



**Plainfield Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

Plainfield, Illinois

Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

"Our Emmaus Road"

Welcome and Announcements

Centering

Come and see the love God has given to us; what it means to be children of God with the hope of Christ's presence.

Song

Invitation to Worship

(John Witvliet)

One: Lord Jesus Christ, stay with us, too, in every part of our journey, no matter how full of doubt or fear we may be today.

All: Through Your Holy Spirit, we pray that you will open our eyes, too. Help us see You as our risen Lord in all Your beauty, and in all Your loving grace. Amen.

Prayer

(Nathan Bierma)

One: Open our eyes, Lord:

All: Without Your Spirit our eyes are kept from recognizing you. Appear before us, suddenly, unexpectedly in all Your glory. So that we may proclaim to a world in despair, that we have seen the risen Lord. Amen.

Invitation to Generous Gifts

One: The one who gives money gives some; the one who gives time gives more; the one who gives of him or herself gives all.

Reminder of Generous Giving Opportunities

Doxology

Prayer Dedication

Like the disciples at Emmaus, we offer what we have.

All: They offered their company, their table, their bread. We invite You to be with us as we offer You our love, our devotion, these gifts. May our eyes be opened to Your holy presence, now and always. Amen.

Joys and Concerns: Prayers of the People: Lord's Prayer

Song

Prayer for Scripture

One: Miraculous God, come to us now into the souls of our daily lives.

All: *Speak Your peace to our hearts. Touch us with Your Spirit. Reveal Your word, that we may hear Your message this day, and live as Your disciples in the days and years to come. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.*

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.

Emmaus Road (Randy Alcorn)

Many of us have at times walked the road the Emmaus road, wondering where God is; when all along God walks beside us.

Meditation

Our Jerusalem (Alex Rebelo)

If we encounter Jesus on our road to Emmaus, Jesus will send us back to our Jerusalem.

Affirming Our Mission

We the members and friends of Plainfield Congregational Church United Church of Christ seek to embody and celebrate God's love by being a community that lives Christ's compassion and promotes justice, healing and wholeness of life; a joyous family where all are welcome to join together to grow in faith and love.

Blessing

May God's presence be with you and all people as we journey on our road to Emmaus. May we sense Christ's presence in our every step and be led by the Spirit that gives us grace. Amen.

Chimes