



**COMMUNITY CHURCH OF WALKER  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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***“No matter who you are, or where you are, you are welcome here!”***

**April 27, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.  
Second Sunday after Easter  
*The Road to Warm Springs***

**Worship Leaders:**

**Preacher: Dan Batson**

**Liturgist: Bev Jorland**

**Special Music: Sabbastain Wilson Webb**

**Greeter: Doris Johnson**

**Keyboard: Sabbastian Wilson-Webb**

**Tech:** Ace Diehl (Video), Esther Covert (Audio)  
Spiritual Life, Chancel and Communion Preparation

**PRELUDE**

**WORDS OF WELCOME**

**† HYMN**

**"Yours is The Glory, Resurrected One"**

**#253**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (*inspired by Acts 2: 14a, 36-24; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Luke 24:13-35*)

One: Travelers on the Way, what shall we do?

**All: We shall praise God who hears our prayers, who draws near to us, and brings new life out of death.**

One: Dear Ones, how shall we live?

**All: With the confidence of God's beloved children, with security and joy of God's saving grace.**

One: Friends old and new, what is the promise?

**All: New life, forgiveness of sin, the Spirit as gift!**

One: Beloved Siblings, how shall we praise?

**One: We lift our voices and our hearts in love, thanks, and praise!  
We will praise the Lord as long as we live!**

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† For those who are able, please stand.

## **A TIME OF CENTERING**

*(During this time of centering, open your hearts to God; be in the present, here and now.)*

## **PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

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

## **PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE** *(Luke 24:13-35)*

**All:** 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 those who long for peace  
and help to revive those in whom hope has died. Amen.

## **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

*(Each person can take this time to surrender to God privately anything weighing heavy on their heart.)*

## **WORDS OF GRACE**

One: 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 Stillspeaking God  
continue to burn in our hearts.

## **† PASSING THE PEACE**

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.  
**All: And also, with you.**

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Sabbastain Wilson Webb

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† For those who are able, please stand.

**FOCUS SCRIPTURE: Luke 24:13-35** *Priests for Equality. The Inclusive Bible* (pp. 2844-2846). Rowman & Littlefield Publishers. Kindle Edition.

<sup>13</sup> That same day, two of the disciples were making their way to a village called Emmaus—which was about seven miles from Jerusalem—<sup>14</sup> discussing all that had happened as they went.

<sup>15</sup> While they were discussing these things, Jesus approached and began to walk along with them, <sup>16</sup> though they were kept from recognizing Jesus, <sup>17</sup> who asked them, “What are you two discussing as you go your way?”

They stopped and looked sad. <sup>18</sup> 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?” <sup>19</sup> 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—<sup>20</sup> how our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> We were hoping that he was the One who would set Israel free. Besides all this, today—the third day since these things happened—<sup>22</sup> some women of our group have just brought us some astonishing news. They were at the tomb before dawn <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> Some of our number went to the tomb and found it to be just as the women said, but they didn’t find Jesus.”

<sup>25</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “What little sense you have! How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced! <sup>26</sup> Didn’t the Messiah have to undergo all this to enter into glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of scripture which referred to the Messiah. <sup>28</sup> By now they were near the village they were going to, and Jesus appeared to be going further. <sup>29</sup> 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.

<sup>30</sup> After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. <sup>31</sup> With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from their sight.

<sup>32</sup> 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?” <sup>33</sup> They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled. <sup>34</sup> They were greeted with, “Christ has risen! It’s true! Jesus has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then the travelers recounted what had happened on the road, and how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

**Luke 24:13-35** *First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament* (pp. 161-162). Wildman, Terry M. InterVarsity Press. Kindle Edition.

## **THE ROAD TO WARM SPRINGS**

<sup>13</sup> On the same day, two of the followers of Creator Sets Free (Jesus) were walking to Village of Warm Springs (Emmaus), seven miles out from Village of Peace (Jerusalem).

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† For those who are able, please stand.

<sup>14</sup>As they walked along, they were talking about all that had happened. <sup>15</sup>Creator Sets Free (Jesus) came alongside them as they walked, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from seeing who he was.

<sup>17</sup>He said to them, "What are you talking about?"

They stopped walking and a look of sadness fell over their faces. <sup>18</sup>One of the men, Honored by His Father (Cleopas), answered him, "How can you not know about the things that have happened in Village of Peace (Jerusalem)? You must be coming from far away."

<sup>19</sup>"What things are you talking about?" he asked.

"About Creator Sets Free (Jesus) from Seed Planter Village (Nazareth). He was a prophet from the Great Spirit, with powerful medicine, who did many good things among all the people. <sup>20</sup>The head holy men and other leaders handed him over to the People of Iron (Romans) to be put to death on the cross. <sup>21</sup>We had hoped that he would free the tribes of Wrestles with Creator (Israel) *from the People of Iron (Romans)*. It is now the third day since they killed him on the cross, <sup>22-23</sup>but today some women told us an amazing story. Early this morning they went to his burial cave and found that his body was not there. They told us about visions of spirit-messengers who told them he was alive! <sup>24</sup>Some of our men went to see with their own eyes and found the empty cave, but they did not see Creator Sets Free (Jesus)."

<sup>25</sup>"Why are your hearts so slow to believe the words of the prophets?" he said.

<sup>26</sup>"It should be clear to you that the Chosen One would suffer first before he would be lifted up and honored above all."

<sup>27</sup>So Creator Sets Free (Jesus) told them his story, beginning with Drawn from the Water (Moses) and all the prophets. He showed them how all the ancient Sacred Teachings were written about the Chosen One and pointed the way to him.

*They still did not know it was Creator Sets Free (Jesus) talking to them.*

<sup>28</sup>As they entered the village, he walked on as if to go farther. <sup>29</sup>They said to him, "Please, stay with us. It is late, and the sun will soon set."

So he went into the lodging house with them. <sup>30</sup>When they sat down to eat a meal together, Creator Sets Free (Jesus) took some frybread into his hands. He gave thanks and broke it, giving each of them a piece. <sup>31</sup>Suddenly, their eyes were opened and they knew who he was, but he vanished right in front of them.

<sup>32</sup>The men looked at each other in wide-eyed wonder and said, "It felt like our hearts were on fire when he was talking with us on the road, showing us the meaning of the Sacred Teachings!"

<sup>33</sup>They got up without finishing their meal and walked back to Village of Peace (Jerusalem) as fast as they could, for the sun was setting. They found where the eleven had gathered together with the others.

<sup>34</sup>They were saying, "Our Wisdomkeeper is alive! He has shown himself to One Who Hears (Simon)."

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<sup>35</sup>So the two men told them what happened on the road and how their eyes were opened when Creator Sets Free (Jesus) broke the frybread into pieces.

## REFLECTION

Dan Batson

## HYMN

**"Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"**

#241

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/PASTORAL PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Unison, using debts*)

**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.**

## SPECIAL MUSIC

Sabbastain Wilson Webb

### INVITATION TO GENEROSITY (*1 Peter 1:22-23*)

One: The author of 1 Peter implores us to love one another deeply *from the heart*, and assures us that we have been born anew *through the living and enduring word of God*.  
In our giving today, let us give, not out of obligation, but *from the heart*.  
Let our gifts be seeds of *the living and enduring word of God*,  
that will sprout in abundance of justice and hope all that is necessary for life,  
for sisters and brothers here at hand, and around the world.

## MUSICAL INTERLUDE

### DOXOLOGY: (*as collection plates come forward*)

Tune #780

**One: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING

One: Jesus, God has made you both Sovereign and Christ. Therefore we pray your blessing upon these gifts, upon us, and those whose lives will benefit from them. May your victory over death empower all whom you call to trust in God. In faith and hope we pray. Amen.

## † HYMN

**"Peace I Leave with You, My Friends"**

#249

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† For those who are able, please stand.

## PARTING WORDS

One: 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!

## POSTLUDE

**WI-FI – “Guest” Scan QR Code for Internet Access**

*From the Heart: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter* was written by the Rev. Renee C. Jackson, Minister for Ministerial Formation, MESA Team, United Church of Christ



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