

**Peace United Church of Christ
April 19, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter
10:30am**



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Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

*Call to Worship

You come with questions and doubts;

We are welcome here.

You come with concerns and anxieties;

We are welcome here.

You come as part of a searching faith community;

We are welcome here.

You come believing that God's peace will be your peace;

We are welcome here.

Let us worship.

*Song

For the Beauty of the Earth

#28, *New Century Hymnal*

***For the beauty of the earth, for the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

***For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

***For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

***For the good that love inspires, for a world where none excludes,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed,
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.***

*Prayer of Confession

In the misty morning as we walk (move) away, our eyes full of tears,

God is present with us.

Sharing the pain of broken dreams and shattered hopes,

God is present with us.

When we break bread with one who understands us,

God is present with us.

When we ignore God's messengers sent to counsel us,

Jesus Christ still speaks peace.

When we pretend we can't be hurt or disappointed,

The wounded Christ embraces us anyway.

When, in our stubbornness, we refuse to break bread with neighbors, strangers, and enemies,

The Bread of Life feeds us and waits for hard hearts to break open in love.

(a time of silent reflection)

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Remember! Once we were not a people, but now we are God's people. Remember! Once we had not received mercy, but now we have received mercy.

For this, let us give thanks to God.

Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children

Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,

Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him."

Anthem

Earth Song, Frank Ticheli

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:13-35

Now on that same day two disciples 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.

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

Sermon

Rev. Laurie Crelly

Hymn

Abide With Me

#99, *New Century Hymnal*

***Abide with me: fast falls the eventide;
The shadows deepen, Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.***

***Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Christ who changes not, abide with me.***

***I need your presence every passing hour.
What but your grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like yourself my guide and strength can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.***

***I fear no foe, with you at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, your victory?
I triumph still if you abide with me.***

**Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Christ, abide with me.**

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sung Amen

Offertory

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Song

Lead Us From Death to Life

#581, *New Century Hymnal*

Refrain:

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth, from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;

Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns, still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.

Let justice roll, let mercy pour down, come and teach us your way of compassion.

Refrain:

So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives, longing for love to break into their anguish.

Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace, come and teach us your way of compassion.

Refrain:

Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth, let us begin to grow into your people.

We can be love, we can bring peace, we can still be your way of compassion.

Refrain:

*Benediction

Travel the road of life with love.

We will journey the paths of God.

Travel the road of life with faith.

We will journey with the risen Christ.

Travel the road of life with hope.

We will follow the Holy Spirit, wherever it may lead us.

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Pam Kramer and Laurie Berner, Ushers

Carrie Kelsey, Sophia Farell, violins, Cathy Ameel, folk harp, John Bankson, banjo, Cyndi Brown, flute