!*

*The recompense for what is ours is to exalt your name always!
Our hearts with thanks should ne’er run dry, nor tongues refuse to sing your praise!*

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 24:13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him! And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad! 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?” 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us! They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them! Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight! 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?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread!

The Gospel for today!
Thanks be to God!

The Sermon *A Short Distance on a Long and Winding Road!* Timothy W. Shirley

The Music for Meditation

The Concerns of the Church

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

The Receiving of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Christ all creatures here below!
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore!
Praise triune God whom we adore!*

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Closing Hymn, No. 233 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*

HYFRYDOL

*The Procession of the Light

*The Benediction and Blessing

To our guests! At your choosing, we invite you to join us in a long-standing tradition at First Congregational United Church of Christ as we form a circle as one, joining hands and singing together our Fellowship Song.

*The Fellowship Song *Let There Be Peace on Earth*

WORLD PEACE

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
With every step I take, let this be my joyous creed.
To take each moment and live each moment in peace, eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

The Music for Reflection

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

Lector: Donna DePape

Ushers: Susan Krivichi and Mike Mettler

*The color for the Season of Eastertide is white,
symbolizing purity and victory, and reminding us of
Jesus' victory over death on the cross and his glorious resurrection.*

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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