

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – May 3, 2020**  
**Fourth Sunday of Easter**  
**Join us on You Tube!**

**Greeting**

**Call to Worship** [*responsive*]

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord.

**We're blessed!**

The Lord tests the mind.

**We're blessed!**

The Lord searches the heart.

**We're blessed!**

Take joy in God's ways.

**We're blessed!**

You will be like a tree planted by water.

**We're blessed!**

You will be anchored in the time of storm.

**We're blessed!**

Watch over us Lord.

**We're blessed!**

Trust in the Lord.

**We're blessed!**

**Opening Prayer**

**Call to Confession**

Every week, as we worship together, we have the opportunity to admit to ourselves, to each other, and to God that we do not always live as we should. In this time of confession, this time of opening our hearts, let us remember that God is merciful and just, eager to offer forgiveness. Let us pray together.

**Prayer of Confession** [*together*]

Holy and merciful God,

We come before you as a broken people.

Our sinful thoughts and deeds obscure your glory.

Even though you walk with us,

we miss the signs your presence.

God of Easter, help us to recognize you,

Come to us in the breaking of the bread,

**Come to us as we are, but leave us not as we were;  
In your mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.**

*[Silence for Personal Prayer]*

**Assurance of Pardon** *[responsive]*

The power of resurrection is at work in us and with us!  
The Spirit of Christ leads us  
onto paths of victory,  
over sorrow and death, disbelief and fear.  
Receive God's grace, for the forgiveness of God  
is too marvelous for words.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are new people,  
Forgive and set free. Thanks be to God!**

## **We Listen to God's Word**

### **Scripture Readings**

**Luke 24:13-31**

13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>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?' <sup>19</sup>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, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>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. <sup>24</sup>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.' <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight.

Leader: This is the Witness to God's Word. **People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Going Home**

Rev. Mary Austin

## **We Respond to God's Grace**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Music for Reflection**

**Invitation to the Communion Table**

Friends, this is the joyful feast of the people of God! They will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God. According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, and blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust him to share the feast which he has prepared.

**Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right, and our greatest joy...

**Lord's Prayer**

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 debts,

as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation,

**but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*By the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ is present to us in this meal, and that presence comes through whatever elements we use. Please take the elements you have at home, and eat whatever kind of bread you have, and drink whatever cup you have prepared. The bread is the body of Christ, the bread of heaven, and the cup is the blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Take and eat. Take and drink.*

**Prayer after Communion**

**We Depart for Service**

**\*Announcements**

**Passing the Peace**

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

**\*Commission & Benediction**

The Call to Worship is from the writing of Dr. Kwasi Kena. The Prayer of Confession is adapted from the writing of Stephen Fearing.