

Bethel Worship Guide – April 26, 2020

Peace verse – Luke 24:36, 39a

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them,
“Peace be with you.” ... “Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself.
Touch me and see ...”

Light a candle in your worship space to represent the peace of Christ in your midst today.

Prelude / Prayer: “Bring your peace” by The Walking Roots Band

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3VkjGvw6k>

Bring your peace when I am lost. When I’m lost, Lord, bring your peace.
Bring your peace, when I’m alone. When I’m alone, Lord, bring your peace.
And make us instruments to sing your peace. And give us love for each other.
Into a world that longs to hear, send us, Lord, to bring your peace.
Bring your peace when we’re afraid. When we’re afraid, Lord, bring your peace.
Bring your peace into the storm. Into the storm, Lord, bring your peace.
And make us instruments to sing your peace. And give us love for each other.
Into a world that longs to hear, send us, Lord, to bring your peace.

Call to worship:

How glorious it is to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection!

At his death, our hearts cried out and we felt lost.

But Jesus is risen and revealed! Look and see!

He comes to us and walks with us, even now.

He is with us in music, prayer, and the holy word;

when we are gathered and scattered.

He walks with us on roads that are bumpy and smooth.

Lord Jesus, open our hearts to truly receive you into our lives. Amen.

Song: Thine is the glory – Hymnal Worship Book #269

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GK0I9vj2QII>

V.1. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son! Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.
Chorus: Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son!
Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.
V.2. Lo! Jesus meets us. Risen from the tomb, lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for our Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.
V.3. No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life!
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love.
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

Offering: consider what you will offer to God this week.

The world is alive with your goodness, O God:
it grows green from the ground; it produces blossoms and fruit;
it appears in the smile and wave of neighbors, in acts of compassion.
Generously given, profusely displayed, Your graces of goodness pour forth around me.
As I have received, so free me to give.
As I have been blessed, so may I bless others. Amen.¹

Children's Time: Yes friends! Jesus said unless we become like little children we cannot enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt.18:3). SO ... follow the link to learn and listen to a song that tells the Emmaus Road story (our scripture for today). Get up and join the actions as Bryan Moyer Suderman leads you. You're at home – don't worry, no one can see you! Be a kid again! ☺

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uFPj0Ce9VhY>

The words for the sing-along chorus are:

We're walking, walking, walking, walking on the Emmaus Road.
We're talking, talking, talking, talking – sharing each other's' load.
Someone came and walked with us, now who do you suppose
is walking, talking, walking with us on the Emmaus Road?

Scripture reading: Luke 24: 13-35

Questions for Scripture reflection:

1. What things did you notice while hearing (the children's song) or reading this story today? What caught your attention (a word, phrase, emotion, action, etc)? What questions do you have? What do you wish you could ask the two disciples, or Jesus, or Luke?
2. Quite a lot of action and dialogue (17 verses worth) happen between when the two disciples first meet Jesus on the road and when they recognized Jesus' identity. Go through the text again, and notice how the disciples' interaction with Jesus progresses. Here's what I noticed: First, they simply tell the story of the recent events – here's what happened (v.19-20). Then they share their feelings about the past events – “but we had hoped ...” (v.21); then they shift to the present and describe their current confusion and astonishment about the report from the women (v.22-24). Seeing that the stranger may have some insight for them, they listen as Jesus interprets scripture. By v.28 they don't want the conversation to end so “they urged him strongly” to share their overnight lodging with them.
3. Why do you think Jesus didn't reveal himself to them right away when he met them on the road?
 - A) What became the benefit of Jesus simply asking, “What are you discussing...?” and “What things?”
 - B) Can you recall a time when you were grieving or confused, and someone gave you space to tell your story or to express your feelings? How did having that invitation or open

¹ Sing the Story, #184 (adapted by RK)

space help you? (Or maybe you remember when you wanted that kind of invitation to talk but didn't have it.)

4. In John 20:17, when Mary Magdalene suddenly realizes she is seeing the risen Jesus, he says to her, "*Do not hold on to me ...*". I wonder – if Cleopas and his companion in Luke 24 had realized right away that it was Jesus alive and walking with them, would they have been able to listen as intently to what he needed to tell them while they walked? Or would they have been too excited by his physical presence and therefore too distracted to hear?
A) What do you think? B) What does their comment, "*were not our hearts burning while he was talking to us on the road*" (24:32) tell us about the significance of Jesus' message?
5. The disciples didn't recognize Jesus until he acted as host at the dinner table; he took the bread, blessed, broke and gave it to them. Today we often associate that action with Jesus' "last supper", but look at Luke 9:12-17. How might connecting that miraculous feeding story with the Luke 24 story point us toward how Jesus wants us to continue his ministry?
6. What helps you recognize Jesus, or the presence of his followers? What actions can we do that will remind people (or show them for the first time) that Jesus is present and walking beside them?
7. One aspect of the Good News in this story is that Jesus will show up! He will walk with us on whatever road we are walking. Spend some time in prayer now, to invite Jesus into your current journey; tell him what's going on and how you feel. Thank him for his presence.

Song: On the journey to Emmaus – Sing the Story #98

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2h-wlsGDnUE>

- V.1. On the journey to Emmaus with our hearts cold as stone –
the One who would save us had left us alone.
Then a stranger walks with us and, to our surprise,
he opens our stories and he opens our eyes.
- V.2. And our hearts burned within us as we talked on the way,
how all that was promised was ours on that day. So we begged him,
"Stay with us and grant us your word."
We welcomed the stranger and we welcomed the Lord.
- V.3. And that evening at the table as he blessed and broke bread,
we saw it was Jesus aris'n from the dead;
though he vanished before us we knew he was near –
the life in our dying and the hope in our fear.
- V.4. On our journey to Emmaus, in our stories and feast,
with Jesus we claim that the greatest is least; and his words burn within us –
let none be ignored – who welcomes the stranger shall welcome the Lord.

Affirmation of faith: I Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. You have a pure and enduring inheritance that cannot perish – an inheritance that is presently kept safe in heaven for you. Through his faithfulness, you are guarded by God’s power so that you can receive the salvation he is ready to reveal in the last time.

You now rejoice in this hope, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith – being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire – may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Intercessory Prayer: you are invited to offer your own prayers now, and/or join the Bethel group fellowship, sharing and prayer time at 11:00 am by calling or logging in to GoToMeeting.

Song: Guide my feet – Hymnal Worship Book #546

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ZYqniqOmL8&list=RDCxwN1pUJWsQ&index=19>

Guide my feet while I run this race, yes, my Lord! (x3)

For I don’t want to run this race in vain!

Hold my hand while I run this race ...

I’m your child while I run this race ...

Benediction:

May God Almighty – who shakes heaven and earth,
whom death could not contain, who lives to disturb and heal us –
may this living and redeeming God bless you
with power to go forth and proclaim the gospel.²

² Sing the Story, #188 (adapted by RK)