# Living Table United Church of Christ

## April 14, 2024, Third Sunday of Eastertide

## Greeting and Grounding

### Singing: “Christ in Me Arise”

*Refrain:* Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.

Christ in me arise with your power and your strength.

Christ in me pour out your blessing and healing.

Christ in me arise and I shall rise with you.

### Invoking Spirit Responsively

One: When fears and doubts enter into our lives:

**All: God remains with us, whispering of peace.**

One: When we toss and turn late into the night:

**All: God remains with us, singing quiet lullabies of love.**

One: When we wander in unhealthy ways:

**All: God illuminates the paths of wholeness and joy.**

### Singing: “Christ in Me Arise”

*Refrain:* Christ in me arise and dispel all the darkness.

Christ in me arise with your power and your strength.

Christ in me pour out your blessing and healing.

Christ in me arise and I shall rise with you.

### Acknowledging our Need for God

All: Loving God, in your infinite wisdom, we are glad that you make all things new. We acknowledge how often we hold onto the old, rather than embrace all that you have made new. And so we ask:

Where there is hate, let us reveal your love.

Where there is war, enable us to be makers of peace.

Where there is despair, may we be hope bearers.

Where there is fear, open us to understanding.

Where there is scarcity, awaken us to your abundance.

Where there is systemic oppression, make us creators of justice.

By your grace and mercy, make us new in all ways, throughout all days.

*Silent Prayer*

One: What marvelous love, what wondrous grace, what abundant mercy God offers - to us! We are truly people of God.

**All: We are God's beloved. Our lives have been changed by the One who loves us and forgives us and makes us new – always! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### Sharing Love’s Peace

### Singing:  “How Could Anyone Ever Tell You”

How could anyone ever tell you you were anything less than beautiful?

How could anyone ever tell you you were less than whole?

How could anyone fail to notice that your loving is a miracle?

How deeply you're connected to my soul.

### Learning with Younger (and Older!) Disciples

Shape-Shifting

### Considering the Word and the Sacred Texts

**Sacred Reading**: Luke 24:36-49

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.’

## **Message:** “Peace in the Midst of Chaos” Rev. Dr. Rachael Keefe

### Singing: “Prayer of St. Francis”

Make me a channel of Your peace

Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love

Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord

And where there's doubt, true faith in You

Make me a channel of Your peace

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope

Where there is darkness, only light

And where there's sadness, ever joy

Oh God, grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console

To be understood as to understand

To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of Your peace

It is pardoning that we are pardoned

In giving to each one that we receive

And in dying that we're born to eternal life

Oh God, grant that I may never seek

So much to be consoled as to console

To be understood as to understand

To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of Your peace

Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope

Where there is darkness, only light

And where there's sadness, ever joy

### Praying Together

### Prayers of Concerns and Joys

After each spoken prayer, please respond by saying and gesturing:

**We release this prayer to You, Holy Ones.**

### Prayer of Jesus, translated by Neil Douglas-Klotz

Radiant One: You shine within us,

outside us—even darkness shines—when

we remember.

Help us breathe one holy breath

feeling only you—this creates a shrine

inside, in wholeness.

Your rule springs into existence

as our arms reach out to

embrace all creation.

Help us love beyond our ideals

and sprout acts of compassion

for all creatures.

Give us the food we need to grow

through each new day,

through each illumination of life’s needs.

Loose the cords of mistakes binding us,

as we release the strands we hold

of others’ guilt.

Keep us from hoarding false wealth,

and from the inner shame of

help not given in time.

Truly-power to these statements—

may they be the ground from which all

my actions grow:

Sealed in trust and faith. Amen.

### Invitation to Offering

### Gathering At Love’s Table

### Invitation

One: Easter people, come now to the table with Christ!

**All: For Christ is risen! Christ lives, and invites us to this table of grace!**

One: Come, eat together the Bread of Life!

All: For Christ is risen, and nothing separates us from God’s love!

**All: Come, drink together from the Cup of Gladness!**

All: For Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### Singing: “You Are Holy”

You are holy, you are whole.

You are always evermore

than we ever understand.

You are always at hand.

Blessed are you, coming near.

Blessed are you, coming here

to your church in wine and bread,

raised from soil, raised from dead.

You are holy, you are wholeness; you are present. Let the cosmos praise your name!

Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna evermore! (repeat)

### The Great Thanksgiving

One: Now, O God, with grateful hearts we remember Jesus.

We remember that Jesus was laid in a borrowed grave.

**All: A heavy stone sealed up the tomb.**

One: We remember that the women came, early in the morning, on the third day.

**All: The women did not find Jesus among the dead.**

One: We remember that Jesus met the disciples on the road.

**All: Jesus opened the scriptures, explaining everything; and their hearts burned within them.**

One: They invited Jesus to stay with them for it was evening. Jesus went with them. And while they were at table, he took the bread, gave thanks, and broke it for them to share. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized the One in the breaking of the bread.

**All: When we eat this bread, we are sharing in the promise of life and love made in Christ.**

One: Only a few nights before, Jesus had also offered a cup to the disciples, telling them that it would be a new covenant for all who sought love and forgiveness.

**All: When we drink from this cup, we accept God’s mercy and make a promise to be merciful to all.**

### Blessing and Sharing the Feast

**All: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread. Bless also this cup. Bless us as we eat and drink that we may enter the life you desire for us. As we rejoice in the resurrection, give us love for each other and make us servants of peace, until the whole of creation lives in love. We pray in the name of Christ, who lives and invites us to share this simple meal. Amen.**

### Singing: “Lead Us from Death to Life”

*Refrain:*Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,

from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;

let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

2. So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,

longing for love to break into their darkness.

Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,

come and teach us your way of compassion.

### Communing Together

### Singing: “Lead Us from Death to Life”

*Refrain:*Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,

from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;

let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

3. Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,

let us begin to grow into your people.

We can be love, we can bring peace,

we can still be your way of compassion.

*Refrain:*Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,

from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;

let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: Holy One, we thank you for the bread of life and the cup of liberation. Thank you for the hope and healing, promise and love, that meets us when we gather at your table, a table so much larger than we can imagine. May your love live in us as we seek to find peace, and *be* peace in a world filled with fear. In gratitude for all that you have provided, we pray. Amen.**

Shining Out

### Announcements

### Singing: “Let There be Peace on Earth”

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our creator, family all are we.

Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.

With every breath I take, let this be my solemn vow.

To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

## Benediction

## Resources Used –

Invoking Spirit: Lectionary Liturgies, adapted

Acknowledging our Need: Worship Ways, adapted

Communion Liturgy: Mary Luti, adapted