

## **Worship @ Home Guide – April 18, 2021 Easter 3**

**Woodstock Presbyterian Church, 142 E. Court St., Woodstock, VA 22664**

### **RECONNECT**

#### **Welcome & Call to Worship** (Psalm 4)

God has been gracious to us and heard our prayers.

**God has put gladness in our hearts.**

We shall live in peace;

**for God alone is our dwelling place.**

**Hymn – “Thine Be the Glory”** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTXUsKFecJs>

#### **Prayers of the People**

God of grace, our journeys have taken many twists and turns. To be sure, we have not traveled on the same roads. Some of us have taken the main road, others have taken the back road and a lot of us have gotten stuck on the road. But our risen Lord has journeyed in our midst unbeknownst to us. He has journeyed in the stranger that we didn't recognize — the one who asked us many questions about our faith; questions that challenged us to grow deeper. Then as we got to know the stranger, we were awakened to the fact that they were the risen Christ in our midst and our eyes were opened. Help us, O God, to be ever attentive to welcoming the stranger who invites us along the road less traveled — the road of love, justice-seeking and peace.

Liberating God, in our post-Easter journeys we are reminded that you saw, knew and experienced the suffering of enslaved Hebrews in Egypt and you summoned Moses to liberate your people. We are also reminded of Isaiah's poetry about the servant who suffered unjustly, but whose suffering awakened the pursuit of justice. Through these stories we see the crucified and risen Christ who enters into our enslavements of the world in order to bring liberation and awaken people to the way of justice.

God of resurrection, in our post-Easter journeys we have encountered Christ when we have extended and received hospitality amid the crises of the pandemic, the racial reckoning and ongoing economic disparity. We've also encountered Christ when white privilege has been challenged and new ways of being your community have emerged. Empower us to become your beloved community and enable us to welcome the stranger to the table so that we can break bread together.

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

We ask all these things in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying, **Our Father...**

### **READ**

**Scripture Reading**      **Psalm 4**

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?  
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?
- <sup>3</sup> But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;  
the LORD hears when I call to him.
- <sup>4</sup> When you are disturbed,<sup>[a]</sup> do not sin;  
ponder it on your beds, and be silent.
- <sup>5</sup> Offer right sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the LORD.
- <sup>6</sup> There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!  
Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"
- <sup>7</sup> You have put gladness in my heart  
more than when their grain and wine abound.
- <sup>8</sup> I will both lie down and sleep in peace;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

### **Scripture Reading      Luke 24: 36-48**

<sup>36</sup> While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."<sup>[b]</sup> <sup>37</sup> They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> 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." <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>41</sup> While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> 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." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah<sup>[d]</sup> is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses<sup>[e]</sup> of these things.

### **REFLECT**

## **Message                    “Layers of Grief, Layers of Belief”**

*Consider times in your life when you have needed to be told something multiple times, perhaps by multiple people, to believe it was true. Reflect on how this was true for the disciples and friends of Jesus, both the believe his death and resurrection. How is this still the case for those of us who bear witness to the miracle of Christ?*

## **RESPOND**

### **Affirmation of Faith – Apostles’ Creed**

#### **Offering**

*God has given us the gift of our lives and the resources for living.*

*Most important of all, God’s grace sustains us in life, death and everywhere in between.*

*Let us celebrate God’s life-giving presence by bringing our gifts in joyful response to the many gifts that we have been given.*

#### **Musical Reflection – ‘Lord I Lift Your Name on High’**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F1hQd3ZcBrE&list=PL1pBegkuswY7WiRiDoCu3Bxa7LpGokQCC&index=2>

### **Prayer of Dedication**

**O God, giver of all good gifts, these gifts are a symbol of our lives dedicated to you and your ministry in our midst. May we be ministers of your peace, love and justice in our community and our world.**

## **RETURN**

### **Charge & Benediction**

*(Colossians 3:12-14)*

**As God’s own, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness and patience, forgiving one another as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn- “O Christ, Your Friends Were Gathered”**

Tune: AURELIA ("The Church's One Foundation")

*O Christ, your friends were gathered together in a room.  
They'd heard the women's stories about your empty tomb.  
Some talked about Emmaus—they'd seen you breaking bread.  
Some claimed that you were risen; some thought you still were dead.*

*You met your friends and showed them your wounded hands and side,  
For you were Jesus risen and Jesus crucified.  
You showed them God had triumphed and God had suffered pain.  
And in that intersection, you made them whole again.*

*You meet us in the places where all seems doomed or lost—  
Where people face oppression, where children pay the cost,  
Where poor ones cry in hunger, where illness takes its toll:  
You meet us, suffering Savior, and make the wounded whole.*

*O Christ, your resurrection gives hope and life anew.  
And yet your wounds and anguish give peace and promise, too.  
For you've been there before us! Now send us out to be  
A church that bears your suffering and claims your victory.*

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