



It Is I Myself

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
April 30, 2023 10:00am Service



1125 Jamison Corner Road Middletown, DE
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The Worship of God

April 30, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



In an Easter sermon at Trinity Church in Boston, the Rev. Pamela Foster, discusses what it means to be Easter people: "Mr. Paul Ruseabagina, is the former manager of Hotel Rwanda. In the midst of the Rwanda genocide, he, with great risk to himself, was able to convince Hutu authorities not to harm the Tutsi people who had taken refuge in the hotel. No one would have imagined that this was possible, and yet, it happened. This shaky agreement made possible some safe

passage convoys that otherwise never would have occurred. In a later interview, Mr. Ruseabagina was asked how he had been able to convince the authorities to grant that precarious asylum. In his reply, he made the following comment: "Even the hardest heart has a part that is soft." Mr. Rusesabagina is ONE man that made a big difference. Praise God that we Easter people are MANY because of what Jesus – but ONE man – did for us all!

Preparing to Meet God

Introit

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Bell Choir

Call to Worship

L: The risen Christ appeared to his disciples with the assurance that the scriptures had been fulfilled.

P: ***The purpose of his life, death and resurrection was to share God's message of power and forgiveness.***

L: The risen Christ still commissions his followers to be his witnesses, calling all people to repentance and new life.

P: ***We serve the risen Christ, and take up the call to repentance, that all may hear of God's forgiveness.***

Hymn # 119

The Strife Is O'er

*1-The strife is o'er, the battle done,
The victory of life is won;
The song of triumph has begun.
Alleluia!*

Refrain: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

*2-The powers of death have done their worst,
But Christ their legions hath dispersed;
Let shouts of holy joy outburst,
Alleluia!*

*3-The three sad days are quickly sped,
Christ rises glorious from the dead;
All glory to our risen Head!
Alleluia!*

*4-Lord, by your wounds on Calvary
From death's dread sting your servants free,
That we may live eternally.
Alleluia!*



Prayer of Confession

Merciful and loving God, your love for us is unconditional, yet our love for you, others, and even for ourselves is marred. We allow prejudice and pride to blind us, and too often our brokenness remains unhealed. We cling to old stories and hurts which impede the work of reconciliation. Forgive us, we pray, for failing to trust you – for playing it safe instead following the daring call of your Spirit – for withholding forgiveness and grace from ourselves and others. Let your love renew us yet again. Let the same power that raised Jesus from the dead, rekindle creative life within us, and restore right relationships among us. And now, holy God, we turn to you in a time of silent prayer.....Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

L: Hear the Good News: We know love by this -

P: ***Jesus laid down his life for us.***

L: Friends, believe and trust the Good News of the Gospel -

P: ***In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!***

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson *Psalm 4* *Plea for Deliverance from Enemies* *Lay Leader*



Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer. How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him. When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many who say, 'O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!' You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P:** *Thanks be to God.*

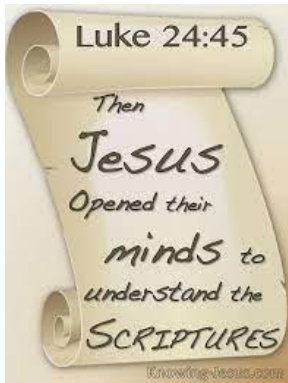
Special Music

I Want Jesus to Walk With Me

Choir

Second Reading

Luke 24: 28-49 Jesus Appears to His Disciples



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.

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.'

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P:** *Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

Open-Hearted and Open-Minded

Responding to the Word

Hymn # G2G 231

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

*1-Christ has risen while earth slumbers;
Christ has risen where hope died,
As he said and as he promised,
As we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
Let the sun sustain the cheer;
Let the world confirm the rumor:
Christ is risen. God is here!*



*2-Christ has risen for the people
Whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women
Bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
Huddled in and upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
Can't be silenced by the tomb.*

*3-Christ has risen and forever
Lives to challenge and to change
All whose lives are messed or mangled,
All who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present
Making us what he has been:
Evidence of transformation
In which God is known and seen.*

Affirmation of Faith

Portion of A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel whom alone we worship and serve.

With believers in every time and place we can rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Celebration of Our Gifts

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # G2G 762

When the Poor Ones

*1-When the poor ones who have nothing share with strangers,
When the thirsty water give unto us all,
When the crippled in their weakness strengthen others,*

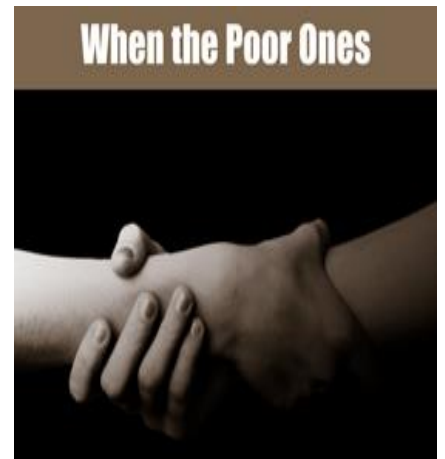
Refrain:

***Then we know that God still goes that road with us,
Then we know that God still goes that road with us.***

*2-When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,
When they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
When we love though hate at times seems all around us, R*

*3-When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
When our lips can speak no words other than true,
When we know that love for simple things is better, R*

*4-When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance,
When we learn how to make peace instead of war,
When each stranger that we meet is called a neighbor. R*



Blessing

L: May Almighty God bless, preserve, and keep us – each and every one,

P: *This night and forevermore.*

L: Bless the Lord.

P: *The Lord's name be praised.*

L: And may the blessings...

Response

*He is Lord – He is Lord,. He has risen from the dead, and he is Lord.
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord.*