



The United Church of Bethel

An Open, Affirming Congregation of the UCC/UUA

April 18th, Third Sunday in Easter, 2021

Tom Harty – Pastor

Becky Kondi- Keyboard & Vocals, Larry Noble – Guitar & Vocals,

Seth Stoddard Technical Director

♠= Please Stand If you Are Able

All Prayers and Service Music are Found in the Folders in the Music Racks

Centering & Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

Greeting and Responsive Call to Worship

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

P And also with you.

L 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 him thanks and praise

Christ is Risen, and greets us with peace.

The peace of Christ is among us, indeed.

We are witnesses of God's glory and steadfast love.

The transforming love of Christ is among us, indeed!

Come, let us worship

Invocation and Lord's Prayer

♠ **Hymn** NCH 253 Yours is the Glory, Resurrected One!

Prayer of Confession

Ever-present God,

Forgive us when we stand in disbelief,

and comfort us when our fears outweigh your peace.

God, forgive us when we become too busy to pray.

Help us when we fail to see our neighbors in need.

Abiding God, forgive us when we are overwhelmed
with bad news, and shut down completely.

**In these times, remind us that we are called to be
your love-lived,**

**your faithful witnesses, and
your humble servants.**

**Help us to wake up to the work of love,
and to your renewing strength each day, we pray. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

O God, hear our prayers of repentance and forgiveness,
and awaken us from doubt, disbelief, and distress
by transforming us into your resurrection joy!

God, we desire for your loving spirit
to be among us, to comfort us in our fears,
and to renew our faith. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

Refrain: Let the Light of Your Face Shine on Us O God

✦ Gloria Patri

Epistle : 1 John 3:1-7

Choral Anthem

✦ Gospel Reading: Luke 24:36b-48

✦ Hymn NCH 423 Great is your Faithfulness

Sermon

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

Choral Response: Hear Our Prayer O Lord.

Offering

✦ Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

✦ Hymn NCH 451 Be Now My Vision

✦ Choral Benediction

Postlude

(Please remain seated for a period of quiet meditation and
appreciation for the music our worship team provides.)

Whoever you are, Wherever you are on life's journey, You are welcome here.

Our Faith is 2000 Years Old; Our Thinking is Not.

First Reading

Acts 3:12–19

12 When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? 13 The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. 14 But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, 15 and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. 16 And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

17 “And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. 18 In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. 19 Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

PSALM 4

Let the Light of Your Face Shine on Us, O God

1 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.

2 How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?

How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? Selah

3 But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;

the LORD hears when I call to him.

Let the Light of Your Face Shine on Us, O God

4 When you are disturbed, do not sin;

ponder it on your beds, and be silent. Selah

5 Offer right sacrifices,

and put your trust in the LORD.

6 There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!

Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

7 You have put gladness in my heart

more than when their grain and wine abound.

8 I will both lie down and sleep in peace;

for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

Let the Light of Your Face Shine on Us, O God

Epistle Reading

1 John 3:1-7

1 See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. 3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

4 Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. 7 Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Gospel Reading

Luke 24:36b–48

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” 37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 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.” 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence.

44 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.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 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, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

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