

Flowers are given by **Dr. June Wolgemuth and Ed Dupree, LTC., USA, Ret.** in honor of their **36th Wedding Anniversary** & Barbara Shaver celebrating **Sara Little's Birthday**.

PRELUDE: *Trumpet Voluntary* John Stanley

LIGHTING a CANDLE:

OPENING HYMN: *The Day of Resurrection* #245

**The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, The Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.**

**Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
for we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth the song begin!
The whole world keep high triumph and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
For Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.**

OPENING PRAYER:

Holy One, how we love to be in motion. We love moving and doing. We are consumed with progress and counting how much has been crossed off our to-do list. Rarely have we ever felt good in a group conversation when someone asks what we have been up to and we say, "Nothing." We want a laundry list of accomplishments and achievements. Honestly, God, even the occasional trophy is nice too. We define ourselves by what we've done rather than trusting in who we are: Your beloved. You send grace not as a reward for the checks we write to the church. You shower us with unconditional love not because we've earned it. You offer Your persistent presence because *that is who You are*. Awake us to the truth that we are created and re-created, renewed in Your image. Open our ears to hear You in this time of silent prayer.

Silent Prayer

REASSURANCE:

OUR ENCOUNTER with SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-35

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.

SERMON

The Roads of Life

COMMUNION HYMN:

Day of Arising

**Day of arising, Christ on the roadway, unknown companion walks with his own.
When they invite him, as fades the first day, and bread is broken, Christ is made known.**

**When we are walking, doubtful and dreading, blinded by sadness slowness of heart,
Yet Christ walks with us, ever awaiting our invitation; Stay, do not part.**

**Lo, I am with you, Jesus has spoken. This is Christ's promise, this is Christ's sign:
When the church gathers, when bread is broken, there Christ is with us, in bread and
wine.**

**Christ, our companion, hope for the journey, bread of compassion, open our eyes.
Grant us your vision, set all hearts burning that all creation with you may rise.**

INVITATION to COMMUNION:

One: For the good earth that grew the wheat and the sundrenched grapes ripening on the vine.

Many: **This table reminds us of our connection to Creation.**

One: For the promise of God found in a piece of bread and sip of juice.

Many: **This table awakens us to God's presence in all things, even the ordinary.**

One: For the invitation to let the grace of this table feed and fuel our lives this month.
Many: **We pray that here we will encounter a truth that we proclaim everywhere we go.**
One: Come to the feast of God.
Many: **With hearts and whole lives open to the holy hovering and humming around us.**

PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.

CLOSING HYMN

In the Midst of New Dimensions

#391

**In the midst of new dimensions, in the face of changing ways.
Who will lead the pilgrim peoples wandering in their separate ways?**
Refrain **God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar, We your people,
ours the journey now and ever, now and ever, now and ever more.**
**We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
Each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung. *Refrain.***
**Should the threats of dire predictions cause us to withdraw in pain,
May your blazing phoenix spirit, resurrect the church again. *Refrain.***

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE