

*Sunday, April 26, 2020*

## *Third Sunday of Easter*

### *Native Awareness Sunday*

#### *Order of Service*

**Gathering Song**..... **“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”** (*Hymnal, #334*)

There’s a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it’s the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we’ll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

**Greeting/Call to Worship**..... **Sister Cynthia**

Leader: I love the Lord because he hears my voice.

**People: Gracious is our God.**

Leader: When I was in despair, God saved me.

**People: Gracious is our God.**

Leader: I walk before the Lord in the Land of the living.

**People: Gracious is our God.**

**ALL: Gracious is our God. Blessed are we, servants of God. Let us call upon God’s name and give thanks.**

**Hymn of Praise — “Our God is An Awesome God”** (*to be read*)

Our God is an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above, with wisdom, power and love, Our God is an awesome

Our God us an awesome God, He reigns from heaven above, with wisdom, power and love, Our God is an awesome God

You’re marvelous and you’re glorious, You’re love has made me victorious, You took away the fear in us, Now we praise You cause you, You can deliver us

There aint no stoppin us (naw), Devil there aint no blockin us (naw), Come on and clap your hands with us, Like this like that

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There aint no stoppin us (naw), Devil there aint no blockin us (naw), Come on and clap your hands with us, Like this like that

He reigns. He reigns. He reigns. He reigns.  
He reigns. He reigns. He reigns. He reigns.  
He reigns, He reigns, He reigns forever and ever.

**Prayer of Confession and Assurance .....Sister Cynthia**

The road of life sometimes seems lonely, God. Often, we are tempted to abandon the journey, or to take the path of least resistance. Forgive us when we have not lived up to the challenges you have given us in this life. Forgive us when we have retreated from the difficult journeys in life. Remind us, God, that you hear our voices, that you notice our despair, and that you will never leave us. Remind us, God, that when we feel alone on our journey, all we need do is open our eyes and our hearts, and we will see you there, walking beside us. **Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer** (*Recite in unison*)

**The Invocation**

**Song of Meditation**

**The Prayer of Illumination .....Sister Cynthia**

As we journey into the sacred story, help us along the path toward faithfulness. Create in our lives a place of faith, hope, and love in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

**Scripture Reading #1** (*Acts 2:14a, 36–41, Common English Bible*)

<sup>14a</sup>Peter stood with the other eleven apostles. He raised his voice and declared, “Judeans and everyone living in Jerusalem! Know this! Listen carefully to my words!

<sup>36</sup>“Therefore, let all Israel know beyond question that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” <sup>37</sup>When the crowd heard this, they were deeply troubled. They said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter replied, “Change your hearts and lives. Each of you must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. <sup>39</sup>This promise is for you, your children, and for all who are far away—as many as the Lord our God invites.” <sup>40</sup>With many other words he testified to them and encouraged them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation.” <sup>41</sup>Those who accepted Peter’s message were baptized. God brought about three thousand people into the community on that day.

**Scripture Reading #2** (*1 Peter 1:17–23, Common English Bible*)

<sup>17</sup>Since you call upon a Father who judges all people according to their actions without favoritism, you should conduct yourselves with reverence during the time of your dwelling in a strange land. <sup>18</sup>Live in this way, knowing that you were not liberated by perishable things like silver or gold from the empty lifestyle you inherited from your ancestors. <sup>19</sup>Instead, you were liberated by the precious blood of Christ, like that of a flawless, spotless lamb. <sup>20</sup>Christ was chosen before the creation of the world, but was only revealed at the end of time. This was done for you, <sup>21</sup>who through Christ are faithful to the God who raised him from the dead and gave him glory. So now, your faith and hope should rest in God. <sup>22</sup>As you set yourselves apart by your obedience to the truth so that you might have genuine affection for your fellow believers, love each other deeply and earnestly. <sup>23</sup>Do this because you have been given new birth—not from the type of seed that decays but from seed that doesn’t. This seed is God’s life-giving and enduring word.

### **Scripture Reading #3** (*Luke 24:13–35, Common English Bible*)

#### **Encounter on the Emmaus Road**

<sup>13</sup>On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>They were talking to each other about everything that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. <sup>16</sup>They were prevented from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” They stopped, their faces downcast. <sup>18</sup>The one named Cleopas replied, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?” <sup>19</sup>He said to them, “What things?” They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. <sup>20</sup>But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. <sup>21</sup>We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. <sup>22</sup>But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning <sup>23</sup>and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn’t see him.” <sup>25</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. <sup>26</sup>Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup>Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets. <sup>28</sup>When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?” <sup>33</sup>They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying to each other, “The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup>Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

#### **Doxology – “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”** (*Recite in unison*)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be low; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

#### **The Affirmation of Faith — “The Apostles’ Creed”** (*recite in unison*)

I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth:

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried:  
the third day he rose again from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit;  
the holy catholic church;  
the communion of saints;

the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father”** (*Recite in unison*)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

**Musical Selection — Just a Closer Walk with Thee** (*to be read*)

*Refrain:*

Just a closer walk with Thee,  
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,  
Daily walking close to Thee,  
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak but Thou art strong;  
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long  
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Thro' this world of toil and snares,  
If I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee. [*Refrain*]

When my feeble life is o'er,  
Time for me will be no more;  
Guide me gently, safely o'er  
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore. [*Refrain*]

**Inspirational Message — “On The Road Again”** ..... **Rev. Eugene Matthews**

**Selection “We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace”** (*played by Eugenia Matthews*)

We shall walk through the valley in peace;  
We shall walk through the valley in peace;  
If Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,  
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no sorrow there;  
There will be no sorrow there;  
If Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,  
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

There will be no dying there;  
There will be no dying there;  
If Jesus Himself shall be our Leader,  
We shall walk through the valley in peace.

Prayer Concerns and Pastor Prayer

Benediction

## *Announcements*

Churches are to remain closed until **May 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Annual Conference** will be held on **Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**. (place has not been designated).

**General Conference** and **Jurisdictional Conferences** will not take place until 2021.

**Trip to Sight and Sound has been cancelled.** All monies will be refunded.