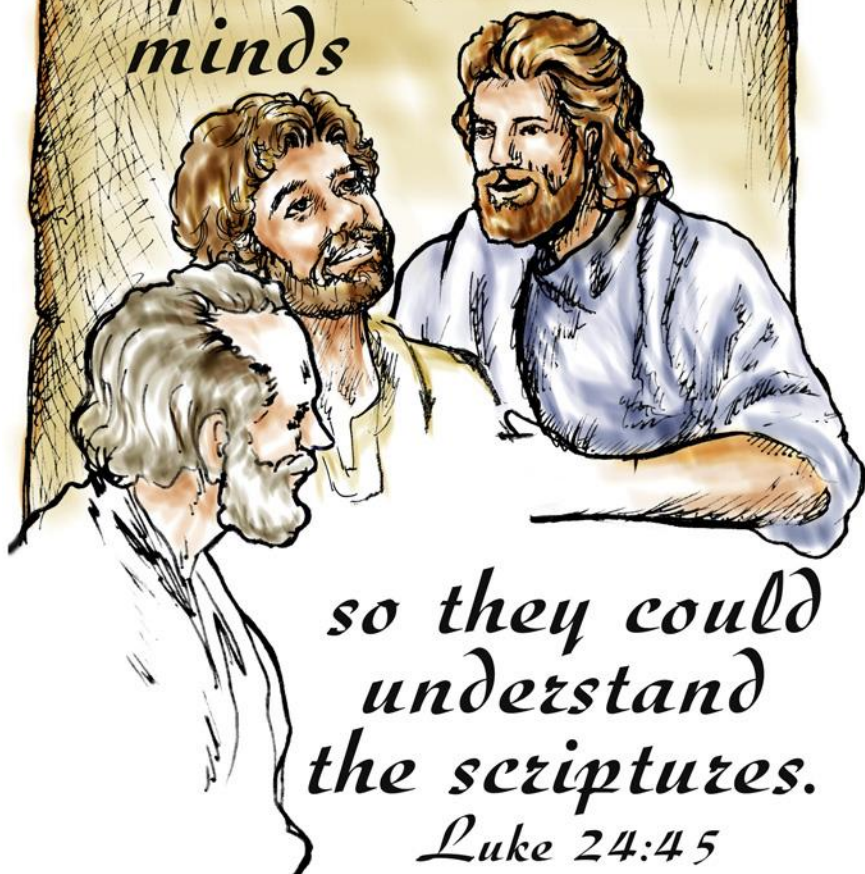


*Then he  
opened their  
minds*



*so they could  
understand  
the scriptures.*

*Luke 24:45*

**The Service for the Lord's Day**  
**Bethel Presbyterian Church Outdoor & Online**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**April 18, 2021 – 11:00 AM**

*Congregational responses indicated in bold.*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Call to Worship (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: The bread of life opens our eyes.

**P: The word of life opens our ears.**

L: The Risen One shows us God's own brokenness,

**P: and by those wounds we are healed.**

L: Peace be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

Prayer of Invocation

Let us pray:

Almighty God, your power makes the lame walk  
and the dead rise to new life.

We give you thanks for the love poured into our world  
through Jesus Christ,  
who opened our minds to understand what you have made,  
whose appearance among his followers brings peace,  
and who creates faith through touch and taste.

Show us Jesus, even now,  
through the mystery of your threefold presence,  
one God, abiding now and forever. Amen.

Hymn      **"ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! GIVE THANKS"**      ALLELUIA NO 1

*Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord,*  
*Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Give praise to his name.*  
*Je-sus is Lord of all the earth.*  
*He is the King of cre-a-tion.*

*Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord,*  
*Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Give praise to his name.*

*Spread the good news o'er all the earth:*

*Je-sus has died and has ris-en.*

*Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord,*

*Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Give praise to his name.*

*We have been cru-ci-fied with Christ.*

*Now we shall live for-ev-er.*

*Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord,*

*Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Give praise to his name.*

*Come let us praise the liv-ing God,*

*joy-ful-ly sing to our Sav-ior.*

*Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord,*

*Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia! Give praise to his name.*

#### Call to Confession

The One who calls us to repent, hears us.

In trust that our Creator knows us through and through,

let us open our hearts to the healing of God's forgiveness.

#### Prayer of Confession

**Good and gracious God, we are creatures of dust,**

**ignorant of your revelation,**

**misunderstanding your life, death,**

**and resurrection among us,**

**needing forgiveness.**

**We repent of our failures to give as you have given to us.**

**We beg your mercy for our fallen world.**

**We seek your Word, that we may live with the faith of Jesus.**

**Be our solace in this life and always.**

**We ask this as your own children, holy and incomplete.**

**Forgive us and lead us. Amen.**

#### Sung Response

**"LORD, HAVE MERCY"**

LAND OF REST

*Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy;*

*Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.*

*Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy;*

*Lord, have mer-cy up-on us.*

## Declaration of Forgiveness

God's promises are sure: your sins are forgiven. Peace be with you.

Sung Response

**"ALLELUIA!"**

CELTIC ALLELUIA

*Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

*Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!*

## Prayer for Illumination

Holy God, by your Spirit reveal your radical, surprising love;  
come to us through your holy Word,  
and let us hear what you are saying. Amen.

## Readings from Scripture

History Acts 3:12-19 (*Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico*)

Gospel Luke 24:36b-48 (*Jesus Appears to His Disciples*)

Sermon: "Disbelief and Wonder"

The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

## Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in God whose love is the source of all life  
and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face  
in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil  
that waits to enslave us all and whose love,  
defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.  
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,  
in God we trust; and, in the name of Jesus Christ,  
we commit ourselves, in the service of others,  
to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth  
and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness,  
to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power  
of the spirit of love, and in the company of the faithful  
so to be the church, for the glory of God. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

*With the words "Hear us, O God,"  
you are invited to respond: "your mercy is great"*

God has made the One who was rejected  
the cornerstone of a new community.

In the name of Christ Jesus,  
let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,  
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Holy One, as the risen Christ  
opened the minds of the disciples to understand the Scriptures  
and gave them power through the Holy Spirit  
to walk boldly in this world, open your people today  
to the healing, wisdom, and faith given in your Word;  
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Prince of Peace,  
as Christ Jesus showed his wounded hands and feet  
to the terrified apostles,  
reveal to your church, and to people of prayer in every faith,  
the wounds of our neighbors,  
the fears of individuals and families,  
and the avenues toward healing;  
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Author of life, we beg for peace among nations,  
peace throughout communities, peace within families.  
Guide leaders and voters, legislatures and parliaments,  
judges and juries.

Teach diplomacy and let our ways be formed  
so that all creatures, plants, and people may have plenty;  
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Light in our darkness,  
let your brightness burn in places shrouded in violence.  
Reveal the pains that are hidden in secret.  
Unveil the needs of our own hearts  
so that we may know the power of vulnerability.  
Your Son was raised to life even from the grave.  
Show us again that life comes from death;  
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Healer of our every ill, we pray for all who are in need,  
for refugees of war and all who are displaced by storms,  
for rescue workers and medical teams,  
for those whose bones are weary,  
for those who show us the power of community  
to give hope to the frightened,  
and for all who have asked for our prayers;  
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

You command us to bring to you our deepest desires, O God,  
and we pray now for those persons and concerns  
that lie on our hearts, spoken aloud or in silence. . . .

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God,  
we commend into your care all for whom we pray,  
and our own lives;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

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 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.**

Invitation to the Offering

As Jesus gave himself fully for us  
and then appeared to the disciples bringing peace,  
so let us now bring wholeness and healing to others  
through our tithes and gifts.

Prayer of Dedication

Lord God,  
we offer to you only a portion of what you have given us.  
All that we have is from your creative hand.  
All that we can give away we do through Jesus's love.  
All our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit's wisdom.  
Deal graciously with these gifts so that others may have joy;  
in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Christ is a-live! Let Chris-tians sing.  
The cross stands emp-ty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with prais-es ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall ne-ver die.*

*Christ is a-live! No lon-ger bound  
to dis-tant years in Pal-es-tine,  
but sav-ing, heal-ing, here and now,  
and touch-ing ev-ery place and time.*

*In ev-ery in-sult, rift and war  
where co-lor, scorn, or wealth di-vide,  
Christ suf-fers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where e-ven hope has died.*

*Wom-en and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spir-it, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
re-vealed in Je-sus, freed for all.*

*Christ is a-live, and comes to bring  
good news to this and ev-ery age,  
till earth and sky and o-cean ring  
with joy, with jus-tice, love and praise.*

## Benediction

The word of God assures us:

what we will be has not yet been revealed.

Live, therefore, with hope, share your joy, withhold your anger,  
shed your disappointments, turn to all people with gentleness.

The Lord bless and keep you,

shine upon you with grace and mercy,

and give you what is needed for each new day.

## Sung Response

“BE NOT AFRAID ”

*Be not a-fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!*

*Be not a-fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia!*

*(Repeat)*

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Wendy Neff

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING

Pianist: Judy Moyer

Song Leader: Dianne Griffith

Sound: Adam Badger

Video: Jake Horton

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“Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks”

Text: Donald Fishel, 1971

Music: Donald Fishel, 1971;

arr. Betty Pulkingham and Donald Fishel, 1979

Text & Music © 1973 International Liturgy Publications

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: American folk melody; arr. Richard Proulx, 1984

Music Arr. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

“Alleluia!”

Text: Trad. Liturgical text

Music: Fintan O’Carroll, 1981; harm. Christopher Walker, 1985

Music © 1985 Fintan O’Carroll and Christopher Walker

(Published by OCP)

“Christ Is Alive”

Text: Brian Ween, 1968; rev. 1995

Music: Musica Sacra, c. 1778

Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

“Be Not Afraid”

Text: Taizé Community, 1998

Music: Jacques Berthier, 1998

Text and Music © 1998 Les Presses de Taizé

(admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

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