April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35

First Presbyterian Church of Sandpoint, Idaho

Andrew Kennaly, Pastor

Annie Welle, Pianist

Start the Camera, then OPENING MUSIC

RING THE BELL, WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS

CALL TO WORSHIP

First Presbyterian Church, three Sundays ago, celebrated Easter, proclaiming that Christ is Risen, Christ is Risen indeed! As Presbyterians, we are situated in the Protestant stream of the Western branch of global Christianity. Last Sunday, the Eastern branch celebrated Easter, as the Orthodox traditions follow their calendar and traditions. Even though the Western and the Eastern branches of the global Church have slightly different calendars and variations to observances, one thing is clear. The entire Christian Church is united, across traditions, calendars, theologies, doctrines, and dogmas; held together by the more fascinating and foundational Presence of the Living Christ in our midst. The Love of God relativizes limited expressions or attempts at domestication. As the larger Church responds to God’s goodness, it is through diversity. A variety of expressions at multiple levels of awareness, perception, and experience give voice to God’s creative power, in Christ. This larger, more inclusive, Unitive Presence of Christ saves us from our own opinions, differences that divide, and feelings of superiority or separateness. We are invited to the renewing of our mind, the expansion of our heart’s highest qualities, and the gift of deeper Wisdom. The Resurrected Christ changes everything for the entire world. The Christian Church is united with all other creatures, in Christ. As we worship God together, may our awareness grow as we live the experience of a world held, loved, and transformed through the resurrection power of God’s grace. Let us worship God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, as we journey on the road of discipleship, following Jesus, we know he leads on a path of descent, embracing humility even into suffering. The Easter journey is through the cross, the grave, the deepest part of the night just prior to the dawn. We are invited to this path, learning the art of letting go, releasing our desires for power and control, manipulating for certain outcomes. Help us remember that those who lose their life shall find it, and nothing in all creation is able to separate us from your love, in Christ. Expand the vision of our heart to see life’s essence glowing all around us, even as your love burns within us.

As we come alongside disciples, apostles, saints and sages, help us take our essential place in the great cloud of witnesses beyond all time and space as we share the burden of sin and the weight of glory through the power of your Holy Spirit, releasing us into your peace which is beyond understanding. On this Sunday in the season of Easter, forgive our slowness of heart to trust your promises, and help us recognize and trust your living Presence among us. Amen.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

(And also with you). Thanks be to God!

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 24:13-35

WORDS OF WITNESS Walking for Heart Health

OFFERING

INTRO: Financial giving can be sent to 417 N. Fourth Ave, or online at the church website: [www.fpcsandpoint.org](http://www.fpcsandpoint.org) Thank you for your support of the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

PRAYER: Shall we pray? As Jesus comes alongside us in our journey of life, inviting us to follow, you give us the blessing of Presence and the abundance of your unending love. As we receive these blessings, we give you thanks, and may these offerings help share your love in the world. Holy God, bless the giving and the receiving of these, your gifts. Through Christ, we pray. Amen.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Watch for the many ways Jesus shows up in your life, whether in struggle or times of joy. Open your hearts to receive this Presence. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, go and see the Living Christ as we are called and sent to love and serve the Lord. Amen.

CLOSING MUSIC, then shut off the camera.

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 26, 2020 Year A, Revised Common Lectionary

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish. Then I called on the name of the LORD "O LORD, I pray, save my life!” What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones. O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

1 Peter 1:17-23 If you invoke as Father the one who judges all people impartially according to their deeds, live in reverent fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world, but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are set on God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual love, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

Luke 24:13-35 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.