

**First United Methodist Church of Evergreen Park,
April 18, 2021 11:00am worship
Third Sunday of Easter**

Prelude

The Call to Worship

O Come, let us sing to the Lord;

Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

The Prayer of the Day

Source of all hope and holiness, we gather this morning to be church.

Bless those who are absent, but not from our hearts.

Bless those who are distant, but not from your love.

Bless each of us here that we may choose justice by your Spirit, draw kindness from the well of your mercy, and walk humbly in your path, O God. Amen.

The Hymn

"I Come with Joy"

#617 UMH

The Call to Confession

The one who calls us to repent, hears us. In trust that our Creator knows us through and through, let us open our hearts to the healing of God's forgiveness.

The Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we have not loved you with our whole heart, nor our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive what we have been, accept us as we are, and guide what we shall be.

the silence

The Words of Assurance

Listen to God's words of compassion: I taught you to walk and lifted you like an infant to my cheek. How can I give you up? I am the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

The Hymn

"Christ Is Alive"

#318 UMH

The Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, by your Spirit reveal your surprising love; come to us through your holy word, and let us hear what you are saying. Amen.

The Psalter

Psalm 4

¹Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.²How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? ³But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. ⁴When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. ⁵Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord. ⁶There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"⁷You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

⁸I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

The Epistle

1 John 3: 1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The Gospel

Luke 24:36-48

¹³Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing,

Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then 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?” ¹⁹He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and 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. ²⁴Some 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.” ²⁵Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread. ³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

The Sermon

We gather for worship each week; and for a number of other activities at church; and we do so because we have faith. We believe.

We offer prayers, hymns, praise, participate in the sacraments, believing that God is present and that God hears us.

But it is still a leap of faith; we do not see God with our eyes.

or touch Jesus with our hands. Or hear the Holy Spirit audibly with our ears.

Like those disciples walking the Road to Emmaus, we are challenged to recognize Jesus.

Having faith is not always easy. Our faith is not always a straight path, constantly growing and increasing.

Sometimes our faith has its ups and downs. Sometimes our faith takes twists and turns.

Faith is stronger in our lives at some times, than at others.

And, it comes easier to us at some times, than at others.

There are times our faith may be a strong flame,

and other times, a barely perceptible ember.

Still, we likely would not be here if we didn't have belief at some level; even if it is seeking and hoping and waiting for God to be made known to us.

When we gather for worship, we may even “expect” God to “show up” for us.

In a church sanctuary, or in some other formal “religious” moment of our lives, we may bring an expectation that we will experience God.

In a phrase sung by a choir, or while we are praying or reading the Bible; we often hold certain expectations to touch the divine, in the places or the moments that are designated as “religious”.

But if we think these are the only places we have an encounter with God, or the only place God chooses to reveal God's self, we will truly miss out on God's presence in the whole of our lives.

It may be a greater challenge for us to recognize Jesus in situations and places where we never expected him to be. Is it possible that our own expectations, or our lack of expectations, get in the way of our seeing him? Where will we encounter God, this week?

Where should we look? How should we look? Are there obstacles that we have put in the way?

Distractions that we have held on to, that might keep us from recognizing God in Christ Jesus, who is right in front of us?

Several years ago, I was in the Dominican Republic with my brother, in a church group.

Nearing the end of our week, some of the group wanted to see a few more sights, and we volunteered to find bread for communion that evening.

As we were standing around a public park, trying to decide which way to go, a young child, a shoe-shine boy who hung out at the park to make money, approached us. We tried to communicate with him, in our attempts at Spanish, and with hand motions, that we needed to find a bakery, for bread. He seemed to understand and motioned for us to follow him. As we turned several corners, and walked further and further from the park, I was getting a little worried. Wondering, not only, where was he taking us, but how would we find our way back?

We turned another corner, and with a big smile on his face, he proudly showed us the storefront bakery. My brother bought two loaves, and handed him one, knowing that he probably had little or nothing to eat. Without hesitation, the boy took his loaf of bread, broke it in half, and held it out to us. We knew we had to accept his gift, and broke off a little portion, thanking him for his kindness. I couldn't help recognizing Jesus in this child; who was generous with the only food he had; a stranger, who offered his help to us; and then, who broke bread for us.

But I am daily challenged to recognize Jesus in more difficult circumstances.

To see God, in a strained relationship, in a person I have conflicts with, when is it hard for you to see God?

In a situation at work that irritates you to no end?

in a person who you struggle with, to even be around them?

In the driver who cuts you off in traffic or even a family member that you cannot get along with?

Thank God for those "religious moments" when we know God is with us; when we know God cares. But God desires for us to recognize God's presence in our lives everywhere, and every day. Even in those difficult places you would not expect God to show up.

God is there; in the midst of the whole of our lives, each moment.

God is there, in the people, and the situations, walking with us, guiding us, speaking "peace be with you," wanting us to recognize God's among us.

Let us open ourselves to see God's presence, and God's love, each day.

And how that recognition would change the way we experience and live this life.

Amen.

The Prayers of Intercession

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

The Invitation to the Offering

As Jesus gave himself fully for us and then appeared to the disciples bringing peace, so let us now bring wholeness and healing to others through our tithes and gifts.

The Offertory Music

The Doxology

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, we offer to you only a portion of what you have given to us. All that we have is from your creative hand. All that we can give away we do through Jesus' love. All our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit's wisdom. Deal graciously with these gifts so that others may have joy; in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Hymn

"Here I Am, Lord"

#593 UMH

The Benediction

Go now as witnesses of God's victory over evil and death.

The risen Christ has made himself known to you in the breaking of bread, so clean out the old yeast of malice and evil and live as the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

And may God wipe every tear from your faces;

May Christ Jesus make himself known to you in all things;

And may the Holy Spirit open your eyes

and set your hearts on fire with love.

Postlude

The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

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Prayers from Corrymeela Community

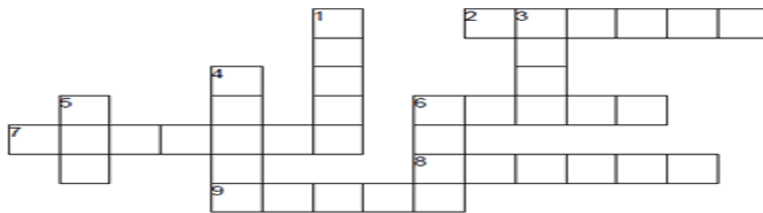
God whose voice brings new life, God whose song recreates our world: when the news discourages and the scene before us is one we wish we could turn off, may we close our eyes and listen. May the sounds you bring to our ears and the landscape we create within ourselves through music and rhythm and song calm us when we need calmed, inspire us when we need inspiration, and encourage us to live for others whenever we need new courage. Amen.

God of the change that begins from within, God of the difference that starts with our learning: Turn our discomfort and our impulse to look away into curiosity: drawing us in safely, leading us into better questions, replacing our assumptions with deeper understanding. And then may we see a change in ourselves and in how this story may play out. Amen.

Open Mind — Open Heart

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. Luke 24:45 (NIV)

Complete the activity below.



ACROSS

- 2. To deliver a sermon
- 6. The soft outer parts of the body; skin
- 7. Countries; territories where groups of people live
- 8. To feel pain
- 9. to handle or feel something with your fingers

DOWN

- 1. What the skeleton is made of
- 3. To return from death
- 4. A dead person appearing in a bodily form
- 5. To take in food through the mouth
- 6. An animal that lives in the water

RISE	NATIONS	FISH	SUFFER	BONES
TOUCH	EAT	FLESH	PREACH	GHOST

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PEOPLE TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Ginny Franson, Ruth Fuss, Ardith Inman, Freddie Kendrick, Richard Mezera, Greg and Claudia Manow, Ed and Georgeen Slee, Joe Zettek (in hospice)
Prayer Shawl and Prayer Bear Recipients; Past and Present Servicepersons

*** THIS WEEK AT FUMCEP**

SUNDAY	April 18	11:00 a 7:00 p	In Person Worship Service Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting
MONDAY	April 19		
TUESDAY	April 20		
WEDNESDAY	April 21		
THURSDAY	April 22		
FRIDAY	April 23		
SATURDAY	April 24	8 a – 4 p	Boy Scout Leadership meeting
NEXT SUNDAY	April 25	11:00 a 7:00 p	In Person Worship Service Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Barbara Good, Pastor revgood87@gmail.com

Ray Paschke, Accompanist

Virginia Franson, Nursery Attendant

First United Methodist Church of Evergreen Park

9358 S Homan Avenue, Evergreen Park, IL 60805

Office hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

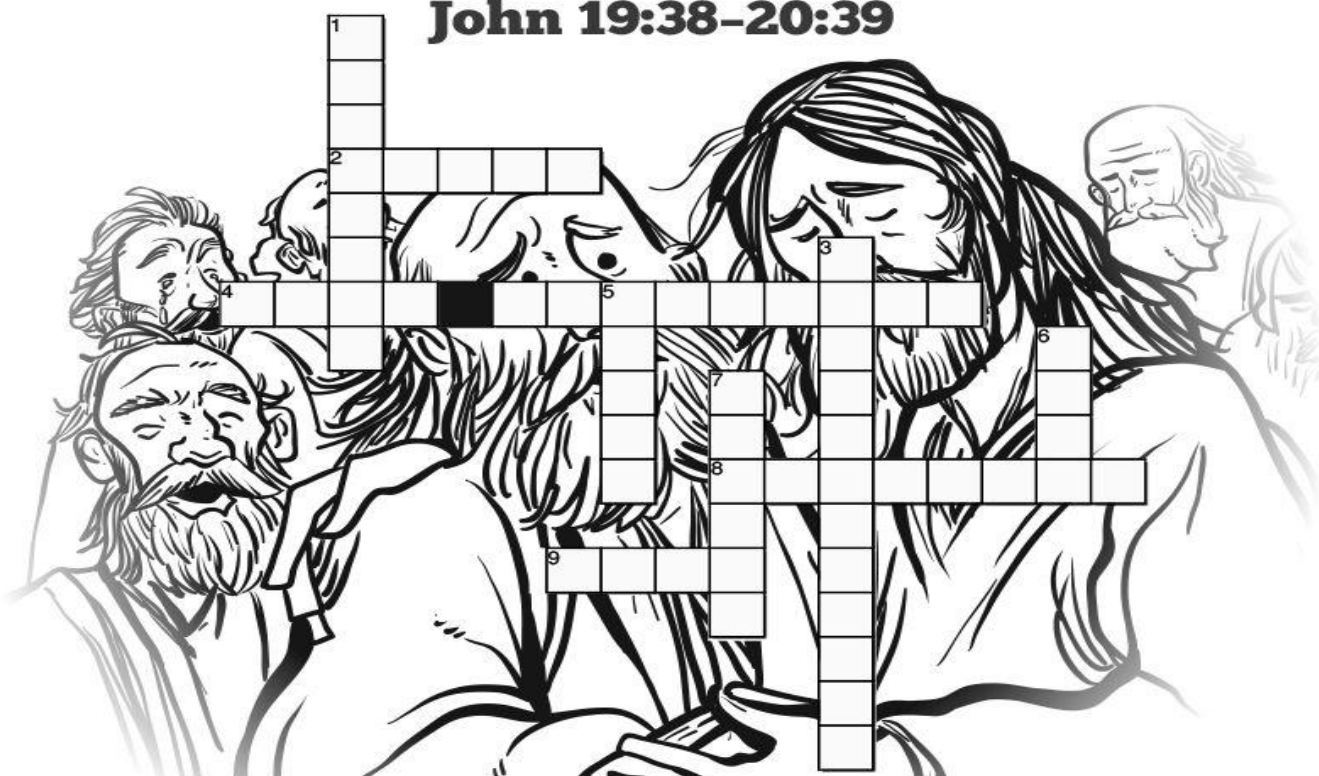
Email: fumcepooffice@yahoo.com

Telephones: Church: 708-422-8451 /// Pastor 708-529-5501

Website: <http://evergreenparkmethodist.org>

THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

**Matthew 27:57-28:15;
Mark 15:42-16:8; Luke 24:1-49;
John 19:38-20:39**



Across

- 2. On the _____ day after Jesus’s burial, a few of the women decided to visit the tomb.
- 4. Who was the first person to reach the tomb?
- 8. Mary thought Jesus was the _____ at first.
- 9. When Jesus visited the disciples, he didn’t use the door. He just walked through the _____.

Down

- 1. Jesus told Mary to ‘Go and tell my _____.’
- 3. Jesus appeared to many more people and word spread of his _____.
- 5. To prove that he wasn’t a ____, Jesus ate with his friends.
- 6. Jesus told Thomas to touch his hands and __ so that he would believe.
- 7. Who told the women, “Jesus isn’t here. He has risen!”?



I Love Spring



- | | | | | |
|----------|------------|--------------|----------|----------|
| Flower | Butterfly | Daisy | Daffodil | Sunshine |
| Bloom | Umbrella | Rainbow | Easter | Breeze |
| Nest | Playground | Thunderstorm | Rainy | |
| Skipping | Puddle | Crocus | Lilac | Thaw |



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Let us
WORSHIP
Together

IN PERSON WORSHIP SUNDAY @ 11 a.m. MASKS REQUIRED