

WELCOME TO
THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF FARMINGTON

April 26, 2020

Rev. Andy Sonneborn

3rd Sunday of Easter

Gathering Around the Word of God

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: We are on a different kind of journey today. We are being gathered together as the Church of Jesus Christ in the isolation of our own homes. The story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus teaches us that Jesus shows up in the most unlikely of places, in our homes, in the grocery stores, when we are out for a walk with a close friend or family member. Rejoice, beloved, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Christ is joining us for worship. Let us come and worship the Resurrected Lord this morning! Come!

Call to Confession

Leader: We have come to a time of confession. The prophets call us to repent and to change our ways. Christ offers to carry the burdens and heavy loads of our lives for us. Let us confess all the heavy burdens that we carry unnecessarily.

Unison Prayer of Confession

All: God of second chances and resurrections, we come to you today with so many fears and anxieties. We are uncertain about what will happen tomorrow, or even this evening. We find ourselves getting angry easier. Our focus is waning. Life is difficult. We are like the disciples on the road to Emmaus...so often our anxieties and worries blind us to seeing you in our midst. Open our eyes to see you, our ears to hear you, and our hearts to feel your

presence. Hear us now in these moments of silent prayer and reflection...

Moment of Silence to Confess our Sins

Pastor Andy...Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Believe the good news. The grave is empty. Grace and love have won. We are forgiven. We are beloved. We are the sacred children of the God who has conquered death forever. Thanks be to God. Alleluia and Amen!

Proclamation God's Word

Psalm Reading

Psalm 116:1-4; 12-19 (CEB)

116 I love the LORD because he hears my requests for mercy. ² I'll call out to him as long as I live, because he listens closely to me. ³ Death's ropes bound me; the distress of the grave found me—I came face-to-face with trouble and grief. ⁴ So I called on the LORD's name: "LORD, please save me!" ¹² What can I give back to the LORD for all the good things he has done for me? ¹³ I'll lift up the cup of salvation. I'll call on the LORD's name. ¹⁴ I'll keep the promises I made to the LORD in the presence of all God's people. ¹⁵ The death of the LORD's faithful is a costly loss in his eyes. ¹⁶ Oh yes, LORD, I am definitely your servant! I am your servant and the son of your female servant—you've freed me from my chains. ¹⁷ So I'll offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving to you, and I'll call on the LORD's name. ¹⁸ I'll keep the promises I made to the LORD in the presence of all God's people, ¹⁹ in the courtyards of the LORD's house, which is in the center of Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:13-35(CEB)

¹³ On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking to

each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. ¹⁶ They were prevented from recognizing him. ¹⁷ He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” They stopped, their faces downcast. ¹⁸ The one named Cleopas replied, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?” ¹⁹ He said to them, “What things?” They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. ²⁰ But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. ²² But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn’t see him.” ²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. ²⁶ Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

²⁸ When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. ²⁹ But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?” ³³ They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were

saying to each other, “The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

Message

“On the Journey”

Responding to God’s Word

Joys/Concerns/Lord’s Prayer

*Charge and Benediction

The Church Has Left the Building

By Rev. Margaret Weis

The church is not a place; it is a people. The church is not only a steeple above the treeline, streets, and cars. Rather, it is a people proclaiming to the world that we are here for the work of healing and of justice. The church is not walls built stone upon stone, held together by mortar/but rather person, linked with person, linked with person: all ages and genders and abilities—a community built on the foundation of reason, faith, and love. The church is not just a set of doors open on Sunday morning, but the commitment day after day, and moment after moment, of our hearts creaking open the doors of welcome to the possibility of new experience and radical welcome. The church is not simply a building, a steeple, a pew. The church is the gathering together of all the people, and experiences, and fear, and love, and hope in our resilient hearts; gathering, however we can, to say to the world: welcome, come in, lay down your heartache, and pick up hope and love. For the church is us—each and every one of us—together, a beacon of hope to this world that so sorely needs it.