



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



April 18, 2021

9:55 am

Welcome to worship! While we can't be together physically, we are glad to join together for worship online. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Barry Shelley

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is risen, and greets us with peace.

People: The peace of Christ is among us, indeed.

Leader: We are witnesses of God's glory and steadfast love.

People: The transforming love of Christ is among us, indeed!

Leader: Come, let us worship God together.

People: Let us worship the God of peace and transformation!

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

'Alleluia, Sing to Jesus'

No. 233

(scroll down to music)

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Ever-present God, forgive us when we stand in disbelief, and comfort us when our fears outweigh your peace. God, forgive us when we become too busy to pray. Help us when we fail to see our neighbors in need. Abiding God, forgive us when we are overwhelmed with bad news, and shut down completely. In these times, remind us that we are called to be your love-lived, your faithful witnesses, and your humble servants. Help us to wake up to the work of love, and to your renewing strength each day, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-48

On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. They were prevented from recognizing him.

He said to them, "What are you talking about as you walk along?" They stopped, their faces downcast.

The one named Cleopas replied, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?"

He said to them, "What things?"

They said to him, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. But there's more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning and didn't find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn't see him."

Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. Wasn't it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening, and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, "Weren't our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?"

They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying to each other, "The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!" Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

While they were saying these things, Jesus himself stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" They were terrified and afraid. They thought they were seeing a ghost.

He said to them, "Why are you startled? Why are doubts arising in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet. It's really me! Touch me and see, for a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones like you see I have." As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. Because they were wondering and questioning in the midst of their happiness, he said to them, "Do you have anything to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish. Taking it, he ate it in front of them.

Jesus 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 from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures. He said to them, “This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

SERMON

Wondrous Love

Marilyn Kendrix

HYMN

‘What Wondrous Love is This’

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father (Creator) 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

‘I Want Jesus to Walk With Me’

No. 627

(scroll down to music)

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

Today we are reminded of the joy surrounding the witness to Jesus’ resurrection! We remember that before their resurrection joy, these witnesses experienced grief at the cross. Witnessing the Risen Christ in their midst challenges the disciples to turn their disbelief into joyful belief. Witnessing the Risen Christ challenges the disciples to turn their fear into a courageous proclamation of God’s glory. God calls forth a transformative love that marks a change in the ways of repentance and forgiveness, by witnessing the Good News of salvation for everyone, everywhere. So let us give thanks for God’s steadfast love by being witnesses to those who are hungry for food, encouragement, and relationship. Let us also witness to those who are poor in spirit by allowing God’s Spirit to loosen our grip on belongings and possessions, in order to awaken every troubled heart. And, lastly, let us offer ourselves in gratitude and with generosity, as witnesses to God’s goodness by our joyful giving.

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN

‘Leaning on the Everlasting Arms’

No. 560

(scroll down to music)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor
Murray Kidd, Music Director
Sylvia Berry, Accompanist
Alisa Cassola, Soloist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Rev. Dr. Harvey Guillaume, Sheila. "Easter 3 - April 18." *United Church of Christ*, 11 Mar. 2021, www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-3-april-18/.

²Shuman, Thom. *Call to Worship/Prayer for Easter 3 A*, 28 Apr. 2011, re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/04/call-to-worshipprayer-for-easter-3.html.

Midday Music



Midday Music this month will feature Dr. Steven Young, professor of Music at Bridgewater State University, performing on our Austin Organ. The program, "An All-American April," will be streamed starting at noon on Wednesday April 21st. The link will be sent via email and posted on our Facebook Page, the Christ Church Pipe Organ Series.

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus, ris - en now to reign in love.
 2. Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans we are left in sor - row now.
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of Heav - en, be on earth our food and stay.

Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the Sav - ior; with the mul - ti - tudes a - bove.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to you from day to day.

There the songs of saints and mar - tyr's thun - der like a might - y flood,
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er,
 In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, plead for me,

"Je - sus out of ev - ery na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 shall our hearts for - get the prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more?"
 where the songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.

WORDS: William C. Dix, 1866, alt.
 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830

HYFRYDOL
 87.87D

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Capo 3: Play Am *Unison* Am E7 Am E7 Am Em

1. I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 2. In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me.
 3. When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me.

Am C G7 C E7 Am

I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me.
 When I'm trou - bled, Lord, walk with me.

E7 Am Bmin7,5 G7 Am

All a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
 When my heart is al - most break - ing,
 When my head is bowed in sor - row,

F#dim G7 Am Dm7 Am E7 Am Dm Am

O, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 O, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
 O, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

WORDS: African-American spiritual
 MUSIC: African-American spiritual; harm. J. Jefferson Cleveland and Verolga Nix, 1981

SOJOURNER
 888.9

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain
 lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing,
 Lean-ing on Je-sus

lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing
 lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on

ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887
 MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

SHOWALTER
 10 9.10 9 w. refrain