

The Congregational Church  
of Westminster West  
A United Church of Christ  
April 27, 2025  
Second Sunday in Easter



*Cena in Emmaus (Supper at Emmaus), by Caravaggio, 1601*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: We Take This Moment      Steve Garnaas-Holmes

Tune: The Water is Wide

We take this moment, Christ, with you:  
for crucified and raised anew  
you walk with us in all our pain.  
Our hearts cry out for you again.

We bless this moment: it is dear,  
for, hidden, you are with us here.  
Our hearts reach out to touch your hand,  
though we don't always understand.

We break this moment open wide  
and find your presence at our side.  
Your warm light rises from within;  
new life is waiting to begin.

We give this moment, God, to you:  
that in our living you shine through,  
that we may wonder, serve and bless,  
that you may rise, O Christ, in us.

\*Call to Worship:

Leader: The road was sandy. Our feet were tired.

**People: We talked about many things. We just wanted to get home.**

Leader: We missed Jesus.

**People: We were scared. We hoped it was true.**

Leader: We did not know what to believe.

**People: We did not notice the face of the one who walked beside us.**

Leader: But our hearts burned...

**People: We invited the stranger: Stay with us.**

Hymn # 230: *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

Come, you faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness!  
God has brought all Israel  
into joy from sadness,  
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters,  
led them with unmoistened foot  
through the Red Sea waters.

Spring has dawned on earth today;  
Christ has burst from prison,  
and from three days' sleep in death  
as the sun hath risen;  
all the winter of our sins,  
long and dark, is flying  
from the Light, to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.

Now the joyous season, bright  
with the day of splendor,  
with the royal feast of feasts,  
comes its joy to render;  
comes to glad Jerusalem

who with true affection  
welcomes in unwearied strains  
Jesus' resurrection!

Neither might the gates of death,  
Not the tomb's dim portal,  
Not the watchers, nor the seal  
Hold you as a mortal;  
But today amid the twelve,  
You still stand, bestowing  
Peace and joy which evermore  
Passes human knowing.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Holy God, we confess our slowness of heart.  
We have failed to see you in our brothers and sisters,  
We have failed to serve you in meeting the needs of our  
neighbors,  
We have failed to give our hearts to you.  
Holy God, we are selfish, scared, and often numb to the  
beauty of the world, and the potential for grace that is  
around us and within us.  
Awaken us today, to all that becomes possible, because  
you live... Amen

Assurance of Pardon

*\*Gloria #236 Halleluja*

Prayers of the People

L: May the Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

Joys and Concerns

Silence

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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 let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

*\*Hymn # 255: Jesus, Sovereign, Savior*

Jesus, Sovereign, Savior, once for sinners slain,  
Crucified in weakness, raised in power to reign,  
Dwelling now immortal, endless in your days,  
Unto you be glory, honor, blessing, praise.

Faithful ones communing toward the close of day,

Desolate and weary, met you on the way.  
So, when sun is setting, come to us and show  
Your truth and within us make our hearts to glow.

In the upper chamber, followers, in fear,  
Gathered sad and troubled, there you did appear.  
Christ, be present with us, bid our sorrows cease;  
Breathing on us, Savior, say, "I give you peace."

Scripture: Psalm 30 (p. 639, responsive)  
Luke 24:13-25

Message: Hearts Broken and Hearts Afire

Offertory #448: *Take My Life, God, Let It Be*

Take my life, God, let it be  
consecrated faithfully,  
Take my moments and my days,  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my spirit, let it move  
at the impulse of your love.  
Take my intellect and use  
all its powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done!  
Make your will and mine be one.

Take my heart, and by your grace,  
make of it your dwelling place.

Take my love and help it grow;  
let my loving overflow.

Take me now, and help me be,  
part of Christ's community.

**\*Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God for all that Love has done.  
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Hymn # 243: *Alleluia! Alleluia Hearts to Heaven*

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Hearts to heaven and voices raise;  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
sing to God a hymn of praise.  
Jesus on the cross as Savior  
For the world's salvation bled;  
But the crucified Redeemer  
Now is risen from the dead!

Now the iron bars are broken,  
Christ from death to life is born;  
Glorious life, and life immortal  
On this Easter morn;  
Christ has triumphed and we conquer  
By God's liberating deed;  
Now the Christ with us abiding  
To eternal life shall lead.

Christ is risen, we are risen;  
Shed upon us heavenly grace,  
Rain and dew, and gleams of glory  
From the brightness of your face;  
That we, with our hearts in heaven,  
Here on earth may fruitful be,  
And by angel hands be gathered,  
And be yours eternally.

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glory to the God of joy;  
Alleluia to the Savior  
Who came death's bonds to destroy;  
Alleluia to the Spirit,  
Fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
To the Triune Majesty.

## Benediction

Postlude: *You Are the Nerve*

Steve Garnaas-Holmes

O God, your Christ is risen in your people.  
On earth Christ has no body now but ours.  
We are the flesh and blood of your compassion:  
moved by your Spirit, with its loving powers.  
God be our heart, and we will be your Body,  
serving in love in all our days and hours.

We are your feet, that go with joy to others  
to share your love, the gospel we confess.  
We are your eyes that see what is and may be,  
that see each person's need and loveliness.  
We are your hands, that work with strength for justice,  
your hands that shelter, heal and feed and bless.

Love, move in me, and guide me by your Spirit,  
even when I don't see or understand.  
My life is yours, to be your living Body,  
that I may love and serve at your command.  
This is my life, my purpose and my power:  
you are the nerve, and I your willing hand.

\*indicates that all who are able shall stand

**We won't have coffee hour this week, because of the time needed to set-up for Tom Goldschmid's memorial service, today at 1:00 pm.**



*Der Gang nach Emmaus (Road to Emmaus), by Fritz von Uhde, 1891*

### **Church and Community Notes**

As we prepare through our search and call process for the start of our time together with the Rev. Kurt Schaffer, we will not be able to offer office hours as usual, but the Deacons (Karen Blanchard, Charlotte Gifford, Ray Huessy, Adrienne Major, and Sue Venman) are available to support the congregation. You can leave a message on the church number (802-387-1175) or you can contact a deacon directly. In case of pastoral emergency, a deacon will call on the Rev. Shawn Bracebridge (pastor of the Dummerston

UCC), and help a person in need get in contact with him. For all questions of church building use, please contact Tom Griffith.

### **Upcoming Events:**

May 4: David Mulholland, Holy Communion

May 11: Guy Payne

May 18: Jenny Holan

May 25: Ray Huessy

### **Worship Participants:**

Musician: all of us, *a cappella!*

Deacon on Duty: Ray Huessy

Tech: Sue Venman

Trustees: Guy Payne, Chair

Service leader: Charlotte Gifford

Ministers to the World: The Congregation

### **Credits:**

Poems by the Rev. Steve Garnaas-Holmes,  
[unfoldinglight.net](http://unfoldinglight.net)

Prayers by the Rev. Martha Beckwith Peck,  
[WorshipWell.church](http://WorshipWell.church)

Pastoral Prayer by Valerie Showalter

Offertory Sentences by Carol Penner

Benediction by the Rev. Howard Carter