

Living Table United Church of Christ

April 21, 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: People of God, do you love the God
who hovered over the face of the deep and called the worlds into being?

All: Yes, you know that we do.

One: Then let us feed God's people.

One: People of God, do you love the God
who was revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ?

All: Yes, you know that we do.

One: Then let us take care of God's people.

One: People of God, do you love the God
who breathes new life into us even as we gather this day?

All: Yes, you know that we do.

One: Then may we feed God's children.

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

One: God, save us from ourselves.

**All: We continue to do the same things over and over,
expecting different results.**

One: God, save us from doing too much.

**All: We go fishing every day,
not noticing you waiting with a meal on the beach.**

One: God, save us from doing too little.

**All: We say we love you,
and yet so often we neglect your people.**

One: God, save us from ourselves.

All: Help us to respond when you say, "Follow Me."

Silent Prayer

One: It is never too late to notice the abundance God sets before us; it is never too late to follow Jesus.

All: We receive God's love and forgiveness with gratitude, and recommit to following Jesus, today and every day. 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: John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because

there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Anointed One" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Anointed One, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Anointed One. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Rabbi; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Rabbi; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Rabbi, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Message: *Sana DelCorazon*

Singing: "The Summons"

1. Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

2. Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

3. Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
Through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

4. God, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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!

One: 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: "Friend of God"

Who am I that You are mindful of me, That you hear me when I call?
Is it true that You are thinking of me? How you love me, it's amazing.

I am a friend of God. I am a friend of God. I am a friend of God. God calls me friend. (2x)

Who am I that You are mindful of me, That you hear me when I call?
Is it true that You are thinking of me? How you love me, it's amazing.

I am a friend of God. I am a friend of God. I am a friend of God. God calls me friend. (2x)

God Almighty, Lord of glory, You have called me friend.
God Almighty, Lord of glory, You have called me friend.
God Almighty, Lord of glory, You have called me friend.
God Almighty, Lord of glory, You have called me friend.

I am a friend of God. I am a friend of God. I am a friend of God. God calls me friend. (2x)

Benediction

Resources Used –

Invoking Spirit: Liturgy Outside, adapted

Acknowledging our Need: Nathan Decker, adapted

Communion Liturgy: Mary Luti, adapted