

April 19, 2026
3rd Sunday of Easter
Were Our Hearts Not Burning?

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All people: Holy and living God, you gather us as people on the way - people who do not always see clearly yet are drawn by your presence. Be known among us this day. As we worship, open our eyes to recognize Christ - in the sharing and hearing of your Word, in the presence of one another. Quiet our distractions. Steady our hearts. Deepen our listening. And as you are revealed to us, shape us into a people who respond - with faith, with courage, and with love. We come not because we have it all figured out, but because you have already come to us. Meet us here, we pray. Amen.

PRELUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We gather as people on the road -
walking through questions,
carrying what we do not yet understand.

Congregation: We come, not always knowing, but willing to walk.

Pastor: The risen Christ meets us in ordinary places -
in conversation, in community, at the table.

Congregation: We come, trusting Christ is already near.

Pastor: Our eyes may not see clearly at first -
but our hearts are being formed along the way.

Congregation: We come, open to recognition and renewal.

Pastor: Let us worship the God who walks with us.

All: Let us worship with hope and trust.

HYMN

Open My Eyes That I May See

Blue Hymnal #586

CALL TO CONFESSION

Pastor: The scripture story we will hear in just a little while is about two people walking on a road to a place called Emmaus. It reminds us that it is possible to walk with Christ and not yet recognize him. Not because Christ is absent - but because fear, grief, distraction, and expectation can cloud our vision. Trusting in God's mercy, let us bring our honest selves before the One who meets us on the road.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All people: Gracious and patient God, you draw near to us in ways we do not always recognize. You walk beside us in ordinary moments - in conversations, in interruptions, in quiet invitations - and still, we miss you. We confess that we are often distracted by our worries, preoccupied with our own expectations, and quick to assume we already understand what is happening. We cling to what we hoped would be, and struggle to see what you are doing now. We confess that we do not always listen deeply - to you or to one another. We rush past sacred moments. We overlook the holy in the ordinary. and when clarity comes - we hesitate. We hold back. We question whether we are ready to respond. Forgive us, O God. Slow us down. Open our eyes. Soften our hearts. Help us to recognize Christ in our midst - and to follow where he leads. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Christ does not wait for perfect understanding before drawing near. Christ meets us in our confusion, walks with us in our questioning, and stays with us until our eyes are opened. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, restored, and invited again into the unfolding work of God's love.

All people: Thanks be to God. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI

Blue Hymnal #35

JESUS SAID, "LET THE CHILDREN COME"

HYMN

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

Blue Hymnal 589

EPISTLE READING

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:13-35

SERMON

Were Our Hearts Not Burning?

Rev. Laura C. Baker

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM

Exultate Jubilate (Young)

Chancel Choir

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: The disciples did not recognize Jesus at first - but when they did, they did not stay where they were. They turned. They went back. They shared what they had seen and experienced. Our giving is one way we participate in that same movement - from receiving to responding, from recognition to witness. Let us stand to offer our gifts with gratitude and purpose – with a song and prayer.

DOXOLOGY

We Give Thee (Verse 1)

Blue Hymnal #382

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: Generous God, you meet us in ordinary moments and call us into extraordinary grace. Bless these gifts and the lives they represent, that they may be used to bring light, hope, and love into a world still longing to see clearly. Amen.

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Blue Hymnal #595

BENEDICTION

Pastor: Friends, you may not always recognize Christ right away—but but that does not mean Christ is not with you.

Christ walks beside you
in every question,
in every conversation,
in every step along the road.

Go now -
not with all the answers,
but with open eyes and willing hearts.

And when your heart begins to burn within you -
when love stirs,
when truth becomes clear -
do not be afraid to turn,
to go,
and to share what you have seen.

Go in peace,
and in the presence of the risen Christ.

All people:

Amen.

POSTLUDE

Mr. Kevin Crone