

ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH
A UNITED METHODIST/PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) COMMUNITY
WILDE LAKE INTERFAITH CENTER • COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
UNITED IN LOVE – UNITED FOR SERVICE

April 23, 2023

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER // IN-PERSON & ONLINE SERVICE
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Liturgist: Pamela Love

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WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

PRELUDE

Patricia Hammer
Accompanist

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

GTG #591

Refrain:

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Halle, halle, hallelujah

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

O God, to whom shall we go?
You alone have the words of life
Let your words be our prayer and the song we sing:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Refrain

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord
When I call them they follow me
I will lead them to rest by the peaceful streams:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Refrain

CALL TO WORSHIP

As you walk with us, as we journey together,
Lord, your word fills our hearts!
As you speak with us, as your love is revealed,
Lord, your fire burns in our hearts!
As we proclaim what we have seen and heard,
may all people be drawn to you, the risen Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

Dear Lord, you have so much to show us and to tell us—
things that no human eyes have seen, things that no human ears have heard,
things that you have prepared for those you love.
Mighty God, your promises are like shelter in a storm—
to us and to our children, to all those far and near, to everyone who hears your call.
O, that we might have the mind of Christ, that we may know and understand your
truth. We wait as empty vessels, ready to be filled to overflowing with your living

water, as you reveal your love for us through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.
Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 116:1 – 4, 12 – 19

ANTHEM

“We Have Seen the Risen Lord”
(Stan Pethel)

SJU Chancel Choir

In the darkness, in the quiet
We had come to anoint Him
Heavy hearted, drenched in sorrow
How could we live without Him?
Suddenly we saw there and angel all in white
Then we knew that He had risen

Refrain:

*We have seen the risen Lord
We have heard His gentle voice
Saying, "Be not afraid"
We have felt His conquering power
Known the glory of this hour
We have seen the risen Lord*

We were walking to Emmaus
We were speaking about Him
Things had happened, we were helpless
There was no hope without Him
Then another joined us, and strangely warmed our hearts
And we knew that He had risen

Refrain

We were fishing, catching nothing
Wondering what to do without Him
In the misty light of morning
Our lives were empty without Him
Then a man called to us, standing on the shore
And we knew that He had risen

Refrain

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 24:13 – 35

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Unbelievable Joy

Guy Moody

MESSAGE

“HOPE: A LONG AND WINDING ROAD”

Guy Moody

OFFERTORY SONG OF REFLECTION

“Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

GTG #835

I am weak, but thou art strong.
Jesus, keep me from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, dear Lord, 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.*

Through 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

When my feeble life is o'er
Time for me will be no more.
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore.
Refrain

CALL TO GENEROSITY (based on 1 Peter 1:17 – 23)

Creator of all we know and all we don't know, as we bring our gifts this day, we ask you to help us trust you more. Forgive us when we entertain the thought that our future lies in bank balances and the accumulation of stuff. Remind us as Peter reminded the early followers that through Jesus, we "have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God". May our lives reflect that trust to others. In the powerful name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

CLOSING SONG "Today We All are Called to Be Disciples"
(Lincroft Presbyterian Church Virtual Choir; video; [CC])

BENEDICTION

Christ has brought us together:
together in faith, together in hope, together in love.
We have gathered together to be sent out again:
sent out with the welcome message of God's love!
We go forth together, to be living testimonies of Christ's love!

POSTLUDE

Patricia Hammer
accompanist

Readings are NRSV unless otherwise noted. CEB=Common English Bible; CEV=Contemporary English Version; KJV=King James Version; MSG=The Message; NIV=New International Version; NLT=New Living Translation; TIB=The Inclusive Bible

Psalm 116:1 – 4, 12 – 19

- ¹ I love the Lord, because he has heard my voice and my supplications.
² Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
³ The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.
⁴ Then I called on the name of the Lord: 'O Lord, I pray, save my life!'
- ¹² What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?
¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord,
¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.
¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.
¹⁶ O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving-maid. You have loosed my bonds.

¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.

¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!

Luke 24:13 – 35

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then 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?' ¹⁹He 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, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But 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. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and 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. ²⁴Some 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.' ²⁵Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They 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?' ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

