

PASTOR - Rev. Robert Nolan
MINISTER OF MUSIC - Kim Kuda
DEACON & LAY READER - Lori Russell
MUSIC TEAM - Andrew Foster, Dot Leone,
Dale Magnuson, Sangho Nam, Kim Kuda

NEWS AND NOTES

1. **Rev. Bob** will have his regular office hours this week on **Tuesday and Thursday**. He would also **like to visit with our members** when they are available in the office or at their home. If you are interested, contact the office or Rev. Bob directly.
2. The **“Get Crafty”** group meets on **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** Please bring your own crafts to work on as we enjoy fellowship with one another. A time of sharing where everyone is welcome!
3. **Sunday, May 7**, will be a special day of worship at Hope Church, during which we will **honor Shirley Lawson, Church Administrator**, who is retiring after 34 years of service. This will be followed by a social time in the church hall. All are welcome!
4. **Mother’s Day, Sunday May 14th**, will be **Blanket Sunday**, “Blanket the World In Love”. Watch for further details in the next issue of “Hope Happenings”.
5. And don’t forget your used clothing for the **St. Pauly shed!**

Everybody,
Somebody,
Anybody, And
Nobody



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WORSHIP CELEBRATION
Third Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023

10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for worshipping with us today. Today, we will have a guest speaker, Kathryn Bothelo, from Communities for People to speak about their mission and work with foster children and families.

INTROIT “Remember Me” Insert

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Jesus is with you while you walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus,.

All: Jesus is with us while we walk from East Providence to Providence.

One: We journey with Jesus on the road.

All: Jesus travels with us on I-195.

One: And yet we could not recognize Jesus

All: until we broke bread together, until we shared some Venus De Milo Soup and Rocky’s Clam Cakes and Chowder.

One: At once, our eyes are opened and we say:

All: Oh! Our hearts were burning for that familiar voice.

One: Christ has risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Praise God!

All: Alleluia!

*HYMN “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” No. 87

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Gracious God, we come before you in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior, the one who walks with us talks with us, eats with us. We have broken bread together; we have shared the same pot of rice; one taro root has fed us all. We give you praise for voices that actively work against racism.

**If you are able to do so comfortably, please stand.*

That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was.

He asked, "What's this you're discussing so intently as you walk along?" They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, "Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn't heard what's happened during the last few days?"

He said, "What has happened?" They said, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb and couldn't find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn't see Jesus."

Then he said to them, "So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can't you simply believe all that the prophets said? Don't you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?" Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out every thing in the Scriptures that referred to him.

They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: "Stay and have supper with us. It's nearly evening; the day is done." So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared.

Back and forth they talked. "Didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?" They did n't waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, talking away: "It's really happened! The Master has been raised up - Simon saw him!" Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

SERMON **"Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody"**

*HYMN "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" No. 496

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Pastoral Prayer (including prayer concerns)

Time of Silent Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

Prayer Response "Let the Church Say Amen"

Let the church say amen, Let the church say amen,

Altogether, let the church say amen.

DELIGHTING IN GIVING (Plates are at the back of the sanctuary.)

Invitation to Present Our Offerings

Offertory Music "I'm Just a Nobody" Insert

*Doxology "Alleluia No. 1"

(Refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to His name!

Spread the good news o'er all the earth.

Jesus has died and has risen. (Refrain)

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Gracious God, through the precious lamb who is our Christ, you have redeemed us beyond the perishable silver and gold we now present to you. We pay our vows of devotion, offering you these sacrifices of thanksgiving. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN "I Want Jesus to Walk With Me" No. 506

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION - We invite you to sing with us:

"This Is the Day!"

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad!

All: Merciful God, look at our hearts. The words of prophets and apostles cut us to the heart, for we too have crucified Jesus. Even when Christ shows up as a stranger in our walk, like the apostles, we too sigh and say, “Don’t you know anything?” Then, we often wish they would go back to where they came from as we “faithsplain” to them the way things work or what everyone from around here all ready knows. Yet, our hearts burn even while Jesus walks with us and we are blind to Christ’s presence. Your prophets have shown us our guilt, ignorance, and arrogance and we look at one another and ask, “What should we do?” Can you forgive us, God?

ASSURANCE OF GOD’S GRACE

One: Let us pray. . . Let us remember how Peter said, “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.” You have been born anew through the living and enduring work of God. This promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom our God calls. Welcome this message, remembering your baptism: rejoice knowing that you are added to the number of believers.

All: Embolden us seekers of peace, as was Jesus who even at the time of his arrest commanded his disciples to lay down their weapons. May all who seek the peace of Christ do the same.

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 734

TIME FOR ALL AGES

PASSING THE PEACE

One: God calls us to create a community which welcomes all:
To care and love unconditionally,
To free us and create a welcome for all.
May the Peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Let’s share that welcome with each other, that Love!