



April 26, 2020
Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

www.greenfieldcharge.org, God Is Still Speaking

Lay Speaker
Mrs. Wendy Farber

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Services Canceled
Online Only
3rd Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2020

Sunday Morning Prayer

Jesus, during Your ministry on Earth You showed Your power and caring by healing people of all ages and stations of life from physical, mental, and spiritual ailments. Be present now to people who need Your loving touch because of COVID-19. May they feel Your power of healing through the care of doctors and nurses.

Take away the fear, anxiety, and feelings of isolation from people receiving treatment or under quarantine. Give them a sense of purpose in pursuing health and protecting others from exposure to the disease. Protect their families and friends and bring peace to all who love them.

And all God's children said, AMEN.

Call to Worship

(inspired by Acts 2:14a, 36-42;

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;

Luke 24:13-35)

Travelers on the Way, what shall we do?

We shall praise God

who hears our prayers,

who draws near to us,

and brings new life out of death.

Dear Ones, how shall we live?

With the confidence of God's beloved children,

with security and joy of God's saving grace.

Friends old and new, what is the promise?

New life, forgiveness of sin, the Spirit as gift!

Beloved Siblings, how shall we praise?

We lift our voices and our hearts in love, thanks, and praise!

We will praise the Lord as long as we live.

Opening Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Gathering Prayer

Loving God, we welcome your living presence in our midst.
Share our joy and our thanks for the life you give us.
Sing with us! Dance among us! Pray with us!
Shower us with your love! **Amen!**

Prayer of Confession

(Luke 24:13-35)

Heavenly Stranger, our Companion on the Way,
we yearn for your love and grace. We seek your wisdom and
guidance. We relish the joy which burns within our hearts when
you are with us.

Yet, sometimes we would cling to you,
hoard the blessings of relationship with you,
and not share your love with others.

Forgive us, Dear One.

Remind us that your love is to be carried throughout the world.

Press us to share the hope and joy of your love,
so that someone who hungers for spiritual food
may be filled by our witness to your grace.

Shine the light of your Spirit through us,
so that we may show your Way to those who long for peace
and help to revive those in whom hope has died.

Amen.

Words of Assurance

God may come to us, unrecognized, as a stranger.
The Risen Christ reaches out to us in unexpected ways
as we travel our own Emmaus roads.
May the Word of our Still speaking God
continue to burn in our hearts.

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

The First Converts

³⁷ 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?” ³⁸ 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. ³⁹ 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.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Thanksgiving for Recovery from Illness

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 girl.
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!

Second Reading

1 Peter 1:17-23 NRSV

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you 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.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Meditation Hymn

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

The Reading of the Holy Gospel
Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

Luke 24:13-35 NRSV

The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ 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?” ¹⁹ 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, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ 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. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were

opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² 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?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Praise be to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Gloria Patri

Children's Message

Today's Message

This week, I read the scripture about the road to Emmaus. It starts with ‘That same day’. What same day? To find out we need to read the scripture in the first 12 verses of Luke 24. Reading that scripture tells us it was the day the women went to the Lord’s Tomb and found the stone rolled away. Therefore, this story takes place on the day of the Resurrection.

¹³ *Picture this:*

That same day, two other disciples (*not any of the eleven*) are traveling the seven miles from Jerusalem to Emmaus. ¹⁴ As they walk along, they talk back and forth about all that has transpired during recent days. ¹⁵ While they’re talking, discussing, and conversing, Jesus catches up to them and begins walking with them, ¹⁶ but for some reason they don’t recognize Him.

Jesus: ¹⁷ *You two seem deeply engrossed in conversation. What are you talking about as you walk along this road?*

They stop walking and just stand there, looking sad. ¹⁸ One of them—Cleopas is his name—speaks up.

Cleopas: You must be the only visitor in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about what's been going on over the last few days.

Jesus: ¹⁹ What are you talking about?

Two Disciples: It's all about the man named Jesus of Nazareth. He was a mighty prophet who did amazing miracles and preached powerful messages in the sight of God and everyone around. ²⁰ Our chief priests and authorities handed Him over to be executed—crucified, in fact.

²¹ We had been hoping that He was the One—you know, the One who would liberate all Israel *and bring God's promises*. Anyway, on top of all this, just this morning—the third day after the execution—²² some women in our group really shocked us. They went to the tomb early this morning, ²³ but they didn't see His body anywhere. Then they came back and told us they did see something—a vision of heavenly messengers—and these messengers said that Jesus was alive. ²⁴ Some people in our group went to the tomb to check it out, and just as the women had said, it was empty. But they didn't see Jesus.

Jesus: ²⁵ Come on, men! Why are you being so foolish? Why are your hearts so sluggish when it comes to believing what the prophets have been saying all along? ²⁶ Didn't it have to be this way? Didn't the Anointed One have to experience these sufferings in order to come into His glory?

²⁷ Then He begins with Moses and continues, prophet by prophet, explaining the meaning of the Hebrew Scriptures, showing how they were talking about the very things that had happened to Jesus.

²⁸ About this time, they are nearing their destination. Jesus keeps walking ahead as if He has no plans to stop there, ²⁹ but they convince Him to join them.

Two Disciples: Please, be our guest. It's getting late, and soon it will be too dark to walk.

So He accompanies them to their home. ³⁰ When they sit down at the table for dinner, He takes the bread in His hands, He gives thanks for it, and then He breaks it and hands it to them. ³¹ At that instant, *two things happen simultaneously*: their eyes are suddenly opened so they recognize Him, and He instantly vanishes—just disappears before their eyes.

Two Disciples (to each other): ³² *Amazing!* Weren't our hearts on fire within us while He was talking to us on the road? *Didn't you feel it all coming clear* as He explained the meaning of the Hebrew Scriptures?

³³ So they get up immediately and rush back to Jerusalem—all *seven miles*—where they find the eleven gathered together—the eleven plus a number of others. ³⁴ *Before Cleopas and his companion can tell their story*, the others have their own story to tell.

Other Disciples: The Lord has risen indeed! It's true! He appeared to Simon!

³⁵ Then the two men report their own experience—their conversation along the road, their moment of realization and recognition as He broke the bread.

I love this translation which comes from 'The Voice'. No, I'm not talking about the NBC show 'The Voice'. What I'm talking about is a Bible translation which is in a modern language and was release in 2012. I usually use this version in conjunction with others. But I love how it flows.

The text invites us to find ourselves with the two Emmaus disciples, seeing ourselves in their circumstances. Jesus was walking with them for several miles, but they could not recognize him. Why didn't they realize who he was? It is not like Jesus had passed away months or even years ago. It was just a few days ago that these disciples were walking with Him on his way to

Jerusalem. ‘But they were kept from recognizing him.’ It wasn’t until Jesus wanted to be recognized that their eyes were open.

After they recognized that the stranger was Jesus, the two disciples going to Emmaus were probably glad they had treated the stranger with respect and had even offered him a place to stay for the night. What would have happened if they just let the stranger keep walking to wherever he was going? Or even worse – what if they had said something offensive or rude during their conversations? They probably rehashed their conversations later to make sure they hadn’t said anything out of place.

How many of us have been in this situation? How many times have we put our foot in our mouth? You were gossiping and later realize the topic of conversation was a friend or relative of the person to whom you were talking.

Would Jesus be proud of us when we speak ill of someone or something? I’ve asked forgiveness plenty of times. It’s hard isn’t it? Not to talk about someone. We all need to take a hard look at how we respond to others. Especially things we post on social media like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat. This week, I read a post on Facebook that made me upset. The post was about a man who had posted his opinion of how we have to social distance – which he was vehemently against. Note, that’s not what upset me. Unfortunately, this man contracted the COVID-19 virus, and the family posted his story to warn others. This is still not what upset me. What upset me, was the fact that many people liked the page with the emoji ‘Ha-ha’. Doesn’t matter which side of the fence you find yourself on, if you find yourself laughing at someone’s death – don’t you think you need to look inside yourself to find out why you feel the need to laugh? Why you are basically saying ‘Serves that person right’? It truly breaks my heart. And I believe, it breaks the Lord’s heart to hear people taking pleasure from the death of a person. Doesn’t matter who that person is.

If you do find yourself taking pleasure from another's demise, it's not too late to change. Jesus is there even if we cannot recognize him. He's there and wants you to believe. Jesus asks us to love one another. 'For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.' (Galatians 5:14-15)

I want to end with a bit of hymn knowledge. In Bible Study, we spent two years studying hymns because our Pastor thoroughly enjoyed the knowledge we received. We never discussed the following hymn, so I wanted to share what I found this week while researching today's scripture.

The evening hymn, "Abide with Me," written by Henry Francis Lyte, is actually based upon today's scripture reading from Luke.

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

Lyte wrote it possibly only a few hours after conducting his final service at his church in 1847. Lyte created the music along with the lyrics/poem in what his biographer called 'a dull tune'. But in 1861 when the song was being published, the editor William H. Monk composed his own tune 'Eventide' for Lyte's poem in honor of the recent passing of his three-year-old daughter. This is possibly why we often hear this song played at funerals.

So, when we are at our life's end, will you be proud of how you treated others?

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

Jesus is there along our entire journey.

Amen and Amen.

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hades; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic/Christian church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Sung Response

“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”

Closing Hymn

“Abide With Me”

Benediction

Friends, rejoice in the mothering and fathering love of God!

Rejoice in the victorious life of our Risen Savior!

Rejoice in the power of the Spirit!

Go, living in the love of Christ!

Go, serving in the name of Christ!

Let your love of God embrace

 Your children

 Your family

 Your enemies

 Those who are afar off

 Those who are strangers met on the road

May your lives praise the Lord!

In the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, one God, now and until the end of eternity. **Amen.**

Three-Fold Amen

I pray that today finds you and your family well. Please reach out to me if you are in need of anything. Even if you need groceries. I'm here for you.

--God Bless, Wendy

Do you or any of your family/friends need a facemask? Jeanne's sister is making them at no charge and will be glad to provide to those who are in need. Please either email Jeanne (jpcmowry@atlanticbb.net) or call 239-5891 and we'll take of your order. Thanks!

If you are receiving a printed copy of the bulletin but have access to viewing the Sunday service online, please let Jeanne know and we will remove your name from this mailing list. Thanks! [Email: jpcmowry@atlanticbb.net](mailto:jpcmowry@atlanticbb.net).

Rhea's 99th Birthday

If you can, let's flood Rhea's mail box with birthday wished!!

Her address is:
Rhea Costello
816 Gillespie Ave., Apt. 108
Portage, PA 15946

Community

The Greenfield Charge
Mission Giving
Our Sponsor Children
Penn West Conference
Camp Living Waters
National & World Leaders
Military Families

War Torn Countries
American POW's
The Unemployed
Victims of Natural Disasters
Victims of Domestic
Violence/Abuse
Victims of Addictions
Others in Need of Prayer

Greenfield Charge Prayer List

General

Harry Acker
Jim Acker
Linda Acker
Colton Allison
Helen Allison
Cathy Barnes
Robert & Sally Barnes
Marcia Bathurst
Ray Beck
Donna Bertolet
Guy Black
Judy Bowers
Diane Carney
Sharon Chitwood
Jay Claar
Jerry Claar
Joel Claar
Susan Claar
Andy Clark
Robin Clark
Mel Claycomb
Jeanne Cohen
Mike Costello
Richie Cox
Eddie Dibert
Roger Dodson
Tawne Drinosky
Lisa Easter
Matt Eckman
James Falfah
Anna Jean Finnegan
Dick & Donna Finnegan
Ted Fournier
Bob & Jean Gordon
Michael Hagan
Micah Helsel
Mildred Helsel
Dave Imler
Cole Kaufman
Mike Long
Deb Miller

Joan Moore
Jim Nicodemus
Peggy Piper
Lyssa Pollock
Noah Ports
Ellen Pozgar
Gloria Rinker
Alena Rusnak
Eric Sheets
George Smith
Clyde & Diane Strait
Melvin Sweger
River Troutman
Unspoken Requests
Dennis Walter
Jim Walter
Jody Walter
Bob Whysong

The Family of

Helen "Dot" Coppersmith
Daniel Roy Walter
Dick Long

Long Term

Edna "Tubby" Berkhimer
Andy Burket
Wanda Leonard
Emma Weyandt

Home Residents

Eunice Acker
Helen 'Dot' Coppersmith
Mabel Snowberger
Alvin Stombaugh

Our Troops

Lt. Russell Strange
Sgt. Caleb Silva

Health Care Professionals

Kera Furry
Nancy Penner
Tyler Penner
Emma & Cory White
Elizabeth Yoder
Many others...