

St. Paul's United Church of Christ  
April 23, 2023  
Brittany Mallieue

**Prelude**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**\*Call to Worship**

One: Come! Come! Come!

All: **Come! Come! Come!**

One: Come! Let us worship our God who listens to us...

All: **Whatever language we speak!**

One: Come! Let us worship our God who understands us...

All: **Whatever story we live and share!**

One: Come! Let us worship our God who loves us...

All: **Just as we are!**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

Be with us while we walk our Road to Emmaus...

Be with us as we share a simple ordinary meal with you

Rejoice with us as we recognize you more clearly with each tasty mouthful of familiar food...that you are alive and real in our midst!

May we open our hearts along with our eyes...to the resurrected Jesus during this hour of worship and beyond...that we become your Easter People of today...embracing all colors, nations, and races. **Amen.**

**\*Hymn**            Great is thy Faithfulness 423 – The New Century Hymnal

**\*Silent Prayer of Confession**

*(brief silence for reflection)*

**God of Surprises, God of Resurrection, God of Unity, We are still celebrating Easter! We can be blind to what is happening around us. AND we are still unsure about how to live out the message of resurrection. Give us the courage to fully open ourselves to you and to follow you that we become your hands, feet, love and presence while we walk with you in your world. Amen.**

**\*Words of Assurance**

Liturgist: God shows God's love for us in that while we were, yet sinners Christ died for us.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

**All: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*The Gloria Patri**

*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*

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Children's Sermon**

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 24:13-35

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>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?" <sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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." <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>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?" <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They

were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”<sup>35</sup> 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**

## **Hymn**

In the Garden #237 – New Century Hymnal

## **Prayers of the People**

### **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.**

### **Offering of our Gifts**

Liturgist: A generous life counters the societal norms that depend on scarcity. Our Loving God creates in abundance so that all may live a full and flourishing life. When we give from our abundance, we proclaim our trust in God's provision and our love of neighbor.

## **Offertory**

### **\*Doxology**

*Praise God from who all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

### **\*Offering Prayer**

**Giving God, receive this portion of the gifts you have given to us. May our time, treasure, and talent be magnified and multiplied for your glory. Amen.**

### **\*Closing Hymn**

Rock of Ages #596 – New Century Hymnal

### **\*Benediction**

Fellow walkers along the way,  
As we continue our journeys,  
Be aware of the risen Christ in the ones who were once strangers,  
While you walk, while you eat, while you live, while you breathe,  
To testify to the living Christ among us all.

### **\*Postlude**

