

Peace United Church of Christ
April 14th, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter
8:30am



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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

*Call to Worship

Answer us when we call, O God!
You give us room when we are in distress.
Be gracious to us,
Hear our prayers!
You have put gladness in our hearts;
Grant us peace as we worship.
Let us worship God!

*Song

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

#230 NCH

***Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;
God has brought all Israel into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.***

***Spring has dawned on earth today; Christ has burst from prison,
And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has risen;
All the winter of our sins, long and gray, is flying
From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.***

***Now the joyous season, bright with the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts, comes its joys to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains Je-sus' resurrection.***

***Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim portal,
Nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal;
But today amid the twelve you still stand, bestowing
Peace and joy which evermore passes human knowing.***

*Prayer of Confession

God of our lives, you know us more deeply than we know ourselves. We are thankful for your unending love. Forgive us when we can't find you amidst the mess, when we are guided by forces other than your love, when we face inward instead of outward in our concern and care. Tend us like we tend our gardens: lovingly toward growth. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Forever feels like an impossible amount of time, and yet that is how long God will love us. No matter who we are, no matter what we do, we are beloved children of God. Grace and hope triumph over brokenness and sin. The God who makes all things new makes even us new, through love that endures forever. **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*Passing of the Peace

Contemporary Reading

Field Guide, Tony Hoagland

Marilyn Mayry, Reader

Once, in the cool blue middle of a lake,
up to my neck in that most precious element of all,
I found a pale-gray, curled-upwards pigeon feather
floating on the tension of the water
at the very instant when a dragonfly,
like a blue-green iridescent bobby pin,
hovered over it, then lit, and rested.
that's all.

I mention this in the same way
that I fold the corner of a page
in certain library books,
so that the next reader will know
where to look for the good parts.

Special Music

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36b-48

Marilyn Mayry, Reader

Page 85 (NRSV)

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

May these words be to us our light and our life. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#23 NCH

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
There's no place where earthly sorrows are more felt than in God's heaven;
there's no place where earthly failings have such kindly judgment given.*

*For the love of God is broader than the measures of our minds;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word;
and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God.*

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.

Offertory

Sacrament of Holy Communion

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

*(In the United Church of Christ all are welcome to participate in Communion.
Gluten free crackers are on the tray and we use non-alcoholic grape juice.)*

Prayer

*Invitation to the Day

*Closing Song *There Are Some Things I May Not Know*

#405 NCH

***There are some things I may not know,
there are some places I can't go,
But I am sure of this one thing,
that God is real for I can feel God deep within.***

Refrain:

***Yes, God is real, real in my soul;
yes, God is real for God has washed and made me whole
God's love for me is like pure gold,
yes, God is real for I can feel God in my soul.***

***Some folks may doubt, some folks may scorn,
all can desert and leave me alone,
But as for me I'll take God's part,
for God is real and I can feel God in my heart.***

Refrain:

***I cannot tell just how you felt
when Jesus took your sins away,
But since that day, yes, since that hour,
God has been real for I can feel God's holy power.***

Refrain:

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:
Cyndi Brown and Kate Nicoletti, Ushers
Sophia Farell, Soundboard Technician