



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

**April 26, 2020  
at 10:30 a.m.  
on Facebook Live**

**or in the afternoon on our church  
website at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org)**

## COME

*We welcome you to Westminster's virtual worship service on this Third Sunday of Easter. To set a more worshipful tone while watching this service at home, we encourage you to find a quiet space and light a candle.*

*If you are joining us on Facebook Live, then you can find a copy of today's bulletin on our church website at [westminsterakron.org](http://westminsterakron.org).*

Opening Voluntary      How Can I Keep from Singing?      John S. Dixon  
*All of today's music is of early American origin.*  
Bob Carlyon, organ  
Valerie Thorson, piano

\*Call to Worship      Zack Troyer

Followers of Jesus, by his cross we are redeemed from the futility of sin.

**Alleluia!**

By his rising we are free from the fear of death.

**Alleluia!**

By his love, we are made new in the living and enduring Word of God.

**Alleluia! Thanks be to God!**

\*Hymn 280      Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound      AMAZING GRACE

1.      Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear, The hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;  
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures,  
He will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.
5. When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

## ENCOUNTER

### Call to Confession

God judges all people impartially according to their deeds. Trusting in God's love in Jesus Christ, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

### Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, our world is filled with corruption: power disguises itself as truth; convenience masquerades as goodness; selfish pleasure imitates love. We confess to you, O God, that we have been caught in the web of the world's sin. By the power of the Holy Spirit, save us from these deceptions and free us for glad obedience, that we may see the joy of Jesus' resurrection and receive the promise of everlasting life. Amen.**

*Silence is observed.*

Response 574      Lord, Have Mercy      *Kyrie*  
**Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.**

### Assurance of Forgiveness

Followers of Jesus: God has promised salvation to us, to our children, and to all who are near and far. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

\*Response 567      Glory Be to the Father      *Gloria Patri*  
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen. Amen.**  
**Amen**

\*Passing the Peace

We invite you now to greet one another saying, **The peace of Christ be with you.**

Time for Church Life

Anthem     Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal

Traditional Southern

*Hark, I hear the harps eternal Ringing on the farther shore, As I near those swollen waters, With their deep and solemn roar. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Glory to the great I AM.*

*And my soul, though stained with sorrow, Fading as the light of day, Passes swiftly o'er those waters To the city far away. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Glory to the great I AM.*

*Souls have crossed before me, saintly, To that land of perfect rest; And I hear them singing faintly In the mansions of the blest. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, praise the Lamb. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Glory to the great I AM!*

\*Response 592     Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow     *Doxology*  
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Time with Young Disciples

## GROW

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, you opened the meaning of the Scriptures to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and set their hearts ablaze. By the power of your Holy Spirit kindle our hearts as we hear your word proclaimed, that we may receive you with joy. Amen.

The First Lesson     Acts 2:14a, 36-41

New Testament

14a 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, this Jesus whom you crucified.”  
37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, 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.

The Second Lesson     Luke 24:13-35

New Testament

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles 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. 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, 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. 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 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 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.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## SERVE

\*Affirmation of Faith

**God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come and behold the works of the Lord.**

Prayers of the People

Let us unite our hearts in prayer, saying, God of resurrection, hear our prayer.

For the church throughout the world, that as we celebrate the great fifty days of Easter we may renew our faith and strengthen our witness in Jesus' name.

**God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For the governments of the world and its leaders, that they may resist the corruption of sin and serve the common good;

**God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For our planet Earth, that all people may be good stewards of its resources and share in its abundance;

**God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For the poor and stranger, that they may receive a place of refuge and hope, and that the church may offer the hospitality the first disciple offered to Jesus on the road to Emmaus;

**God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For the sick and those in distress, that they may find healing for their pain and be restored to fullness of life;

**God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For our neighbors, that we may live together in peace and share in our resources;

## **God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

For our enemies, that they may receive good things, and that we, your servants, not return evil for evil;

## **God of resurrection, hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, receive these prayers we offer, and by the power of your Holy Spirit make us witnesses to the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

And finally, together as the people of God, let us offer the words of the Lord's Prayer, saying in one voice:

## **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 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.**

\*Hymn                      When We Face an Unknown Future                      BEACH SPRING

1.     When we face an unknown future that we can't imagine yet,  
        When the closeness we have treasured turns from blessing into threat--  
        As we miss our friends and loved ones, As we crave community,  
        May we look, God, in this season, for a whole new way to be.
2.     Jesus faced the lonely desert as a time to look within,  
        There he met such trial and conflict; There he knew you were with him.  
        In this time of separation when we miss the life we've known,  
        May we hear your voice proclaiming: "I am here! You're not alone."
3.     May we cherish those around us as we never have before.  
        May we think much less of profit; May we learn what matters more.  
        May we hear our neighbors' suffering; May we see our neighbors' pain.  
        May we learn new ways of offering life and health and hope again.
4.     God, when illness comes to threaten, And when so much here goes wrong,  
        May we know this thing for certain--That your love is sure and strong.  
        You're beside us in our suffering--and when times are surely tough,  
        We may face an unknown future, but it's filled, Lord, with your love.

\*Charge and Benediction

May Christ's new life burst forth from us,  
showing itself in acts of love and healing to a hurting world.  
And may that same Christ, who lives forever  
and is the source of our new life,  
keep your hearts rejoicing and grant you peace  
this day and always. Amen.

Voluntary

Postlude on the Hymn Tune "Pisgah"

Dale Wood

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Study Leave** Pastor Jon will be on study leave next week. For pastoral care needs, please contact our main office. On Sunday, May 3, Reverend Doctor Sandy Selby will be preaching.

**The flowers in the chancel** are given by Mark Nelson and Jane Nelson Hutchison to celebrate Roger and Martha Nelson's 64th anniversary.

**Bible Study** Pastor Jon is offering a weekly Bible study via Zoom conference beginning on Monday, April 27 at 7 p.m. If you would like to participate, then please contact our pastor. You are also able to call into the meeting if you do not have Zoom capabilities.

**Session Voted** to suspend on-site activities, including in-person worship, through June 1, 2020. The office will remain open from 9 a.m. to noon, Monday-Friday to answer phone calls and address business matters on-site. Worship services will continue to be broadcast virtually.

*During these difficult times, the church remains grateful for your faithful support of our ministries through your financial contributions. Please help us continue to serve the WPC family and our neighbors by ensuring that our staff is supported, our facility remains operational, and the "least of these" are served. To give online, click under the tab "online giving."*

The church office is open from 9:00 a.m. to noon, Monday - Friday.  
Staff schedule in the office: Monday - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. Tuesday - Debby Evrard, Mallory Gray and Dave Bodnar. Wednesday - Pastor Jon, Debby Evrard and Dave Bodnar. Thursday - Debby Evrard, Sheila Svoboda and Dave Bodnar. Friday - Pastor Jon and Claudine Schooley



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