



Third Sunday of Easter - A
April 26, 2020
Meeting Jesus on the Way

Key Scripture - Luke 24:32

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?"



Theme

Recognition and Return

Welcome All

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook 
- † Special requests may be made through Facebook  [Contact Us](#)
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation and is inclusive of folk who find themselves a part of what is described as “LGBTQ+”
 - Our church building is closed but our Congregation is Open and Active in a Ministry of Prayer, Service and Care
 - Church business will be conducted remotely as much as possible
 - Worship will be recorded and posted to FaceBook and our WebPage

Welcome and Announcements

This week's Phone Tree Message - 22 April 2020

- Comfort

For the people of Portapique,
Wentworth, Debert, Masstown, Shubenacadie, Enfield
Folk who lived in and trusted
the quiet and comfort of Nova Scotia,
the peace of our country Canada
neighbours and communities,
grieving today,

We pray.

For the victims of the shooting,
22 friends, neighbours, family members,
We pray.

For their pain and their loss,
for their shock and confusion,
for all that has happened because of
this violence,

We pray your grace,
your compassion,
your strong presence,
your overwhelming love,
God of all creation.

In Jesus' name...

A prayer for the people of Nova Scotia affected by the shootings of April 18-19, by the Right Rev. Richard Bott. Moderator Bott encourages the sharing of prayers.

- Communication

- Trinity United Church News and Updates -

- We remain active in Prayer, Care and Service
 - Council meets weekly by video and by phone
 - Teams meet regularly
 - Worship Services are recorded and replayed
 - On COGECO - Your TV a week later on Sunday at 10:00 am and 2:00 pm
 - On the Trinity United Church Web Page and FaceBook beginning at our regular Service Time, 10:30 Sunday Morning
 - This Sunday is the Third Sunday of Easter. The key thought from the Gospel resides in the name of the disciple on the Emmaus road, Cleopas. The name Cleopas is a boy's name meaning "glory to the father". When Cleopas returns to Jerusalem, it is a sign that despite horrific events, the Glory of God will return. In these days of COVID-19, we hold fast to the expectation that everything that gave us comfort and support in our community will return. Likewise, we join in prayer with all Canadians as we pray that the idyllic, peaceful, Bay-Side neighbourhood that was Portapique will return, despite her most recent tragedy.
 - Some of our folk are making Non-Medical Face Masks. This is important work that will make our community a safer place to be. Arlene Hunter is going to help us coordinate.
 - Our Food Distribution efforts on Tuesday and Saturday, continues. We received a grant of \$11,250.00 in support.
 - Please contact Betty Lou Kempt at 613-291-0701 if you would like to help
 - Our Stewardship Team, Treasurer and Trustees are mindful about finances

- Please consider how you may continue to support the work
- Some of our Fundraising Efforts continue in modified form
 - Geraniums are still for sale. We will have 500 ready for distribution on 30 May
 - We will follow whatever limitations are in place at that time
 - You can order yours by phoning Barb Byam at 613-283-1182
- Connection
 - The Communications Team would like to help you stay in touch
 - If you would like the latest posts from the church but have not been receiving updates by email, we may not have your address.
- Care
 - The Healing Pathway Team and others are actively praying together starting at 1:00 pm every Wednesday. We would love to include your names and concerns.
 - This week, we have been asked to pray for
 - Andy Lightstone, whose father, Larry, passed away recently
 - Friends and family of Norva Sheppard. A private service for Norva will be held tomorrow, Thursday at 11:00 am

If you want to be contacted regularly by phone, contact the church and let us know - the church office number is - 613 283 4444

COVID-19 Community Meal Distribution Points

| | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| Monday | St. John the Evangelist Anglican | 11:00 am - 2:00 pm |
| Tuesday | Trinity United Church - Brown Bag & Blessing Front Foyer - 41 Market Street | 11:30 am - 1:30 pm |
| Wednesday | St Francis de Sales - St. Vincent de Paul Society 4 McGill St (Hanley Hall) | 12:00 - 12:30 pm |
| Thursday | St. John the Evangelist Anglican | 11:00 am - 2:00 pm |
| Friday | Mississippi Rideau Lakes - Salvation Army 251 Brockville St | 11:30 am - 1:00 pm |
| Saturday | Trinity United Church - Volunteers from - SFDCI Front Foyer - 41 Market Street | 11:30 am - 1:30 pm |
| Sunday | St. John the Evangelist Anglican | 11:00 am - 2:00 pm |

St. John the Evangelist Anglican has a “delivery only” model of food distribution. Lunches will then be delivered between 11am -12:30pm and left at the door that the participant indicates. For those in apartment buildings, lunches will be left outside the apartment door. If people can leave a chair or small table outside, that would be a help.



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls. Take Away Meals that are being offered during this State of Emergency are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program

We are also grateful for the gracious gift of volunteers from Smiths Falls and District Collegiate Institute who make meals on Saturdays possible.

People who prepare and people who serve are screened. Conditions under which the food is prepared is consistent with best practices respecting COVID-19

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Elements of today's Worship Service are drawn from the Presbyterian Church in Canada online Worship Planner

Introit 318 "Christ Be With Me"

Call to Worship

We come from many places, following different roads.

We come hungry for greater understanding.

We come to hear the wisdom of Scripture.

We come seeking companions in the faith.

We come to discover the One revealed in the breaking of the bread.

We come to grow as disciples of Christ.

Come, let us worship God, made known in Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Gathering

God of heaven and earth,

we rejoice in the hope revealed with Easter's light,
even in the gravest of circumstance.

Through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ

we see your saving power.
You work within our limitations and loss to bring new life.
You have overcome even death,
through the power of your transforming love
and the gift of new beginnings.
God of resurrecting power,
It is by Easter's light that we worship this day.
In that light, we dare to believe, to trust, to risk and to pray
in the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Amen.

Hymn 333 "Love Divine"

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Learning with Children

Have your feelings been so hurt that you cannot see what somebody is trying to explain to you?

Call to Reconciliation

Prayer of Confession

God of majesty and mercy,

**Even as we offer you our praise we confess
we often miss Easter's revealing light.**

**We forget the new beginnings Christ offers us
and cling to our old ways.**

Forgive us for failing to recognize Christ's presence with us.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, know that in Christ, you have been born anew through the power of the living God.

You are forgiven and set free by God's redeeming love. Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

Scripture Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 (VU 836); Luke 24:13-35

How can I re - pay you, God, for all the
 good - ness you show to me?

Refrain

How can I repay you, God, for all the goodness you show to me?

I love you, God, because you heard my voice when I made supplication,
Because you turned your ear to me, when I called upon your name.

The cords of death entangled me, and the pangs of the Grave laid hold on me;

I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called upon the name of God:

“O God, I pray, save my life.”

Refrain

How can I repay you, God, for all the goodness you show to me?

How can I repay you, God, for all the good things you have done for me?

I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of God.

I will pay my vows in the presence of all God's people.

Refrain

How can I repay you, God, for all the goodness you show to me?

Precious in the sight of God is the death of the saints.

O God, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your maidservant.

You have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

and will call upon the name of God.

I will pay my vows to God ;in the presence of all God's people.

in the courts of the house of God, in your midst, O Jerusalem.

Refrain

How can I repay you, God, for all the goodness you show to me?

Luke 24:13-35 (NRSV)

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.

Hymn 184 "As We Walked Home At Close of Day" (tune 440)

As we walked home at close of day, a stranger joined us on our way.
He heard us speak of one who'd gone, and when we stopped, he carried on.

“Why wander further without light? Please stay with us this troubled night. We’ve shared the truth of how we feel and now would like to share a meal.”

We sat to eat our simple spread, then watched the stranger take the bread; and, as he said the blessing prayer, we knew that someone else was there.

No stranger he; it was our eyes which failed to see, in stranger’s guise, the Lord who, risen from the dead, met us when ready to be fed.

Hallelujah! As Mary and our sisters said, the Lord is risen from the dead!

Reflection Strangers on the Road

It is common in our approach to the ancient texts of the Hebrew and Christian Scripture to hesitate in our embrace because many of the stories and circumstances described seem dark or violent. We are not used to this, we do not want to be used to this. We want no part of it.

So we view the text from our perspective of peace and plenty. Medical miracles have become commonplace, polio and tuberculous once feared have become alien in our own age. Conflicts in which our country becomes engaged from time to time are preferably in the context of Peacekeeping or on a scale that our Navy, Army, Airforce or Special Forces folk may deploy in numbers far fewer than a National Mobilization. So elements of our Land Forces may be at war but our country remains at peace. Acts of violence that involve a whole community are tragic but mostly remote. News from a land much different than our own.

For the past month pestilence is much closer to us than our generation would have ever expected. This past week has brought into view an act of mass violence and wilful murder not only in our land but in one of those kinds of communities that folk seek out specifically because they desire

scenes of deer grazing by the river, sunsets on the Bay, unlocked doors, potato salad and conversations about nothing in particular.

Circumstances that seem dark or even violent, are not alien to us today. So, what does the Scripture say to us today?

*“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.**”*

“but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.”

In most of our lifetimes, the interpretation of this text might include a judgement of doubt on the part of the disciples on the Emmaus road. We might say that they were quick to flee and disbelieve. We judge reactions based upon our perspective of peace and plenty.

However, in today’s context is, ***“but their eyes were kept from recognizing him”*** so alien? Can we be more sympathetic when hearing, ***“but their eyes were kept from recognizing him”***?

For the past few Sundays, illustrations have been drawn from the grocery store. Why is that? It is the only place many of us go ... and that infrequently. We see people from 2 meters away. The official narrative has moved away from Social Distancing to Physical Distance. While Physical Distancing is the preferred term, it seems that Social Distancing is the reality. We can still smile from 2 meters away, but it seems that fewer people do. Our engagements are not only distant but awkward. Last week while walking the dog Lorraine and I met another couple whom we know. We said, “Hello” and engaged in brief conversation that was so awkward that if you were a witness to it, you would conclude that we did not know each other or if we did there was some form of animosity between us that we were Physically and Socially Distant and Socially Awkward. We are intentionally cautious around each other. The context of caution caused us to act as if we were strangers.

Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.”

Jesus and the two disciples met and walked together in a context of caution, conflict and confusion. The disciples did not know if the next person they met on the road was somebody to be feared. Of course “*their eyes were kept from recognizing him.*” Of course they did not recognize Jesus. This is what the context of caution, conflict and confusion does.

For the people of Portapique,
Wentworth, Debert, Masstown, Shubenacadie, Enfield
Folk who lived in and trusted
the quiet and comfort of Nova Scotia,
the peace of our country Canada ...

The world has become stranger still. And because of COVID-19 it is difficult for them or us to break through and to be a familiar presence that brings comfort.

“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.”

This Easter Season, we know this feeling better. We can view the disciples on the Emmaus road with much greater sympathy and understanding. We can do so because this Easter Season, **we are the disciples on the road. Our Sisters and Brothers in Portapique, Wentworth, Debert, Masstown, Shubenacadie, Enfield; folk who lived in and trusted the quiet and comfort of Nova Scotia, the peace of our country Canada are the disciples on the road.**

Knowing where you are in a story and with whom you walk brings a certain amount of comfort simply in knowing that you are not alone.

However, this road that carries the disciples from Jerusalem to Emmaus also carries them back to Jerusalem. This and something more -

“...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...”*

*“**whose name was Cleopas**”* Names are important, especially when they are specifically mentioned in ancient texts. The name **Cleopas** was a boy's name meaning *“glory to the father.”*

This story in which we find ourselves during these difficult times does not leave us in the context of caution, conflict and confusion. There is embedded in it the expectation, the certainty that the glory of God will return to what was for the Jews a Holy City, the place with the Glory of God resided. Embedded in this story are the seeds of hope, restoration and return. In these days, even while it was difficult for the disciple to recognize Jesus his name was still *“**Glory to the Father.**”* That name, that hope, that certainty remained as part of the story all along.

This Easter Season for us parallels what Easter really is. It is not a fully realized revelation at an empty Tomb on the third day. It is progressive, it is awkward, it is cautious, it is confusing, it is the gradual unveiling of a promise of return and restoration.

We will not always be awkward in a grocery store or even among friends on the road. Our community, our neighbourhoods, our once familiar places will be familiar again. Our hopes will return. The road from Jerusalem to Emmaus also leads from Emmaus to Jerusalem.

For our Brothers and Sisters in Portapique, Wentworth, Debert, Masstown, Shubenacadie, Enfield; folk who lived in and trusted the quiet and comfort of Nova Scotia, the peace of our country Canada ... It is too soon to fling a glib *“**Glory to the Father.**”* It may be too soon for talk of restoration and return.

It is not too soon to walk along the road with them. To meet them on that difficult path with prayer. To lift them up to hold an expectation on their behalf, that the idyllic place they knew, the calming tidal marsh, the sound of waves grinding the gravel beach, deer grazing by the river, sunsets on the Bay, unlocked doors, potato salad and conversations about nothing in particular; will one day return.

This is the story of the Emmaus road. This is our story this Easter Season.

Hymn 747 "The Lord Is My Shepherd"

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not
want;

he makes me down to lie
in pastures green; he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My table thou hast furnished
in presence of my foes;

my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

My soul he doth restore again,
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for his own name's sake.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me;
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Yea, though I walk through death's
dark vale,

yet will I fear none ill,
for thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

**We Respond to God's Word
Offering Ourselves
For The Work And Witness Of The Church**

Invitation to Offering

Our lives overflow with blessing and goodness, gifts which come from God. Out of the bounty of our lives, let us present to God our gifts and offerings with overflowing thankfulness.

Trinity Needs Your Help

During these trying times, Trinity's life and work continues in many ways. While our Sunday services and many other things in our lives are on hold until further notice, and our building is closed, our staff and members are still active and operational costs continue.

There will be no opportunity for the regular collection of offerings each week, so Trinity needs you to share your gifts in a different way. We have 4 options:

1. Please visit the www.trinityunitedsf.ca and use the "DONATE" button. It takes you to CanadaHelps.org where you can make a safe and secure, one time or monthly donation as often as you want.
2. This may also be a good time to start using Pre-authorized Payments. The form for that is attached to this post and can be printed off and mailed to the church office at 41 Market Street / PO Box 28, Smiths Falls, K7A 2E7
3. We have also set up an e-transfer account to accept your donation. Please use secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca . Password not required. Please note your envelope number and amount allocated to general church expenses, M&S. and/or capital projects.
4. Of course you can always mail a donation to the church office at 41/ PO Box 28 Market Street, Smiths Falls, ON K7A 2E7

If you require assistance or have any questions about making donations, please do not hesitate to contact the church office at 613-283-4444 or by email at secretary@trinityunitedsf.ca.

Thank you.

***Offering Prayer**

Generous God, you bless us with life, purpose, and opportunities to serve in the world you love. We offer you our gifts in Christ's name, not seeking greater gain, but desiring to enrich life around with your love. Amen.

Prayers of the People

God our Maker,

You have walked the Emmaus Road with your faithful people in many generations,

people facing challenge and uncertainty,
people seeking your purpose and promise.

Thank you for your faithfulness to us in all situations.

Walk with us and with those for whom we pray for this day,
that your grace and mercy may sustain our faith and hope.

We pray for children and young people

who must think about the future in uncertain times.

Give them hope rooted in the knowledge that their lives matter to you.

Show them how to make a difference in the world,

whatever threats and challenges they face as they grow.

We pray for people for whom age or experience, illness or disability create barriers to full participation in your world.

Give each one a sense of dignity and purpose.

Show them where their gifts are needed and how much they matter to you.

We pray for communities challenged by forces beyond their control:
the pandemic, the economic crisis it is creating, political strife.

We pray for our Sisters and Brothers in Nova Scotia who live with the fresh wounds of senseless violence.

Give courage to those facing these crises day by day

and wisdom to those who lead us through them

so that wellbeing may be restored and hope for the future prevail.

We pray for our congregation, for our life together and our future in mission.

In a time when we cannot gather in person,
sustain our fellowship and strengthen our prayers for one another

so that you will find us faithful on our journey into that future.

And we pray for the wellbeing of those lives linked to ours
who bring us both joy and heartache
because they matter so much to us and to you...

For the people of Portapique,
Wentworth, Debert, Masstown, Shubenacadie, Enfield
Folk who lived in and trusted
the quiet and comfort of Nova Scotia,
the peace of our country Canada

neighbours and communities,
grieving today,

We pray.

For the victims of the shooting,
22 friends, neighbours, family members,

We pray.

For their pain and their loss,
for their shock and confusion,
for all that has happened because of
this violence,

We pray your grace,
your compassion,
your strong presence,
your overwhelming love,
God of all creation.

In Jesus' name...

We pray your Grace as we remember -

Constable Heidi Stevenson
Lisa McCully
Sean McLeod and Alanna Jenkins
Emily Tuck, Jolene Oliver, Aaron Tuck
Jamie and Greg Blair
Corrie Ellison
Gina Goulet
Tom Bagley
Kristen Beaton
Joey Webber
John Joseph Zahl and Elizabeth Joanne Thomas
Lillian Hyslop
Dawn Madsen and Frank Gulenchyn
Heather O'Brien
Joy and Peter Bond

God our Maker, hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken,
and use us in ways we may not yet even imagine to respond to
those around us
with the love and mercy we see in Jesus Christ
who taught us to pray in these words...

Prayers conclude with:

We experience God in a relationship from which we draw strength, courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer; Father, Mother, Friend; may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

The 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever
Amen

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn MV 214 "May God's Sheltering Wings"

May God's sheltering wings, her* gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms, her* cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her* love,
and hold you in her* love.

Benediction

The stone has been rolled away!

We will go to share this good news!

Jesus walks with us on our journey.

We will go with him wherever the road takes us.

Jesus has opened our eyes.

We will go to serve everyone we see.

Choral Amen

Postlude