

Verse 3:

**O Sovereign One, with us abide
In this our joyful Eastertide;
From every weapon death can wield,
Your own redeemed forever shield.**

#241, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Tune: Puer Nobis Nascitu L.M. | Gernam Carol 15th century | Adapt Michael Praetorius 1609 Harm George R Woodward 1910

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 30 (New Revised Standard Version)

I will extol you, O LORD, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

O LORD my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

O LORD, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

You've turned our sorrow into dancing and clothed us with joy, O God!

Sing praises to the LORD, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

You've turned our sorrow into dancing and clothed us with joy, O God!

As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

By your favor, O LORD, you had established me as a strong mountain;

you hid your face; I was dismayed.

To you, O LORD, I cried, and to the LORD I made supplication:

"What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit?

Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Hear, O LORD, and be gracious to me! O LORD, be my helper!"

You've turned our sorrow into dancing and clothed us with joy, O God!

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

You've turned our sorrow into dancing and clothed us with joy, O God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Come, People of the Risen King"

Kim May & Penny Kraft

Words and music by Keith and Kristyn Getty; © 2009 Thankyou Music PRS; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535

Come, people of the risen King
Who delight to bring Him praise
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the morning star of grace

From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in

Rejoice, rejoice
Let every tongue rejoice
One heart, one voice
Oh, church of Christ rejoice

Come those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night

Come those who tell of battles won
And those struggling in the fight

For His perfect love will never change
And His mercies never cease
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace

Come, young and old from every land
Men and women of the faith
Come those with full or empty hands
Find the riches of His grace

Over all the world His people sing
Shore to shore we hear them call
The truth that cries through every age
Our God is all in all

SCRIPTURE READING The Gospel according to 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! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

MESSAGE What are You Talking About? What Can You See?

HYMN "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether" #337

Verse 1:

**Draw us in the Spirit's tether, for when humbly in your name,
two or three are met together, You are in the midst of them;
Alleluia! Alleluia! Touch we now your garment's hem.**

Verse 2:

**As disciples used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
then with thanks to God the giver, break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluia! Alleluia! So now bind our friendship up.**

Verse 3:

**All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of you,
that by caring, helping, giving, we may be disciples true.
Alleluia! Alleluia! We may serve with faith anew.**

#337, The New Century Hymnal; Lyrics, Percy Dearmer, 1925; Tune: Union Seminary, Harold Friedell 1957, Adapt Jet Turner 1967; CCLI

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (we pray together)

Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

For the sake of Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and follow in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The prayer continues...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Remembering

Now as they were eating together, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take and eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way after supper, Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to them and said, "Drink of it, all of you; This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you and many. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Prayer of Consecration – Place your hands over the bread and cup you have before you as we pray:

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come to each table that's been prepared for you today. Bless each bite and each sip that we share in your name today. Bless each of us in our eating and drinking; wherever we are, let our eyes be opened, so that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, in our enemies, and in all for whom Christ lived and died. Amen.

We Share the Elements – Partake of what is before you as you share your table with Christ.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west
and north and south to share at Christ's feast.
Thank you for Christ's presence in the bread and the cup and in each of us.
By your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will.
Go with us to the streets and the screens,
to our places of labor and leisure,
so that whether we are gathered or scattered,
we may be the servant church of the servant Christ,
in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.**

SONG "Something Beautiful for God"

Verse 1:

**Know this one thing above all else:
We are loved, loved by God.
Let this be how we see ourselves:
as people loved, loved by God.
And once we know the love of Christ;
feel God's healing in our lives,
loving-service is how we give our love back to God.**

Chorus:

**Today let us do something beautiful for God!
Do something small, but do it with great love.
Do what we can, where we are, with what we got.
Today, let us do something beautiful for God!**

Verse 2:

**Ev'ry one who we meet today
is God's child, God's own child.
May our lives help them hear God say,
"You are my child," God's own child.
A smile can radiate God's love.
Let them see the Christ in us.
Let our lives be the cheerfulness of God in this world!**

Repeat Chorus

Verse 3:

**Jesus will visit us today
in disguise, in disguise.
Poor and weak, Christ will come our way,
Jesus Christ in disguise.
The lonely poor, the victimized;
love for them is love for Christ.
Love is water to quench the thirst of Christ on the cross.**

Repeat Chorus

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OFFERING Invitation to Give – We are so thankful for the continued financial support that we have continued to receive during this time!

See the announcements for some special offering opportunities right now.

You may always send your check directly to the church at PO Box 246, Richmond IL, 60071.

Prayer of Dedication – You might pray as you write your check and address your envelope to the church...

May all that we give – be it our money or ourselves – be used to heal and to help, to repair and to restore, to comfort and to care. May all that we give be used so we might be your church, O God. Amen.

NEWS OF THE CHURCH

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Pastoral Benediction

Sending Song “Halle, Halle, Halle” #236

**Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja .
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja. Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.**

POSTLUDE

Call, Opening Prayer, and Prayer of Dedication, adp. from Spill the Beans, Issue 21, pp. 80 and 70; Prayer of Thanksgiving, UCC Book of Worship, p. 74; Music copyright, CCLI 1779535.

NEW NEWS

CABINET MEETS tomorrow night, April 12, at 6:30PM. If you have business the Cabinet should address, contact Pastor Hope or President Charles Kemp.

GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Penny Kraft regularly places orders of gift cards on our behalf, and the church gets a percentage of the cost of those cards. As you might be starting to get out into the world more often again, remember that there is a HUGE variety of gift cards available, from specialty stores to gas stations and grocery stores. Jewel, Walmart, Meijer, Marathon Gas, SO MANY RESTAURANTS, department stores, etc. Though the percentages might seem small, small bits can add up to a meaningful contribution to the church, and are especially great with places that you’re going to shop at anyway. (Remember, you get the full value of the gift card; the church gets our donation when you purchase the card, whether you lose, spend, or whatever.)

(Buy a \$25 gift card, the church instantly gets \$2.) <https://www.shopwithscrip.com/shopwithscrip-retailers>. And you can contact Penny with your order any time by calling/texting her at 815-236-6172 or emailing her at mriapk@gmail.com.

FOX VALLEY MEETING The Fox Valley Association Council calls all congregations and clergy to the 2021 Fox Valley Association Spring Meeting on Sunday, April 18 on Zoom. We will begin at 2:00 p.m. with a time of worship, followed by a business meeting. Our time together will conclude with an opportunity for small-group discussions, which will conclude by 4:00 p.m. Our business meeting will include an update on the Illinois Conference from Conference Minister Rev. Molly Carlson, a presentation of and vote on the Conference budget, and more information on the Fox Valley Association Covenantal Ministry Design. Registration details are to come; contact Pastor Hope if you're interested.

CELEBRATION OF HOPE This annual celebration of our mission partner, Exodus World Service, will be held online this coming THURSDAY, April 15, from 7-8 PM. If you've been curious about this event in the past, but not able to travel to it, this year is a great year to check it out. More details are being emailed out separately or you can contact Carol Richardson for help registering. (815-675-2011). The event is free, and an opportunity to donate to support Exodus will be available at the end of the night.

ONGOING OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Hey! How did those people get to go to the sanctuary for worship?! They contacted Kelli Brossart at kellibrossart@gmail.com. We remain cautious and follow all CDC and State of Illinois guidelines, including wearing a mask, maintaining social distancing, and sitting with members of your household in the assigned pew(s). We also ask everyone to bring a copy of the bulletin. We are taking 'reservations' now for upcoming Sundays. If you would like to sign up, email Kelli. You'll be scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. You'll receive an email reminder before the Sunday you are scheduled to attend. We know this is not a replacement for "regular" church, but we hope it provides a chance to reconnect with our beautiful worship space.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thanks, all you "snow sponsors and "snowmen" and "snow-women" for supporting our snow clearing costs from this past winter. Even with our efforts to reduce the needed services, we've still had to pay nearly \$1900 in 2021 for snow removal. (No, they didn't plow the parking lot, but they did still shovel much of our sidewalk, which we felt was the right thing to do for our neighbors in town as well having safe access to the office entrance. And the shoveling is the expensive part.)

Through special gifts from eight households, we've received \$700 toward those costs – Thank you! If others of you still want to contribute, your special gift of \$50 will make you a "snow sponsor"! If you're able to give \$100, we'll consider you a "snowman" (or woman) and maybe even arrange for a token of our appreciation. Thanks for any way you can help!

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY continues Tuesday at 2PM open to everyone to read and discuss the Bible passage for the coming Sunday. Tell Pastor Hope if you want the Zoom link.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BUT ON A SATURDAY continues at 10:30 on Saturday mornings. Contact Pastor Hope or the church office for the Zoom information.

OUR PART IN THE STORY: DAILY READINGS ON SUNDAY'S TEXT

Emmaus Road

Luke 24:13-35

Read a different text each day, and consider how it relates to Sunday's lesson and to your daily experiences.

Monday: Jesus Appears to the Disciples Luke 24:36-43

❖ What would it take to convince you that Jesus had risen?

Tuesday: Jesus Appears to the Disciples Luke 24:44-49

❖ Why do you think Jesus waited until this moment to open the disciples' minds to understand scripture? Why didn't he do it every other time they didn't understand what he was saying?

Wednesday: Ascension of Jesus Luke 24:50-53

❖ How do you praise God? What is your most natural form of worship?

Thursday: The Risen Jesus with his Disciples Acts 1:1-11

❖ What does the power of the Holy Spirit look like?

Friday: Jesus' Followers in Jerusalem Acts 1:12-14

❖ What do you think the disciples prayed for? What do you pray for?

Saturday: A Replacement for Judas Acts 1:15-26

❖ Peter seems here to take leadership over the growing family of believers. What characteristics do you think he held that made him a good leader?

www.theartoffaith.net

PRAYERS FOR APRIL 11, 2021

If you have prayer updates or announcements to share, please send them to BOTH Pastor Hope (pastorhope@richmonducc.org) AND our office manager, Brandi Pletcher (office@richmonducc.org).

THANKS! *We will leave a person on our list for four weeks, unless asked to leave them on longer.*

JOYS: Birthdays: Brandi Pletcher (April 13)

CONCERNS

For Eden Theological Seminary, who inaugurated The Rev. Dr. Deborah Krause as their new president this past week

Debbie Franzone's brother-in-law, George

Pastor Hope's aunt, Liz Boehne

All who are worried about the health of loved ones and family members

Those undergoing surgery

Leaders trying to make wise decisions

Ongoing Prayers:

School teachers and staff; school children and their parents, including college students

Those whose household relationships are strained

Those whose employment has been lost or put in jeopardy due to the pandemic

Healthcare workers, especially Cheryl Kazimier's niece and Rob Rummel's daughter-in-law

Marti Swanson's brother, John Baldwin

Ella Watts, Melissa Jones's mother

Louise Strah's niece, Amy Lenik

Members and Friends who are Homebound or in Nursing Facilities:

Mercedes Ahlgrim (New Mexico), Sharon Mensing (Sterling), June Whitney (at home)