

WORSHIP GUIDE for MAY 1, 2022

SETTING YOUR SPACE

Friends, we continue this Sunday in the season of resurrection. This time, we'll hear a story of strangers - no, *friends!* - breaking bread together, and we'll also share in our own time of communion. If you're joining in from home, have something to eat and drink with you to take part in the ritual at that time in the service. You might also consider an open Bible or book in your worship space, or a lit candle - symbols of recognition, understanding, enlightenment, the themes of this Sunday's story. A couple of things that will make this service special: the kids and youth will lead us in our time of communion, and we'll hear from volunteers with Safe Families for Children, an organization that does amazing work in our community. Hope you can join in!

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Prelude: Meditation Religious by Schribner &
This Hallowed Place by Landis - Muriel Dresser, Organist**

Welcome - Rev. Erika Marksbury, Senior Pastor

**Gathering Song: *For the Beauty of the Earth* (NC Hymnal #28)
- Heidi Toth, Dave King, Muriel Dresser**

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 exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed.
God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grateful praise.

**Gathering Prayer + Joys and Concerns &
Communal Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book**

- Rev. Erika Marksbury

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: the hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the people of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth! With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Time - Sean P. Williams

Scripture Reading - Luke 24:13-35

That same day, two of the disciples were making their way to a village called Emmaus – which was about seven miles from Jerusalem – discussing all that happened as they went. While they were discussing these things, Jesus approached and began walking along with them, though they were kept from recognizing Jesus, who asked them, "What are you two discussing as you go your way?"

They stopped and looked sad. One of them, Cleopas by name, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have happened these past few days?" Jesus said to them, "What things?" They said, "About Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people – how our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. We were hoping that he was the one who would set Israel free. Besides all this, today – the third day since these things happened – some women in our group have just brought us some astonishing news. They were at the tomb before dawn and didn't find the body; they returned and informed us that they had seen a vision of angels, who declared that Jesus was alive. Some of our number went to the tomb and found it to be just as the women said, but they didn't find Jesus."

Then Jesus said to them, "What little sense you have! How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced! Didn't the Messiah have to undergo all this to enter into Glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all of the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of scripture which referred to the Messiah. By now they were near the village they were going to, and Jesus appeared to be going farther. But they said eagerly, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening – the day is practically over." So the Savior went in and stayed with them. After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them.

With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from their site. They said to one another, "Weren't our hearts burning inside us as this one talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?" They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled they were greeted with, "Christ has risen! It's true! Jesus has appeared to Simon!" Then the travelers recounted what had happened on the road, and how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Sermon - Rev. Erika Marksbury

Response Song: We Are Not Our Own (NC Hymnal #564)

- Heidi Toth, Dave King, Muriel Dresser

We are not our own. Earth forms us,
human leaves on nature's growing vine,
Fruit of many generations, seeds of life divine.

We are not alone. Earth names us:
past and present, peoples near and far,
family and friends and strangers show us who we are.

Through a human life God finds us;
dying, living, love is fully known,
and in bread and wine reminds us: we are not our own.

Therefore let us make thanksgiving,
and with justice, willing and aware,
give to earth, and all things living, liturgies of care.

And if love's encounters lead us
on a way uncertain and unknown,
All the saints with prayer surround us: we are not alone.

Let us be a house of welcome,
living stone upholding living stone,
Gladly showing all our neighbors we are not our own!

The Reach of Our Gifts: Safe Families for Children

**- Emily & Tim Duerfeldt;
Sam, Molly, & Katie McCrossin-Robinson**

Communion - FBC Children & Youth

Litany

One: Calling God, you have gathered us into this community.
A place has been made for us.

**All: Let what we say and do here
be real for us and honest to you.**

One: Gracious God, you have set a table before us.
To all who would come, you offer a feast.

**All: You hold out bread of life for all who hunger.
You hold out a cup of compassion for a broken world.**

One: We cannot take this bread and forget those who are hungry.
We cannot drink this cup and forget those who thirst.

**All: As we feast, make our hearts restless;
stir in us a desire for justice,
so that we will not be full until all are fed.**

Communion Song: *We Are People on a Journey* (NC Hymnal #340)

- Heidi Toth, Dave King, Muriel Dresser

We are people on a journey; pain is with us all the way.
Joyfully we come together at the holy feast of God.

God has sent the invitation to the humble and the poor.
Joyfully we come together at the holy feast of God.

This is bread that God provides us, nourishing our unity.
Joyfully we come together at the holy feast of God.

Christ is ever present with us to unite us all in love.
Joyfully we come together at the holy feast of God.

All who truly thirst for justice seek their liberation here.
Joyfully we come together at the holy feast of God.

Prayer After Communion

O God, make of us some nourishment for these starved times, some food for our brothers and sisters who are hungry for gladness and hope, that, being bread for them, we may also be fed and be full. Amen.

Closing Words - Rev. Erika Marksbury

Going Forth Song: Circle Round

- Heidi Toth, Dave King, Muriel Dresser

Circle round for freedom, circle round for peace.

For all of us imprisoned, circle for release.

Circle for the planet, circle for each soul.

For the children of our children, keep the circle whole.

Circle round for freedom, circle round for peace.

For all of us imprisoned, circle for release.

Circle for the planet, circle for each soul.

For the children of our children, keep the circle whole.

Benediction - Rev. Erika Marksbury

One: Friends, ... may the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Postlude: Song 13 by Gibbons - Muriel Dresser

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