

April 18, 2021  
**Easter 3**  
**Unlocking Possibilities**



Piano Prelude      April – Lily of the Valley – *P. I. Tchaikovsky*  
Rise Up With Him – *C. Vogt*

Welcome

Call to Worship

*In the Easter newness and resurrection,*  
**there is hope and possibility,**  
*In the Easter freedom and joy,*  
**there is liberation and creativity.**  
*In the Easter alleluias and amens,*  
**there is grace and power.**  
*Christ is risen.*  
**Alleluia!**

Hymn **396** (v.1, 4) – *As Comes the Breath of Spring*

Videoed Prayer of Adoration and Confession      *Your Kindness Pierces Through*  
([www.theworkofthepeople.com](http://www.theworkofthepeople.com))

Pardon

The Peace

*The peace of Christ be with you always.*  
**And also with you.**

Sung response      674, v.2

**There's a song in every silence,**  
**seeking word and melody;**  
**there's a dawn in every darkness,**  
**bringing hope to you and me.**  
**From the past will come the future;**  
**what it holds, a mystery,**  
**unrevealed until its season,**  
**something God alone can see.**

Scripture Readings

1 John 3:1-2, 16-18, 23-24

Luke 24:13-43, 45

*This is the word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

Hymn **262** (v.1, 2) – *Come to Us, Beloved Stranger*

Sermon – *Unlocking Possibilities on the Long, Long Road*

Hymn **256** (v.1, 3, 4) – *Now the Green Blade Rises*

Prayers of the People

*God of new life,*

**Hear us as we pray.**

**Our Father in heaven**

**Hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come,**

**Your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

Hymn **412** (v.1, 3, 4) – *Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord Our Song*

Benediction

*Like the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit,*

**let us go forth with peace.**

*Like Thomas, filled with doubt,*

**let us go forth with faith and new life.**

*Like the travellers walking on the Emmaus Road,*

**let us go forth with open eyes and open hearts.**

**Hallelujah** (sung)      532

Piano Postlude      *My Lord, What a Morning / A New Hiding Place – arr. H. Burleigh*



*This morning, we give thanks to Jack McDonald, our worship leader  
and Monique Caissie for leading our hymns.*

## **Hymns**

Hymn 396 (v.1, 4) – *As Comes the Breath of Spring*

**As comes the breath of spring,  
with light and mirth and song,  
so does your Spirit bring  
new days, brave, free, and strong.**

**You come with thrill of life  
to chase hence winter's breath,  
to hush to peace the strife  
of sin that ends in death.**

**You breathe, and there is health;  
you move, and there is power;  
you whisper, there is wealth  
of love, your richest dower.**

**Your presence is to us  
like summer in the soul;  
your joy shines forth, and then  
life blossoms to its goal.**

Hymn 262 (v.1, 2) – *Come to Us, Beloved Stranger*

**Come to us, beloved Stranger,  
as you came that Easter day.**

**Walk with us to our Emmaus,  
for we need you still today.**

**Come to us when we are broken,  
when our dearest hopes are lost,  
speak to us the prophets' message  
you fulfilled upon the cross.**

**Stay with us and give us blessing,  
that our hopes again may rise.**

**Offer us your broken body;  
open our unseeing eyes.**

**Come to us, God's love embodied;  
touch our hearts with burning flame.**

**Risen Christ, once dead, now living,  
come to us through joy, through pain.**

Hymn 256 (v.1, 3, 4) – *Now the Green Blade Rises*

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
love is come again like wheat new-springing green.**

**Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
he that for these three days in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead my living Lord is seen:  
love is come again like wheat new-springing green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,  
then your touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
love is come again like wheat new-springing green.**

Hymn 412 (v.1, 3, 4) – *Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord Our Song*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord our song:  
we have stood silently too long;  
surely the Lord deserves our praise,  
joyfully thank God for our days.**

**You dwell among us and cause us to pray,  
walk with each other following your way;  
our precious brothers and sisters will grow  
in the fulfilling love they know.**

**Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing  
to the desire of all living things.  
Come, all you creatures, high and low;  
let your praises endlessly flow.**

## **Scripture Readings**

**1 John 3:1-2, 16-18, 23-24 (NRSV)**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**Luke 24:13-43, 45 (NRSV)**

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures.