

Third Sunday of Easter - April 26, 2020
St. Albert United Church

COMMUNITY WELCOME https://youtu.be/Yi7A_momeDQ

Tawow, Bienvenue, Welcome to St. Albert United Church on this third Sunday of Easter as we gather through the wonder of virtual means.

As we come together, we acknowledge that we do so in the traditional lands of Treaty 6 First Nations and a significant trading community of the Métis Nation.

We also affirm all are welcome to share fully in our life and work regardless of age, race, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, belief, economic circumstance, ability or background. St. Albert United Church: a place where EVERYONE has room to grow.

If you have a concern regarding someone who is ill, grieving or in need, please inform the ministers.

Note that for the songs/hymns there is a link for the words and music. Simply copy and paste.

We gather, cultivating space for everyone...

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!

Christ is with us on the journey,

Christ is with us at the table.

Christ is with us when we rest,

Christ is with us when we wake.

Christ is with us when we grieve,

Christ is with us when we rejoice.

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!

Liturgy created/adapted by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, rev-o-lution.org. Used with permission.

GATHERING PRAYER:

Living Jesus,
whose presence on our daily road
we often fail to see;
warm our hearts with fresh confidence in your Word,
so that, in making room for the stranger beside us,
we find your hospitality awaiting us,
and the reassurance of your presence
to inspire us to tread the road again
and to share the good news of your resurrection life.
Amen.

~ posted on the Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website.
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

HYMN: VU 595 “We are pilgrims”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32jWTAIHxgE>

TIME FOR ALL AGES: “The Seriously Surprising Story: Meeting Jesus on the Road to Emmaus”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBZi6QZK0VU>

HYMN: VU 575 “I’m Gonna Live so God Can Use Me”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8ls2jxBqVk>

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Almighty One, we come to You confessing our weariness, our unease, our struggle in this time. There is so much that is unknown, so much to be afraid of. We worry about illness, about death, about finances and education. We worry about our future because we cannot plan for it, we cannot perceive it. We confess to You that we are waiting for some sort of sign, some sort of assurance, and this is difficult for us. But we also confess that You are the Risen Christ. You are with us on this journey, even when we are not sure where we are going or for how long. You are with us when we collapse with exhaustion and when we rise because we must. You remain faithful, even when we do not. Guide us into a deeper faith—not one where we have the answers, but one in which we have the assurance we are not alone, and that You will see us through. In Your name, Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

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WORDS OF GRACE AND ASSURANCE:

In the times we think we are most alone, Christ is with us. When we are most distraught, Christ is beside us. When we are grieving, Christ is silently listening. When we rejoice, Christ is celebrating with us. Know that you are never truly alone. Know that you are always loved. Know that the hairs on your head are accounted for. You are God's beloved. Live with the assurance of God's steadfast love, now and always. Amen.

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TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

We listen, attentive to the voice of Jesus

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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We continue Peter's bold proclamation on the day of Pentecost to those who had gathered in Jerusalem in Acts 2:14a, 36-41. Peter declared that God made Jesus both Lord and Messiah, the same one that the crowd had crucified. Peter's choice of words is meant to strike them in the heart, to make them feel remorse, and it works. They ask what they should do, and Peter calls upon them to repent and be baptized, to be saved from the corrupt society they were in, and they respond by thousands being baptized.

A reading from the Book of Acts:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Peter Addresses the Crowd

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them,

³⁶ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah,^[a] 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,^[b] 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.

One: Herein we seek wisdom. **All: Thanks be to God.**

Luke's account of the Gospel is the only one that contains this revealing of Jesus to the two travelers on the road to Emmaus. The two travelers are called disciples, but were not included among the twelve as one of them is named Cleopas. Some scholars believe that the second traveler, whose name and gender are not given, might have been a woman.

They traveled to Emmaus from Jerusalem, sad about the day's events when a stranger approached them and asked what they were talking about. Cleopas was dumbfounded that this stranger didn't know what happened, and he explained how Jesus of Nazareth was crucified. However, some of the women of their group had come back from the tomb that morning and shared that angels told them Jesus was alive. This stranger they encountered on the road explained the scripture from Moses on through the prophets about the Messiah, that the Messiah was to suffer and then be raised. When they reached the village, the stranger seemed to be moving on, but Cleopas and the other disciple urged the stranger to stay with them. As he broke bread before them, they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They went all the way back to Jerusalem to tell the disciples what they had seen, and learned that Peter had also seen the risen Christ.

A reading from the Gospels:

Luke 24:13-35

The Walk to Emmaus

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles^[a] 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.^[b] 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,^[c] 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.^[d] 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^[e] 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^[f] 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.

One: Herein we seek wisdom. **All: Thanks be to God.**

SILENT REFLECTION:

We take a few moments to reflect on all we have heard.

HYMN: VU 184 “As We Walked Home at Close of Day”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SQXVkbdFxC>

MESSAGE: “Experiences on the Journey Change Us” - Rev. Deborah Hoekstra

<https://youtu.be/8qtgN1fO7Q>

ANTHEM: Alabama - Angels Among Us ft Tim Foust * A Cappella *
Chris Rupp (Official Video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QF0IEU8EcQ>

CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION DURING PANDEMIC

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury to work from home
remember those who must choose
between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care
for our children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those that have no place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.

During this time
when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,
let us yet find ways
to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours.

~ written by Cameron Wiggins Bell and posted on **Faith at Marquette**. <https://www.marquette.edu/faith/prayer-for-a-pandemic.php>

SHARING OF GIFTS

It is very important that we remember to continue to share our gifts of time, connection, prayer, talent and resources with God's people. Please, consider continuing to support agencies and associations which have relied on your financial support prior to these changing world circumstances. We recognize that during these difficult times, personal finances may be severely diminished. However, please consider contributing financially as you are able to support St. Albert United Church's ministry. Expenses continue even with the suspension of services and operations.

Please check the church website for ways in which you can support ministry with time, talents and resources.

(www.stalbertunited.ca)

SHARING OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN GOD'S WORK

Reach out in a variety of ways to your family, friends, and fellow congregation members—connect with and support each other.

Please check the church website for updates and information.

(www.stalbertunited.ca)

HYMN: "Peace Be With You" by Pat Mayberry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5Ui5cOPMmM>

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH:

May God,
who comes to us
in the things of this world,
bless your eyes
and be in your seeing.

May Christ,
who looks upon you
with deepest love,
bless your eyes
and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit,
who perceives what is
and what may yet be,
bless your eyes
and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three
bless your eyes
and cause you to see.

~ from *In the Sanctuary of Women*, copyright © Jan L. Richardson. Posted on **the painted prayerbook**. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>

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