



## **The Walk to Emmaus**

### **A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP** *Inspired by the Community of Taizé*

**April 30, 2023**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

#### **BE RECONCILED ALL YOU WHO ENTER HERE**

Parents, children, partners, friends, enemies;  
Believers and those who cannot believe;  
Christians and their fellow Christians.

*(Variation of the greeting posted outside the Church of Reconciliation, Taizé, France)*

#### **Welcome**

#### **Prelude**

*A Canticle of Peace*

Ritter

#### **\*Opening Words**

Quinn Hetherington

We gather together to celebrate the joy in our lives.

**God's love fills our hearts to overflowing with laughter.**

We gather, in God's presence, to find comfort and hope for our pain.

**God's grace wipes away our tears and knits us together as one people.**

We gather together, in God's presence, to worship God in faith and truth.

**Alleluia! Amen!**

#### **\* Prayer**

Quinn Hetherington

Healing God, when dismay is our daily companion, you walk beside us to be a companion of hope. When grief falls on us like a wall of bricks, you rebuild our joy with your comfort and love. When we are heart-sick over the brokenness of our lives, your compassion races to bring your gentle balm. When our joy is gone and we are distressed by the world's

cruelty, you bathe us in the tears flowing from Your broken heart. Come, fill us with your joy again. Amen.

**Song**

*Holy Spirit, Come to Us*

*The congregation joins the choir singing "Viné Sancte Spiritus" as an expression of praise and openness to receiving the Holy Spirit's presence today. "Viné Sancte Spiritus" means "Come, Holy Spirit." Meghan Walker will sing the verses.*

**Passing the Peace of Christ**

Quinn Hetherington

**Psalms 139, Selected Verses**

You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.

You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.

You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.

Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely.

**My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.**

You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

**My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.**

Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

How precious to me are your thoughts, God! How vast is the sum of them!

Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand-

when I awake, I am still with you.

**My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place,  
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.**

**Song**

*Bless the Lord My Soul*

FWS 2013

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**Prayer of Confession**

Pastor Debra

Holy God, Maker of all –

**Lord forgive us.**

Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor –

**Lord forgive us.**

Holy Spirit, Breath of life –

**Lord forgive us.**

*Let us confess in silence our faults and admit our frailties.*

Before God, with the people of God, we confess to our brokenness; to the ways we wound our lives, to the lives of others, and the life of the world.

**May God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Spirit enable us to grow in love. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music**

*Come, Rejoice in God*

Choir

**Prayer for Understanding**

*All Praying*

Quinn Hetherington

**Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit, illumine the sacred page, we pray, that our minds may be open to receive your Word, our hearts taught to love it, and our wills strengthened to obey it; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**A Reading from Luke 24:13-35**

Quinn Hetherington

**On the Road to Emmaus**

<sup>13</sup> Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles<sup>[a]</sup> from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup> As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; <sup>16</sup> but they were kept from recognizing him.

<sup>17</sup> He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup> 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?”

<sup>19</sup> “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. <sup>20</sup> The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup> but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had

seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

<sup>25</sup> He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! <sup>26</sup> Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” <sup>27</sup> And

beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

<sup>28</sup>As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. <sup>29</sup>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.

<sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>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?"

<sup>33</sup>They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together <sup>34</sup>and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." <sup>35</sup>Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.  
**Thanks be to God.**

<b><u>Sermon</u></b>	<i>On the Emmaus Road</i>	Pastor Debra
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<b><u>Affirmation of Faith</u></b>	<i>The Apostles' Creed</i>	UMH 881
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<b><u>Song</u></b>	<i>Jesus, Remember Me</i>	UMH 488
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### **A Moment of Silence**

<b><u>Prayer of Intercession</u></b>	Pastor Debra
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Almighty, all-merciful God, lover of justice and giver of peace, hear our prayer:  
For your people Israel, for the church of Jesus Christ, and for all who seek your face.  
To you, O Lord, we pray.

**Answer us with mercy.**

For leaders and elders, that they will abide by your commandments.

To you, O Lord, we pray.

**Answer us with mercy.**

For the earth that you have made, trembling for redemption and re-creation.  
To you, O Lord, we pray.  
**Answer us with mercy.**

For those who are tormented by demons of illness, addiction, and grief.  
To you, O Lord, we pray.  
**Answer us with mercy.**

Let our lives and our world be transfigured by your glory and be transformed by your love;  
in the name of Jesus Christ, your chosen one, our Lord, we pray...

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Song** *In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful* FWS 2195  
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**Offertory Invitation** Quinn Hetherington  
Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in thanksgiving and praise.

### **Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings**

*Offertory I Love Thee* Christian Harmony  
*\*Doxology Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*  
***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***  
***Praise God, all creatures here below:***  
***Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!***  
***Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!***  
***Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*\*Prayer of Dedication* Quinn Hetherington  
**Like the disciples at Emmaus, we offer what we have. They offered their company, their table, their bread. We invite you to be with us as we offer you our love, our devotion, these gifts. May our eyes be opened to your holy presence, now and always. Amen.**

### **GOING FORTH TO SERVE**

**Hymn** *Easter People, Raise Your Voices* UMH 304  
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### **Blessing**

May the risen Christ meet you on the road,  
Lead you into all truth,  
Guide you on your path.

May the risen Christ feed and sustain you,  
Fill you with his presence,  
Equip you by his Spirit.

May the Risen Christ walk with you today,  
Be with you through this week,  
May you dwell with Christ forever.  
Go in peace.

### **Choral Benediction**

*He Lives*

*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.*

### **Postlude**

*Hymn of Praise*

Blake

## **Bless the Lord My Soul**

*Bless the Lord my soul  
And bless God's holy name.  
Bless the Lord my soul  
Who leads me into life.*

## **The Apostle's Creed**

*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 Spirit,  
Born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, dead and buried;  
The third day he rose from the dead;  
He ascended into heaven,  
And sitteth at 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 Spirit,  
The holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.*

## **Jesus Remember Me**

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.  
Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

## **In The Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful**

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
In the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.*

## **Easter People, Raise Your Voices**

*Easter people, raise your voices,  
Sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;  
Heavenly music, let it ring.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.*

*Fear of death can no more stop us  
From our pressing here below.  
For our Lord empowered us to  
Triumph over every foe.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.*

*Every day to us is Easter,  
With its resurrection song.  
When in trouble move the faster  
To our God who rights the wrong.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.*