



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ  
Order of Worship for 4/23/2023  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Prelude

Intermezzo

Brahms

**Welcome & Call to Worship**

*One: Come! Let us worship our God who listens to us...*

**All: Whatever language we speak!**

*One: Come! Let us worship our God who understands us...*

**All: Whatever story we live and share!**

*One: Come! Let us worship our God who loves us...*

**All: Just as we are!**

**\*Hymn of Celebration:**

“The Risen Christ”

Glory to God #257

**Invocation**

God of Surprises, God of Resurrection, God of Unity,  
We are still celebrating Easter!

AND we are still unsure about how to live out the message of resurrection.

May we open our hearts along with our eyes to the resurrected Jesus  
during this hour of worship and beyond,  
so that we might become your Easter People of today. Amen.

**Listening To the Sacred Text:**

Luke 24:13-35

**Listening for the Spirit in Silence**

*Word and words, O God. Help us to hear the One among the many.*

**Reflecting:**

“Unrecognizable”

**\*Hymn of Reflection:**

“We Live by Faith and Not by Sight”

NCH #256

## **Prayer for Transformation and New Life** (Unison)

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*Holy One of Heaven, maker of days and baker of bread that nourishes and brings delight, be with us in our famished disillusion. Like the ancient disciples on the road to Emmaus, we, too, have broken dreams and manifest disappointments. The life we envisioned has collapsed; the hopes that buoyed have sunk; the promises made have unraveled. And we walk the road of disappointment and regret. We confess that we fill ourselves with fretful, empty calories. We choke on the food of anxious toil. We spend ourselves in fruitless pursuits.*

*Be present among us again in the breaking of resurrecting bread. Restore to us the vision that recognizes your will and your Way. Feed us 'til we want no more, 'til our hearts grow stilled, 'til our minds become set on the things that make for peace, on the harvest of justice, on the storehouse of grace, on the banquet table of mercy. Coax us back to Jerusalem's turmoil, where Heaven contends with Earth's remorse, where the promise of forgiveness confronts the knots of enmity, where danger's threat is met with the Spirit's assurance that one day public good shall supplant private privilege, when the tyranny of might over right will end, when all tears will be dried and death itself comes undone. Amen.*

### **Invitation to Generosity**

**Offertory Music:** Abide With Me arr. Colman

**\*Doxology** (Tune: *Old Hundredth, New Century Hymnal #780*)

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God, all creatures here below.*

*Praise God for all that love has done.*

*Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

### **Announcements**

**\*Sending Song:** "The Day of Resurrection" NCH #245

### **\*Benediction**

**Postlude:** Playera (from "Andaluza Suite") Granados

**\* Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.**

### **Leading In Today's Service:**

Laura Martin, Director of Music      Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries

Betty Bodman, Usher                      CJ Wood, Liturgist

Jonathan Geer, Piano