

**New Castle United Methodist Church
510 Delaware Street
New Castle, DE 19720**

**The Message for October 18, 2020
“On the Road to Emmaus”
Pastor Ray Eck**

It was on that first Easter Sunday, after the resurrection, that this week’s message comes from today. Luke, the Apostle, gives us these words...

Luke 24:13-35...

¹³ Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵ As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶ but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He asked them, “What are you discussing together as you walk along?” They stood still; their faces downcast. ¹⁸ One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, “Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?”

¹⁹ “What things?” he asked.

“About Jesus of Nazareth,” they replied. “He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰ The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹ but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²² In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ but did not find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴ Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus.”

²⁵ He said to them, “How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

²⁶ Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?” ²⁷ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the (Old Testament) Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸ As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³² They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³ They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴ and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon, (Peter) too." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

The two disciples returning to Emmaus, at first missed the significance of one of history's greatest events because they were too focused on their disappointments and problems. In fact, they didn't recognize Jesus walking beside them that day. To compound the problem, they were walking in the wrong direction, away from the fellowship of believers in Jerusalem. We too, are likely to miss Jesus when we become preoccupied with our own difficulties and the frustrations we feel, when our plans seem to fall apart. Only when we are feeling close to Jesus will we experience the power and help that he can bring to each of us.

The news about Jesus' crucifixion had spread throughout Jerusalem.

Because this was Passover week...

Historians estimate that the population of those living in Jerusalem during the time of Jesus was probably around 80,000 to 100,000 citizens. But during the Passover, hundreds of thousands of Jews from surrounding areas would pour into Jerusalem; the estimated number was around 3 million people, both Jews and Gentiles, who visited Jerusalem for the Passover when the Lamb of God was lifted on a Roman cross. His crucifixion was not a small insignificant event affecting only the disciples; the whole Jewish nation was interested in the death of this man, Jesus, who many said was the Messiah that they had been waiting for. Can you imagine the scene in Jerusalem at the crucifixion of Jesus?

This throng of people were counting on Jesus to redeem Israel and rescue them from their Roman rulers. Most Jews believed that the Old Testament prophecies pointed to a military and political Messiah. They didn't realize that the Messiah had come to redeem them from slavery to *sin*. When Jesus died, therefore, they lost all hope. They didn't realize that Jesus' death offered them the greatest hope possible!

Now, Jesus was dead. Their hopes were dashed. They didn't know that in three short days, He would kick down the door to His tomb and defeat death and He promised that if we would only believe in Him and live how He wants us to live, that WE TOO will defeat death and walk into heaven, one day, side by side with the creator of the universe. How great is that? I call that Good News!

But back to our story...

The two continued walking and talking with Jesus on that road towards Emmaus. One of them, Cleopas asked him, "Are you a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

"What things?" he asked.

About Jesus of Nazareth, they replied. He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priest handed him over to be sentenced to death and they crucified him. But early this morning some of the women went to his tomb but didn't find his body. They came and told us, that they had seen a vision of angels, who said He was alive. Then some of our companions ran to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but Him they did not see.

It was getting dark, so they asked their companion to stay with them for the night. As they sat together to share a meal, Jesus broke the bread, gave thanks, and began to give it to them. At that moment they looked into his eyes and knew who He was. This was Jesus, the one who has been murdered just three short days ago, and with that, Jesus vanished. They immediately ran back to Jerusalem and told the others what had happened. They shouted, "We have seen Him – HE IS ALIVE!"



Music for October 18

-- Bill Mathews, Director of Music Ministries

Many years ago, when I was new to the organist profession, I liked to use one of my vacation Sundays to travel from northern New Jersey into Manhattan and worship at the Riverside Church. The church has an incredible pipe organ (with FIVE “keyboards” called manuals) and at that time, Frederick Swann was their organist. (You may have noticed that I play some of his hymn settings as postludes.) After being seated in the beautiful nave, which is about the length of a city block, I would immediately take a look at the bulletin to see what music was in store for the day. Right at the top of the cover page was this:

“The service of worship begins with the music of the organ.
Through its power and brilliance,
may you feel the majesty and glory of God;
in its quietness, His peace.”

This meditative thought has stayed with me for about 50 years now because I do feel the majesty and glory of God through music. It can be through its power and brilliance like a great hymn led by the organ and sung in its magnificent four-part harmony; it can be in its quietness, like familiar hymns during communion. It can be through the brilliance of a 4-note motif, like the beginning of Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5; it can be through the quietness of an anthem based on 2 verses from the Psalms, like Samuel Wesley’s *Lead Me, Lord*. It can be through the strains of a flowing and climbing musical line singing and praising God with an “Alleluia!” – and it can be in a choral benediction ending with a quiet “Amen.”

As we reach 7 months without in-person worship, we all miss hearing our choir sing. For me, and perhaps for you as well, it is because their presence in worship helps us all to feel the majesty and glory of God – as well as His peace.

So, while one of our beloved hymns asks the Spirit of God to “teach [us] the patience of unanswered prayer,” we will continue to pray for the time that it is once again safe to worship in-person. In the meantime, I’m also praying that the music found in each week’s “Message” helps you to feel God’s presence, His majesty, and His peace.

music continues on the next page

*Through the power and brilliance of the music,
may you feel the majesty and glory of God.*

Praise to the Lord, UMC Hymnal, no. 139

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Orchestra, and Organ

https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=3NNatbKemz0&list=PLXPfet_zDHipJRE1RHT7W3UurL41-3Aft&index=20

Verse 1

Praise to the Lord,
the Almighty, the King of creation.
O my soul, praise him,
for he is thy health and salvation!
Join the great throng,
Psaltery, Organ, and Song
sounding in glad adoration!

Verse 2

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is
wondrously reigning
And, as on wings of an eagle,
uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has
been sent by his gracious ordaining?

Verse 3

Praise to the Lord!
who doth prosper thy way
and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy shall ever
attend thee.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

Verse 4

Praise to the Lord!
O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath,
come now with praises before him!
Let the amen come from our praises
again;
now as we worship before him.

*Through the quietness of the music,
may you feel God's peace.*

Air, from Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D, by Johann Sebastian Bach

Stjepan Hauser, cellist from Croatia

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=CvglW3KNSsQ>

***Our Prayer Requests and Food Closet needs,
are on the next page.***



Paul Coffin, Michelle Jordan's godfather
 Ruth Ann Chisholm
 Hoover & Anita Counterman
 James Costenbader, Hoover & Anita's
 son-in-law
 Wilbert Esler, Sharon Kimmel's father
 Richard Hastings
 Rev. Jerrold, Sally, Elizabeth, and
 Jennifer Knotts

Tammy McAleese
 Joan Skilton's daughter, Sue, and her family
 Margaret Weyl
 Those diagnosed with the coronavirus and the
 families of those who have lost loved ones
 The staff and the patients of Hockessin Manor
 Care. Pam Whary's son, Jim, is a nurse there.
 The homeless
 Those who struggle with addiction

If you have someone that you'd like included on our Prayer List,
 please let us know by contacting either
 Doris Poultney, Prayer Chain Coordinator, @ 302-378-1184,
 or Pastor Ray @ 302-740-3932 or snowman3girls@gmail.com



✓ **Food Closet Needs**

- ✓ Instant Potatoes
- ✓ Rice a Roni or 1 lb. bags of rice
- ✓ Dry Unsweetened Cereal...
 Cheerios, Corn Flakes, etc.
- ✓ Peanut Butter & Jelly
- ✓ Canned entrees – stew or chili

*Now that the weather is getting colder,
 here are a few items that will be needed more:*

- ✓ Canned Soup... Chunky or Progresso
- ✓ Instant Oatmeal packets

And remember, store brands are always acceptable.