



**NEWTON  
CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**  
God is still speaking,

**An Open and Affirming Congregation**

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,  
you are welcome here!*

**Virtual Worship • April 26, 2020 • 10:00am • Third Sunday of Easter**

**Digital Bulletin**

This document is prepared so you can join our Sunday morning live-stream worship via our Facebook page ([facebook.com/NewtonUCC](https://facebook.com/NewtonUCC)) or call in via Zoom (Dial 312-626-6799, when prompted enter Meeting ID: 624 681 423 followed by #) or worship on your own at a time convenient for you (visit our Facebook page or website—[uccnewton.org](http://uccnewton.org)).

We are new to online and streaming worship at Congregational UCC and still working on smoothing out a few “hiccups” and technical difficulties. Of course, there is nothing that compares to being physically present with one another in worship, and yet this is what we need to do to “love our neighbors” during the current national emergency.

We apologize in advance for any problems that you may encounter in connecting to the service and welcome your feedback on how to improve the virtual worship experience over the coming weeks when we will not be able to worship in our sanctuary.

**PREPARING FOR VIRTUAL WORSHIP**

As you prepare to join in online worship with us, in addition to making whatever technical preparations you need to make, consider how to prepare your personal space for worship:

- Silence your phone and eliminate distractions
- Light a candle or some incense
- Open your Bible or browser to Luke 24:13-35
- Position your body in a posture of worship and prayer

*After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing,  
then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them.  
With that their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus,  
who immediately vanished from their sight.*  
Luke 24:30-31

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### REMEMBERING WHO WE ARE

One: As we prepare ourselves to join together in worship,  
let us remind ourselves who we are  
as members and friends of Congregational United Church of Christ.

**All: We are a community of God's beloved  
dedicated to following the teachings of Jesus as we live our faith  
by loving and serving all of God's creation  
and striving for justice and peace  
throughout our community, our nation, and the world.**

## THE BREATH OF GOD

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

One: The earliest followers of Jesus witnessed  
their teacher, their leader, their brother  
crucified by those in places of power.

**All: The earliest followers of Jesus experienced  
their Savior, their Messiah, their Christ  
resurrected by the power of God.**

One: Though the gospels each tell their stories in different ways, one thing is clear:

**All: whatever happened following the crucifixion so many years ago,  
Jesus's followers saw him in a radically new way  
and their lives were forever changed.**

One: Holy One, we come seeking to meet Jesus anew and alive among us this day.

**All: Give us eyes to see him even as his earliest followers did  
so that we too will be encouraged and inspired  
to go wherever you lead and to do whatever you ask  
to support this life-altering reality.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, our crucified and risen savior. Amen.**

## OPENING HYMN 586

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Open My Eyes

*O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth though hast for me;  
place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and set me free.*

*Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.*

*O-pen my eyes, il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!*

*O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear;  
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, ev-ery-thing false will dis-ap-pear.  
Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
O-pen my ears, il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!*

*O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth ev-ery-where;  
o-pen my heart and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren thus to share.  
Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.  
O-pen my heart, il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!*

## CALL TO PRAYER

### PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND RECONCILIATION

One: Holy One, each day our hearts are wrenched  
by news of more disease and more death.  
Each day we are confronted by so-called public servants  
putting financial profits before the lives of living, breathing people.  
Each day, O God, we witness more and more of your beloved ones  
not just falling through but being pushed through the cracks of an unjust system.

**All: And, we are tired, God. Our spirits are at their breaking point.  
Our hope is all but gone. And we are tempted.**

One: We are tempted to believe  
that maybe this really is just the way things will always be.  
We are tempted to simply give in and go with the flow  
and trust that, in a next life, things will be set right.  
We are tempted to bury our heads in the sand, to hide under our blankets,  
to plug our ears and shut our eyes,  
to close ourselves off to all the hurt, the pain, the injustice in this world.

**All: Hear our deep sighs of lament, Great Comforter,  
and show up in the midst of our grieving.  
Hear our deep sighs of lament, Guiding Spirit,  
and show up in the midst of our confusion.  
Hear our deep sighs of lament, Resurrecting God,  
and show up in the midst of our despair.**

One: Walk with us, abide with us, and hold us in your embrace.  
But don't stop there, as if you would, but also wake us, teach us, and feed us.

**All: Restore our hope in the vision of the world you promise,  
offer us clarity of understanding and guide us on the way ahead,  
and raise us to life anew empowering us to proclaim in word and deed  
the ultimate power of your love. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

### SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

One: The peace of God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**HYMN***Lead Us from Death to Life*

World Peace Prayer

***Lead us from death to life, from false-hood to truth,  
from de-spair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace;  
let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,  
let peace fill our u-ni-verse.***

**A TIME WITH CHILDREN****SCRIPTURE***Luke 24:13-35***GLORIA PATRI**

Greatorex

***Glo-ry to the Cre-a-tor, the Christ, the Ho-ly Spir-it, Three-in-One;  
as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now and ever shall be,  
world with-out end. A-men. A-men.***

**SERMON***Recognizing Jesus*

Rev. Jessica Petersen

**PAUSE**

*(What did you hear yourself saying as you were listening to the presentation of the scripture and the sermon? How is God speaking to you today?)*

**HYMN 231***Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us*

Holy Manna

***Sing of one who walks be-side us and this day is liv-ing still,  
one who now is clos-er to us than the thoughts our hearts dis-till,  
Christ who once up-on a hill-top, raised a-gainst the power of sin,  
died in love as his own crea-tures cru-ci-fied their God and Friend!***

***We have walked with him as strang-ers through the jour-ney of the day,  
and have told him of the vi-o-lence that has swept our hope a-way.  
He has of-fered words of com-fort, words of en-er-gy and light.  
Did our hearts not blaze with-in us as he broke the bread this night?***

***Ris-en one, stay with us, raise us, once a-gain the night is near.  
Dine with us and share your wis-dom, free our hearts from ev-'ry fear.  
In the calm of each new eve-ning, in the fresh-ness of each dawn,  
if you hold us fast in friend-ship we will nev-er be a-lone.***

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

by Rev. Mitchell Young

*In 1975, PAAM was voted into existence by the 10<sup>th</sup> General Synod as a recognized Special Interest Group within the UCC. The 17<sup>th</sup> General Synod (1989) adopted the pronouncement, "A United Church of Christ ministry with Pacific Islanders & Asian Americans" and 18<sup>th</sup> General Synod (1991) designated every last Sunday of April as PAAM Sunday for all UCC churches to recognize and celebrate the gifts and contributions of Pacific Islanders & Asian Americans in the life of the UCC.*

*PAAM has initiated, sponsored, supported, and participated in many activities on local church, regional, national, and ecumenical levels. They have worked for greater Pacific Islander Asian American representation on the national and conference boards and staff positions. As an advocate for human rights in Asian and Pacific Island countries, PAAM has questioned the role of our church and nation in these countries. PAAM continues to address institutional racism within the church and society. PAAM is also concerned with strengthening local churches, as well as nurturing and developing clergy, lay leaders, and youth.*

One: Gracious God, we come before you in the name of Jesus Christ,  
our crucified and risen Savior, the one who walks with us, talks with us, eats with us.

**All: On this PAAM Sunday, we give you thanks and pray for  
the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries of our United Church of Christ:  
for 46 years strengthening the voices  
of the Pacific Islander and Asian American churches,  
taking seriously God’s call to bind in covenant  
faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

One: For such a time as this global pandemic,  
we give thanks for people who have ceased referring  
to this global pandemic as “Chinese Virus.”  
We give you praise for voices  
that actively work against racism and violence.  
We pray also for your guidance and compassion  
for those who hold on to misinformation against  
and point fingers at their neighbors.  
Give us all courage in the struggle  
for justice and peace  
as we welcome the stranger into conversation  
along our mutual journey.



**All: God of resurrection hope, as the world hunkers down in fear and isolation,  
we look to you.  
We pray for the tens of thousands who have lost their lives in the pandemic;  
we embrace their families as well.  
We know that the death of your faithful ones is precious in your sight.  
We trust that you are greater than any virus, continuing to bring lives together,  
even when we are apart from one another.  
Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR** (\*Other options for “Father” include “Mother,” “Creator,” “Parent.”)

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors.  
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 OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

**DOXOLOGY**

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

***Praise God from whom all bles-sings flow,  
praise God all crea-tures here be-low. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
Praise God for all that love has done,  
Cre-a-tor, Christ, and Spir-it, One. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!  
Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!***

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 226

*He Lives!*

Ackley

*I serve a ris-en Sav-ior, he's in the world to-day;  
I know that he is liv-ing, what-ev-er oth-ers say.  
I see his hand of mer-cy, I hear his voice of cheer,  
and just the time I need him, he's al-ways near.*

*He lives, (he lives) he lives, (he lives) Christ Je-sus lives to-day!  
He walks with me and talks with me a-long life's nar-row way.  
He lives, (he lives) he lives, (he lives) sal-va-tion to im-part!  
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with-in my heart.*

*In all the world a-round me I see his lov-ing care,  
and though my heart grows wea-ry, I nev-er will de-spair.  
I know that he is lead-ing through all the storm-y blast;  
the day of his ap-pear-ing will come at last.*

*He lives, (he lives) he lives, (he lives) Christ Je-sus lives to-day!  
He walks with me and talks with me a-long life's nar-row way.  
He lives, (he lives) he lives, (he lives) sal-va-tion to im-part!  
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with-in my heart.*

*Re-joice, re-joice, O Chris-tian, lift up your voice and sing  
e-ter-nal hal-le-lu-jahs to Je-sus Christ the King!  
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find;  
none oth-er is so lov-ing, so good and kind.*

*He lives, (he lives) he lives, (he lives) Christ Je-sus lives to-day!  
He walks with me and talks with me a-long life's nar-row way.  
He lives, (he lives) he lives, (he lives) sal-va-tion to im-part!  
You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with-in my heart.*

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

Resource:

Today's "Prayers of the People" comes from "Breaking Bread in Quarantine for PAAM Sunday, the Third Sunday of Easter, Year A" written by the Rev. Mitchell Young, pastor of Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC in Montebello, CA (© 2020 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.)

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