

A Time Apart Worship
Rutland United Methodist Church
Third Sunday of Easter - April 18, 2021

OPENING MUSIC

The Way, The Truth, The Life

Ally Packard-Stoodley

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

In the name of Jesus Christ, welcome! Welcome to this time of worship. We are in the season of Easter, a season when we look for signs of the risen Christ in our midst and in our world. Like the disciples, we have our doubts, we long to actually see Jesus, to touch him, to receive assurances. We have gathered with the hope that Jesus might come into our midst as he did with the disciples. We have come with prayers that we might see Jesus and hear His words. We have come hoping that we might receive His guidance on how to live our lives with faith. We have come that our hearts might be touched by the presence of the Holy Spirit. May it be so. May it be so.

HYMN

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

#306

1 The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions has dispersed.
Let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

SHARING THE STORY OF FAITH

1 John 3:1-7

Craig Cota

UNISON PRAYER

Lord, the world we live in has a hard time believing. Seeing pain in our sisters and brothers, we struggle to bring our faith to bear on the world around us. Seeing injustices, we turn to you, asking you to guide us and help us bring justice to bear for all of creation. Seeing grief, we pray that hearts might be held in your comfort. Hold us, Lord. Hold us close to you so that we might be faithful disciples in this world. Amen.

MOMENTS OF QUIET MEDITATION

SGO

We are "show me" people,
Demanding proof to see and touch with eyes and ears.
Turn us inward, Lord,
May our hearts lead us to you and to renewed faith.

SUNG RESPONSE

Now the Green Blade Riseth

#311 (3)

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain, Jesus who for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen: Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

READING FROM THE WORD

Luke 24:36b-48

REFLECTION ON SCRIPTURE

Dealing with Doubt

Pastor Shirley Oskamp

~ Luke's gospel is an attempt to show the disciples (and us) that Jesus presence is real and tangible.
~ *How does our faith that is grounded in reality inspire us toward acts of mercy and compassion to our neighbors and around the world?*

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS – Tanya and Ben Derstine

(See Insert)

DEDICATION OF OUR GIFTS

Loving God, receive the gifts we offer. May they and we be put to use as you see fit. Use these hands of ours to reach out with care. Use our voices to bring hope and encouragement. Use our hearts to love as Jesus loves. In Jesus we pray, Amen.

HYMN

Christ Is Risen

#307

1 Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder, all creation stand amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

2 Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend;
Jesus is our strong companion— joy and peace shall never end.

3 Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus, "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing hosanna, ev'ry one!

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Go forth now, knowing that Jesus goes with you. He has shown us the way to live with faith and with courage. Go in the peace of Christ.

CLOSING MUSIC

Psalm 133

**Karen James
Handbell Solo**

Paraphrased as:

Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

REACHING OUT - During this time of worshiping at home, the work of the church continues. We are reaching out through phone, letter and internet, feeding hungry people and offering spiritual support to those in need of encouragement (which is really all of us). Thank you for continuing your faithful support of our church through your offering, which may be mailed to Rutland UMC at 60 Strongs Ave. Rutland, VT 05701

Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 1:00pm via ZOOM. Join us as we read and discuss the scriptures for the upcoming Sunday.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85438229806?pwd=bzlBMU5zNmNNMzJ6dlllQmVpUzhQZz09>

Dial in +1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 854 3822 9806 Passcode: 178551

Joy Choir rehearsals: Tuesdays at 6:00 pm. Contact Ann Reed or the Church office.

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Psalms 133 - By Kris Anthony - Copyright 1992 Jeffers Handbell Supply

The Way, The Truth, The Life

Our opening song was written and performed by our sister-in-Christ, Ally Packard-Stoodley. She writes about her inspiration for this song:

I chose this particular song in celebrating Jesus' resurrection - thinking some of us may be struggling even more so in this second Easter of pandemic with all kinds of trials. One moment of doubt led me to pray while at the piano and it was like Jesus joined me and this song was penned. After Jesus' disciples watched their teacher, friend, and Savior King- die alone-I could relate to what they must have felt and even what they needed- to see Jesus alive before ascending into heaven to prepare that place for us-and giving His Holy Spirit - "the helper" to help us live this life. I had no idea how to live a life of faith as a single mom, attending college, and barely enough money to pay our bills and I wanted to see Jesus in a real way showing me that life was going to be not just okay but truly possible. We all face uncertainty and have moments of doubt, but putting our faith in Jesus as Savior with power to overcome the grave, believing Him and all He said has not failed me yet! May you find peace and love in your relationship with Jesus-God's gift to us. Peace, Ally

