



*An Open & Affirming, A2A-Accessible to All  
Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

19 April 2026 – 10:30 AM  
**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**\*indicates the congregation is invited to stand.  
Please feel free to remain seated if you prefer.**

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PRELUDE Vlada Volkova Moran, organist

WELCOME The Rev. David Pattee, pastor

\*GATHERING SONG "Jubilate, servite" Songs & Prayers from Taizé

**Raise a song of gladness, peoples of the earth.  
Christ has come, bringing peace, joy to ev'ry heart.  
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!  
Alleluia, alleluia, joy to ev'ry heart!**

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Mary Coneway, liturgist

One: Sometimes we don't see the good that's right in front of us.

**All: Expectation of the worst can make us blind to the best.**

One: Open your eyes this day to see the goodness of the Lord.

**All: Open our hearts, gracious God, to receive your blessings.**

One: Alleluia!

**All: Alleluia!**

\*HYMN [hymn sheet] *Open My Eyes, That I May See* OPEN MY EYES

\*GREETING OF PEACE

WORD MADE PLAIN children are invited to gather at the front of the sanctuary Joliene Gatlin

CHILDREN'S BLESSING

One: May the peace of God surround you,

**All: Like the trees towering in the forest!**

One: May the peace of God warm you all over,

**All: Like the sun shining in the sky!**

One: May the peace of God rise and roll over you,

**All: Like the waves rolling in the sea!**

One: May the peace of God fill you,

**All: Like the wind stirring in your soul!**

One: May the peace of God surround you!

**All: [singing] Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen... [repeating]**

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?'

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.

MEDITATION

*Stay With Us*

Egil Hovland

CHANCEL CHOIR • Cheryl Anderson, director

SERMON

*The Stranger the Better*

Pastor Dave

RESPONSE 581 [seated]

WORLD PEACE PRAYER

**Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,  
from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;  
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world, let peace fill our universe.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

concluding with *A Prayer in the Spirit of Jesus*

**Earth-Maker, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer, Source of all that is and all that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all, Loving God in whom is Heaven:  
May the hallowing of your name echo through the universe.  
May your Heavenly will be done by all creatures great and small.  
And may your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.  
With the bread we need this day, feed us. For the hurt we inflict on one another, forgive us.  
Through times of temptation, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is Love.**

OFFERTORY

Invitation

Offertory Music

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

arr. Milburn Price

\*COVENANT

**We covenant with God and with each other:  
to walk together in all God's ways as the Holy is revealed to us;  
to give ourselves freely and without reserve to Jesus' ministry in this church;  
to celebrate through worship God's amazing gifts of unity and diversity;  
to take up Christ's mission around the world, striving for justice and peace;  
to care for the earth and all her creatures, reconciling ourselves to them in love;  
for God gives immeasurable grace into all life and every life.**

\*HYMN 471 [hymn sheet]

*What a Covenant*

LEANING

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

## Open My Eyes, That I May See

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1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou  
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou  
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth,

hast for me; place in my hands the won - der - ful key  
 send - est clear; and while the wave - notes fall on my ear,  
 ev - ery - where; o - pen my heart and let me pre - pare

*Refrain*

that shall un - clasp and set me free.  
 ev - ery - thing false will dis - ap - pear. Si - lent - ly now I  
 love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see.

O - pen my eyes,  
 O - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 O - pen my heart,

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a \*cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -  
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing  
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from  
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

\*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms." Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain  
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887