



Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem- Luke 24:13 (NRSV)



"Walk to Emmaus"

By Frank Wesley

Wesley was born in Azamgarh, Uttar Pradesh into a fifth generation Christian family of Hindu and Muslim descent.

Gathering as the Body of Christ

CENTERING SONG

“ALLELUIA! GRACIOUS JESUS”

NCH 257 (v. 1&3)

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sometimes good things are right in front of us and we don't see them.

All: Our fears and our prejudices blind us.

Leader: Open your eyes this day to see the goodness of the Lord.

All: Open our hearts, gracious God, to receive your blessings.

Leader: Hallelujah!

All: Hallelujah!

*OPENING HYMN

“OH FOR A THOUSAND TONGUES”

NCH 42

*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE

[SAT. ONLY - All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

Let us pray. O Jesus Christ, sometimes we are so busy talking with each other that we fail to find you beside us. We walk on, so focused on our questions that we do not create the silent spaces which would allow you to speak with us and enlighten our journeying.

[Time of silent confession]

Stay with us, Jesus Christ. Reach out towards us and invite us to pause and meet with you, we pray.

As we look at our lives and that of the world around us, we are sometimes too anxious to share our real questions or our doubts and fears. We keep them within us in troubled silence.

[Time of silent confession]

Stay with us, Jesus Christ.

Reach towards us and invite us to pause and meet with you, we pray. We call your name, O Christ, and hope to discover you here in our community of vulnerable faith. Amen.

Whether we believe it, or not, Jesus Christ never leaves us nor forsakes us. Let us open our hearts to receive the grace which Christ brings to us in faithfulness. We are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.**

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a non-contact way that's comfortable to you and your neighbor.

Thich Nhat Hanh has said, "Every breath we take, every step we make, can be filled with peace, joy and serenity." May we embody this peace and send it forth after we leave these walls today. Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us share this peace with one another.

Service of the Word

POEM [SAT. ONLY]

"THE CHANGE HAS COME"

PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, Author of Life, through the power of your Holy Spirit, may we hear and understand your Word to us today. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

LUKE 24:13-35

NRSV

A reading from the Gospel of Luke, chapter 24, verses 13 through 25.

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.

Hear what God is saying to the people. **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

REV. RANDY D'ANGELO - 26 APR

REV. EILEEN EDWARDS - 29 APR

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Be our vision, Lord of our minds! Enable us to see things as you see them:

To look upon both neighbors and enemies with compassion.

To recognise in the beggar, stranger, hungry and homeless the face of a Child of God.

To look in the mirror and see a much-loved disciple called by Christ to an abundant life.

[Silent prayer]

Please, healing Christ, anoint our eyes with your salve, that we may see better than ever before and follow your way with anticipation and joy. **In your name, and to your praise, we pray. Amen.**

Service of the Table

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

***THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider Christ is risen.

People Christ is risen, indeed.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to God.

Presider Let us give thanks to God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Glorious God, we give you thanks and praise, for all of creation sings, Christ is risen from the dead! He has burst forth from the tomb to break the tangles of despair and death. Love has come again. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with the eternal chorus of rejoicing who forever sing:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power, Giver of life, heaven and earth declare your splendor. Praise, glory, and love are yours.

All-embracing God, we give thanks for Jesus, the risen Lord of life, who rose victorious from the grave and made the whole creation new. He broke bread with sinners, fed the hungry, and healed the oppressed, then he poured out his life in death that we might live in love.

Christ is risen from the dead. Love has come again.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, Drink this all of you: This is my blood poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Christ is risen from the dead. Love has come again.

Recalling his life, death, and glorious resurrection, we offer you these gifts of bread and wine, and our lives in thanks and praise. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be for us the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Breathe your Spirit upon the whole earth, that we may proclaim good news to all the world and rise together as children of your new creation. Then bring us to that new heaven here on earth, O God, where death and pain are no more and you dwell with us forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty eco-friendly cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free.

Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing. A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

COMMUNION SONG

“LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER”

AAHH 686

Going Forth as the Body of Christ

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

All Spirit of Christ, we give thanks for this grace, from our deep heritage of sanctuary Eucharists and community meals, and from our personal memories of many generous plates and your Holy Supper. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits and hearts need healing or hope, and let us become your compassionate spoon, your safe refuge. May we be lifted up to serve you and all your children in the world. Amen.

BLESSING FOR CROSS-CULTURAL GROUPS

CROSS CULTURAL TRIPS: GHANA

ROLL CALL OF STUDENTS:

DR. CAREY

PRAYER OF BLESSING:

DR. BABER

Leader: We gather as pilgrims on a journey of faith

Travelers: We come seeking the cloud of your presence as we travel the way.

Leader: As we journey together we name our own uncertainties of this path from each other and from ourselves.

Travelers: We come seeking your pillar of fire to light our darkness

Leader: We see not what you see ahead, the joys and discoveries we will encounter from each other and from ourselves.

All: Shine in our hearts, O God, With the light of your love.

Make your presence be known as we learn to trust you, and trust those who are called to lead us, through Jesus Christ, our traveling friend. AMEN

HYMN

JESU, JESU

NCH 432(vs. 1 - 3)

COMMISSIONING PRAYER

DR. BOGUES

The blessing of the God of Sarah and Abraham,

The blessing of the son of Mary and Joseph

The blessing of the Holy Spirit,

Who broods over us as a mother over her children,

Be with you in this crucial journey

May the Eastern Star lead you further east

May you follow that Star into a new world of Knowledge

A new world of wonder, colors, sounds and smells.

May you come back transformed by the stories of the people you will listen to,

Inspired by their courage and aware that God is at work there too...

Come back to share, connect us with that new world-new reality

May your faith become Global, finding a local expression for justice and peace.

HYMN

JESU, JESU

NCH 432(vs. 4 - 5)

We lift up our eyes to the hills

from where will our help come?

Your help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

God will not let our foot be moved, the One who keeps us will not slumber.

God who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

God is our keeper; God is our shade at our right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

God will keep us from all evil; God will keep our lives.

God will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Amen

Each person is invited to take a name from the basket at the entrance. This is the person you will pray for from now until the group returns on May 22nd.

***BENEDICTION**

SENDING & POSTLUDE

*As we walk on our own roads,
May we listen, learn, and discover
The presence of the Divine among us.*

Cover Art: Frank Wesley. 1923-2002. Walk to Emmaus, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59160> [retrieved July 28, 2022].

Call to Worship: <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/1028/worship-connection-april-26-2020>

Prayers of Confession and Assurance: "Prayer of Confession: Emmaus Road."
<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/03/prayer-of-confession-emmaus-road.html>

Passing of the Peace: Barrientos, Selena, and Yaa Bofah. "30 Quotes About Peace That will Inspire Tranquility in Your Life." 2021. <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/a27115824/peace-quotes/>

Poem: Dunbar, Paul Laurence. "The Change Has Come." Poets.org. <https://poets.org/poem/change-has-come>

Prayer for Illumination:

<http://storage.cloversites.com/firstpresbyterianchurch25/documents/4-27-14,%20Keeping%20Easter%20Alive.pdf>

Prayers of the Community: <https://engadine.uca.org.au/sunday-service-elements/prayers-of-the-people/>

Communion Liturgy: Adapted from Tirabassi, Maren C. "Holy Communion Liturgy for February 7, 2021." Gifts in Open Hands (blog). January 29, 2021.

<https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2021/01/29/strongholy-communion-liturgy-for-february-7-2021/>

**The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.*

LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

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THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

To serve the universal church of our Creator.

To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.

To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.