

**Christ Church Gabriola**  
**A Collaborative Anglican – United Church**  
**Open to All**



*Rembrandt van Rijn "Road to Emmaus"*

**Hybrid Church**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**April 23, 2023**

*Presider: The Rev. Deborah van der Goes*

*Musician: Dorothy Dittrich*

*We acknowledge these lands upon which we worship are the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.*

*Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

*The Gathering*

**Welcome & Announcements**

*Whether you are gathering in person, on zoom or worshipping at home with the bulletin, welcome! We are one community, one in the body of Christ.*

**My announcement:** *Today this congregation has an important meeting and so the request from your Worship Committee for a short liturgy. We are aiming for the 50 minutes. When this kind of thing takes place there is the question "What is most important?" What is essential? I hope that today you will find the essentials of Christian worship in place for our time together. Word and Sacrament. As in the Easter season, a focus on Resurrection (and no prayer of confession except that which is found in the Lord's Prayer. The phrase for the lighting of the Christ Candle comes from the Easter Exultet for the lighting of the Christ Candle. Please sing the response. We are using parts of the Diocese of British Columbia for the "Islands and Inlets"*

### **Centering Stillness**

Presider: Let us hold this moment open to the Spirit of God.

*(silence)*

Presider: Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?

**All: Do we not know him in the breaking of bread?**

**The Christ Candle is Lit** (this dialogue to be *sung 3x*)

One: The Light of Christ (sung)

**All: Thanks be to God! (sung)**

### **Greeting**

Presider: The grace of Christ Jesus, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you**

### **Collect of the Day**

O God, your Son made himself known to his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### **Hymn: *Christ is Risen***

**CP #220**

<sup>1</sup>Christ is risen, Christ is risen,  
tell it out with joyful voice;  
Christ has burst his three days' prison:  
let the whole wide earth rejoice!  
Death is conquered, we are free,  
Christ has won the victory.

<sup>2</sup>Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted,  
with glad smile and radiant brow;  
Lent's long shadows have departed,  
all his woes are over now,  
and the Passion that he bore;  
sin and pain can vex no more.

<sup>3</sup>Christ is risen, Christ is risen;  
he hath opened heaven's gate:  
we are free from sin's dark prison,

risen to a holier state;  
and a brighter Easter beam  
on our longing eyes shall stream.

## *The Word*

Reader

**George Westarp**

By the gift of your Spirit, calm and quiet our souls that we may hear your Word today and be lifted up to walk with you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen

Reader: God be with you

**All: And also with you**

Reader: The holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

**All: Glory be to you, O Christ**

### ***Luke 24:13-35***

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. 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?' 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, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!

**Reflection:**

**Seeing Anew**

Fortunate are those who have stood in front of the mid 16<sup>th</sup> Century Joachim Bueckalaer painting "*Kitchen Scene with Christ at Emmaus*", which resides at the Mauritshuis in The Hague, Netherlands. (Or, if you wish, it is on the Internet in full, brilliant and detailed colour). Looking closely you would see, in the great tradition of Flemish paintings of food, there is cauliflower, pheasant, apples, grouse, pears, pidgeon, onions, grapes, parsnips, cucumbers, and all the requisite plates, goblets, and napkins, jugs of wine, and loaves of bread ready for a feast. Up in the top right hand corner of the painting are three small figures at the door of the inn which houses this sumptuous kitchen scene. For those who are on alert, a feast awaits. For those on alert, resurrection shows up.

Today, Sunday, in all corners of the world, for all of us willing to be on alert, a feast awaits. The feast that awaits is for all who walk discouraged and downhearted on the dusty (or are they, on the Wet Coast, the “muddy” roads of life? just as the two disciples did on the road to Emmaus, sketched today for us by Rembrandt – who preferred sketching and painting the ordinary folk of the day (and we are all the richer for this artistic mirror). Today, in this Easter Season, we are invited to be on alert for resurrection. As we walk along the muddy roads of life, we, like the disciples, are so inclined to pour out our hearts in exhaustive detail all about the woes of the current world to any who will listen. Where do we come across that stranger who calls a halt to this line of complaint, and reminds us of the larger picture – painted for us by the Prophets, the saints, Jesus? Who among us is that stranger who re-minds us of our heritage and our hope?

And then the disciples, just about to reach a place of shelter, nourishment and rest, invites the stranger (the stranger who is poised to go on) *“Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.”* Nothing happens quite yet; the moment is almost at hand. That moment when the stranger, seated at table with them, performs the usual Jewish table ritual and *“took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.”* That was the very moment when *their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.”* They saw ANEW!...That he vanished from their sight tells us clearly, this is a resurrection moment.

Then the afterthoughts. “Weren’t our hearts burning?” Next?..... the return to Jerusalem to find their friends. “The Lord has risen indeed”. Then the later reflection “Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread”. Seeing Jesus anew!

All these many years later, all these thousands of miles away, across time and space, mountains and seas, cultures and languages, it is still the same. These moments of breaking bread, whether picnic or park, table or altar....these moments are all connected; are all ONE. For those of us willing to let our eyes be opened anew. For all of us who help to carry each other and share the burdens of others. For all of us who walk the roads of life, and come to this place, this very place, where we hear the ancient holy stories, and who come to know Jesus. Today as always...we are invited, whenever we celebrate Communion or Eucharist, to open the eyes of our soul as we feel the lightness of that tiny wafer (or piece of bread) in our hands, on our tongues. For that is the feast; the bread that has been broken, bread that has been blessed, bread of life that is being shared with you and for you. And so we say things like “The body of our Lord Jesus Christ” “The body of Christ, Bread of Heaven”. “The body of Christ, blessed for you”. And thus we are invited to respond “Amen, So be it, Make it So, Amen.”

*(silent reflection)*

**Creed**

*(from Creating Uncommon Worship by Richard Giles)*

**We believe and trust in God the Father Almighty.**

**We believe and trust in Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe and trust in the Three in One.**

**Prayers of the People Betty Schultze**

One: ??

**All: Hear Our Prayer.**

**Hymn: Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem**

<sup>1</sup>Ye choirs of new Jerusalem,  
your sweetest notes employ,  
the paschal victory to hymn  
in strains of holy joy.

<sup>2</sup>For Judah's Lion bursts his chains,  
crushing the serpent's head;  
and cries aloud through death's domains  
to wake the imprisoned dead.

<sup>3</sup>Devouring depths of hell their prey  
at his command restore;  
his ransomed hosts pursue their way

**CP #216**

where Jesus goes before.

<sup>4</sup>Triumphant in his glory now  
to him all power is given;  
to him in one communion bow  
all saints in earth and heaven.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup>All glory to the Father be,  
all glory to the Son,  
all glory, Holy Ghost to thee,  
while endless ages run.

*The Peace*

One: The peace of Christ be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

*You are invited to turn to those directly around you and share Christ's peace. Those on zoom, please unmute and share with one another.*

*The Service of Holy Eucharist*

*(Using the Eucharistic Prayer written for the Diocese of Islands and Inlets)*

**Offering Invitation**

Presider: Let us now gather our offerings. *(while music is played)*

**Doxology** *(sung as offerings brought forward)*

**CP #669**

**Praise God the Source of life and birth,**

**Praise God the Word, who came to earth.**

**Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.**

**All Glory, honour to God's name.**

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

Creator of all, you wash away our sins in water, you give us new birth by the Spirit, and redeem us in the blood of Christ. As we celebrate the resurrection, renew your gift of life within us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

Presider: God is here

**People: The Spirit is with us.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts and minds.

**People: We lift them to God.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to God the Creator.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider: It is indeed right that we should praise you,

God of love, our source and our fulfillment,

or you create all things and in you we live and move and have our being.

Your wonder is manifest in land and sea and sky.

You made us in your image.

And even though we turn from you,

again and again you call us to yourself,

and in every age, promise liberation.

As a mother gathers her children,

you embraced a people as your own,

to nurture them in the way of compassionate love.

You sent Jesus among us,

incarnate of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary.

Jesus revealed your love for all Creation,

and showed us the way of reconciliation.

Having lived among us - Jesus suffered the cross,

died, and in rising again

became the firstborn of the renewed family.

And so as we gather around your table,

With saints of every age and your beloved creation we raise our voices and sing:

### **Sanctus**

**O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.**

**All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!**

**MV #203**

Presider: To you be glory, almighty God,  
because on the night before he died,  
Jesus took bread,  
when he had given thanks,  
he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:  
Take, eat, this is my body  
which is given for you; do this to remember me.  
After supper he took the cup;  
when he had given thanks,  
he gave it to them and said:  
Drink this all of you.  
This is my blood of the new covenant,  
Poured out for you and for many;  
do this to remember me.  
Great is the mystery of faith.

**Memorial Acclamation**

**MV #204**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!  
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!**

Presider: Recalling Christ's death and resurrection,  
we ask you to accept this, our sacrifice of praise.  
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and wine  
that we may be fed with the body and blood of your Son.  
When all of creation groans, unite us in Christ and give us your hope  
that we might be strengthened to do your work, as your body in the world.  
Through Christ our Redeemer, in the power of the Spirit,  
all praise and glory be yours,  
Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Prayer of Jesus (sung)  
Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your Kin-dom come,  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.**

**VU #959**

**Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive  
those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil  
for the kin-dom, the power  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever.**

Presider: The One who defeated death and injustice is now present in this bread.

The One who offers our life promise and hope is now present in this wine.

**People: Breaking into our lives and community, We ask God for new life in Christ.**

Communion is shared

### **Prayer After Communion**

Author of life divine, in the breaking of bread we know the risen Lord. Feed us always in these mysteries, that we may show your glory to all the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

### **Hymn: *Lord of All Hopefulness***

**CP #506**

<sup>1</sup>Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,  
whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:  
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,  
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

<sup>2</sup>Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

<sup>3</sup>Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,  
your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace:  
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

<sup>4</sup>Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,  
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:  
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Presider: Let us go now in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**