



THE ROAD TO EMMAUS

April 23, 2023

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ

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Pastor

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Easter Centering Words

In the midst of confusion and doubt, Love walks behind us

– Mary Petrina Boyd

The Abingdon Worship Annual (2023)

Greenfield Charge United Church of Christ
Mt Hope 8:30am Greenfield 9:50am
3rd Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023
Grace 11:00am

Community News

Prayer List and Prayers of the People

Prelude/Lighting of the Candles

* *Call to Worship*

(inspired by Luke 24)

Come walk with us.

We will join the journey.

Let us talk together.

We will listen and speak.

Christ goes with us.

Jesus guides our steps.

* *Invocation*

Holy One, we are often confused by the events in our world.

Come and walk with us. Open our hearts to hear your truth. Plant the seed of new life within us. In trust of your loving presence, we pray. Amen.

* *Opening Hymn*

“In the Garden”

Mt Hope VH #228

Greenfield CH #635

Grace VH #228

Prayer for Confession

God of love and compassion, we often fail to understand the truth of your love. We are frequently confused and filled with doubt. Life can feel meaningless. We wander down the pathways of life, longing to see our way more clearly. Open our eyes this day, that we may see your way of love and grace. Meet our confusion with the truth of your presence. Feed us with the true bread of life, and help us change our hearts and lives, that we may follow you with you. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God's promises are for you. By the power of the Holy Spirit, God invites us into newness of life, forgiving and blessing us.

First Reading

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 NIV

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: “Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

³⁶ “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.”

³⁷ When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

³⁸ Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

⁴⁰ With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

* *The Reading of the Holy Gospel*

Luke 24:13-35 NIV

Gloria Tibi (Glory be to Thee, O Lord.)

TH #497

On the Road to Emmaus

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?”

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

¹⁹ “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but didn’t find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

²⁵ He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, “Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, “It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon.” ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

* *Gloria Patri*

Children's Message / Congregation Conversation

* *Meditation Hymn*

“Blessed Quietness”

Mt Hope VH #152

Greenfield FHP #108

Grace VH #152

Today's Message

* *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”

TH # 501

The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Statement

Offertory (MH)

* Doxology

TH # 551

* Offertory Prayer

God of love, source of all goodness, you hear our cries, and you answer. With grateful hearts, we bring our gifts to you. We bring our offerings, as a gift of thanksgiving for your presence in our lives. We are your servants, and we offer ourselves with joy. Amen.

* *Closing Hymn* *“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”*

Mt Hope VH #206

Greenfield CH #575

Grace VH #206

* *Benediction*

As you walk the paths of life,
know that Jesus is with you,
Blessing you with his presence.

* *Three-Fold Amen*

TH # 558

* *Postlude/Extinguishing of the Candle*

Third Sunday of Easter: The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023 - Mary Petrina Boyd .