

**Order of Worship**  
April 23rd 2023 ~ The 3rd Sunday of Easter

**Prelude**

**Welcome, Announcements, and Peace**

**Call to Worship**

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

May Christ,  
who looks upon us  
with deepest love,  
**bless our eyes**  
**and widen our gaze.**

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

May the Sacred Three  
**bless our eyes**  
**and cause us to see. Amen.**

~ from In the Sanctuary of Women

**Hymn of Praise**

*Come As You Are*  
WS #42

**Verse 1**

Come out of sadness from  
wherever you've been  
Come broken-hearted let rescue  
begin  
Come find your mercy O sinner  
come kneel  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven  
can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven  
can't heal

**Chorus**

(So) Lay down your burdens lay  
down your shame  
All who are broken lift up your face  
O wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt lay down  
your heart  
Come as you are

**Verse 2**

There's hope for the hopeless  
And all those who've strayed  
Come sit at the table come taste  
the grace  
There's rest for the weary  
Rest that endures  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven  
can't cure

**Chorus**

(So) Lay down your burdens lay  
down your shame  
All who are broken lift up your face  
O wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt lay down  
your heart  
Come as you are

**Bridge**

Come as you are  
Fall in His arms  
Come as you are

**Verse 3**

There's joy for the morning O sinner  
be still  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven  
can't heal  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven  
can't heal

**Chorus**

(So) Lay down your burdens lay  
down your shame  
All who are broken lift up your face  
O wanderer come home  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt lay down  
your heart  
Come as you are

**Ending**

Come as you are  
Come as you are  
Come as you are

## Opening Prayer

O God, you come to us in unexpected places  
In isolation, behind closed doors  
On dusty roads, as we go from place to place  
In video chats with friends and telephone conversations with loved ones.  
You come bringing us peace, where there is no peace  
You come bringing us hope when everything seems hopeless  
You come bringing us courage when we are afraid.  
Come and be among us now, in every place where we are.  
Open our eyes to see you, open our hearts to know you.  
In the name of the Risen Christ we pray. **Amen.**

~ submitted by Ann Harbridge

## Special Music

*Romance for Violin and Piano*  
Amy Beach

## Scripture Reading

### **Luke 24:13-35**

### **New Living Translation**

13 That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. 16 But God kept them from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?"

They stopped short, sadness written across their faces. 18 Then one of them, Cleopas, replied, "You must be the only person in Jerusalem who hasn't heard about all the things that have happened there the last few days."

19 "What things?" Jesus asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth," they said. "He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. 20 But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. 21 We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago.

22 "Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. 23 They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! 24 Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said."

25 Then Jesus said to them, "You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. 26 Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?" 27 Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 By this time they were nearing Emmaus and the end of their journey. Jesus acted as if he were going on, 29 but they begged him, "Stay the night with us, since it is getting late." So he went home with them.

30 As they sat down to eat, he took the bread and blessed it. Then he broke it and gave it to them. 31 Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And at that moment he disappeared!

32 They said to each other, "Didn't our hearts burn within us as he talked with us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" 33 And within the hour they were on their way back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven disciples and the others who had gathered with them, 34 who said, "The Lord has really risen! He appeared to Peter."

35 Then the two from Emmaus told their story of how Jesus had appeared to them as they were walking along the road, and how they had recognized him as he was breaking the bread.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

*Asking What If? Sometimes Helpful. Other Times Not so Much.*  
Senior Pastor, The Rev. Dr. Robert de Wetter

## Pastoral Prayer

## Prayers of the People

## Offertory

*Beau Soir*  
Claude Debussy arr. Jascha Heifetz

## Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heav'nly host  
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost  
Amen**

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## Communion

## 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

## Closing Hymn

*He Lives*  
RH #368

### Verse 1

I serve a risen Savior  
He's in the world today  
I know that He is living  
Whatever men may say  
I see His hand of mercy  
I hear His voice of cheer  
And just the time I need Him  
He's always near

### Chorus

He lives He lives  
Christ Jesus lives today  
He walks with me and talks with  
me  
Along life's narrow way  
He lives He lives  
Salvation to impart  
You ask me how I know He  
lives  
He lives within my heart

### Verse 2

In all the world around me  
I see His loving care  
And though my heart grows  
weary  
I never will despair  
I know that He is leading  
Through all the stormy blast  
The day of His appearing  
Will come at last

### Chorus

He lives He lives  
Christ Jesus lives today  
He walks with me and talks with  
me  
Along life's narrow way  
He lives He lives  
Salvation to impart  
You ask me how I know He  
lives  
He lives within my heart

### Verse 3

Rejoice rejoice O Christian  
Lift up your voice and sing  
Eternal hallelujahs  
To Jesus Christ the King  
The Hope of all who seek Him  
The Help of all who find  
None other is so loving  
So good and kind

### Chorus

He lives He lives  
Christ Jesus lives today  
He walks with me and talks with  
me  
Along life's narrow way  
He lives He lives  
Salvation to impart  
You ask me how I know He  
lives  
He lives within my heart

## Closing Prayer

We need your presence on the long road, Lord.  
The road between fear and hope,  
the road between the place where all is lost  
and the place of resurrection.  
Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus,  
we are in need of your presence.  
Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power,  
in the hours and days of the week ahead. **Amen.**

~ adapted by Carol Penner

## Blessing

## Postlude

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### *Our love in action now begins*

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This Sunday's Special Music is brought to you by  
**Terry Lee & Delaney Meyers**  
and Micha Schoepe & Paul Dankers.

*Thank you to all of this Sunday's volunteers!*

Greeters – Bob Wolfe, Pete Danesi, Will Gerardi,  
Bode McDowell  
Scripture Readers – Bob Wolfe, Bode McDowell  
Prayers of the People – Bob Wolfe  
Altar – Sharon Hall

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