



First Presbyterian

CHURCH OF EASTON



A Service for the Worship of God

April 23, 2023

The Third Sunday of Easter

**Indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit as you are able.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

GATHERING MUSIC

TOWER BELLS

PRELUDE

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word (Hymn 454)

J. S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We have come from various places, following different roads.

We come hungering for greater understanding.

We have come to hear the wisdom of Scripture.

We come seeking companions in the faith.

We have come to discover the One revealed in the breaking of the bread.

We come to grow as disciples of Christ.

Come, let us worship God, made known in Christ Jesus.

*HYMN

Will You Come and Follow Me

“Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

“Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?”

“Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?”

“Will you love the ‘you’ you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?”

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Week by week we open our lives before you, acknowledging ways we sometimes lose track of you. We are driven and feel busy so we let other things come before you in our lives. Changes upend us and we don’t know where to turn. Forgive us when we forget that you are with us day by day. Renew us in your love, we pray.

Silent prayer

Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

On the Emmaus road, Jesus met friends who were discouraged and distracted by his death. Yet when he spoke of God’s word to them, their hearts burned within them. Hear God’s word of forgiveness today. May the fire of God’s love warm your hearts with God’s promise of peace and new life.

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

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.**

WE HEAR GOD’S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:13-35

SERMON

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

ANTHEM

I Believe

music: Mark A. Miller
text: anonymous Jewish poem

I believe in the sun even when it’s not shining.
I believe in love even when I don’t feel it.
I believe in God even when God is silent.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Beloved children of God, too often we see the world through a lens of scarcity. We look at all the things we do not have or wish for something bigger and better. And yet, our stories of faith tell us that the smallest things often become enormous when placed in God's hands. And so, you are invited to bring your "little" and watch how God can do great things to bless the entire community.

Please leave your offering in the box at the front of the sanctuary or make your gifts online or via mail.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Holy and righteous God, we offer our gifts with humble hearts, knowing the need in our world is great and our gifts alone will not be enough. But we offer our gifts in hope that you will bless them, multiply them, and use them to help fulfill your purpose revealed in Jesus Christ, Savior of us all. Amen.

*RESPONSE

Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

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.

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*HYMN 432

Song of Hope

May the God of hope go with us every day,
Filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
Singing, share our joy with all,
Working for a world that's new,
Faithful when we hear Christ's call.

*BENEDICTION

Now go, facing the road ahead, confident the Risen Christ goes with you. And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Worship Leaders

Rev. Stefanie Muntzel

Gloria Snyder, Organist

Elizabeth Campbell, Chancel Choir Director

The Chancel Choir

Darcel Hayes-Bridges, Liturgist

Tech Support: Jacob Van Norman, Bill Bartlett, Rich Linnell, Pat Koefoed, Luke McGloughlin

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The text of today's anthem was found on the wall of a cellar in Cologne where a number of Jews hid themselves for the entire duration of the war.

I Believe in the Sun

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.
 And I believe in love, even when there's no one there.
 And I believe in God, even when he is silent.
 I believe through any trial there is always a way
 But sometimes in this suffering and hopeless despair
 My heart cries for shelter, to know someone's there
 But a voice rises within me, saying hold on my child,
 I'll give you strength,
 I'll give you hope. Just stay a little while.
 I believe in the sun even when it is not shining
 And I believe in love even when there's no one there
 But I believe in God even when he is silent
 I believe through any trial there is always a way.
 May there someday be sunshine
 May there someday be happiness
 May there someday be love
 May there someday be peace...

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.