**Sunday April 18, 2021**

**Alike & Akin: Many Faceted Gift**

**Prelude**

**Words of Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Christ is Risen, and greets us with peace.

**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **The peace of Christ is among us, indeed.**

Leader: We are witnesses of God’s glory and steadfast love.

**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **The transforming love of Christ is among us, indeed!**

**Unison:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **Come, let us worship.**

**Opening Prayer Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**God of love and light,
we come as witnesses of your glory and faithfulness,
amazed to discover your transformative love.
God, we desire for you to abide within us,
and for your grace to be revealed anew daily.Be with us and awaken within us the call to love one another,**
**in the way it was made real through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

**Hymn #** **241: Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day**

(*Please see separate attachment for the score)*

1) Joy dawned again on Easter Day,
the sun shone out with bright array;
For when the Apostles hid in fear,
the Risen Christ to them appeared.

2) O Jesus, Savior, Gentle One,
come take our hearts to be your own,
That we may give you all our days
the willing tribute of our praise.

3) O Sovereign One, with us abide
in this our joyful Easter-tide;
From every weapon death can wield,
your own redeemed forever shield.

**Prayer of Confession Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

Leader: Ever-present God,
 Forgive us when we stand in disbelief,
 and comfort us when our fears outweigh your peace.
 God, forgive us when we become too busy to pray.
 Help us when we fail to see our neighbors in need.
 Abiding God, forgive us when we are overwhelmed
 with bad news, and shut down completely.

**People:** (*Out loud, but muted)* **In these times, remind us that we are called to be your: love lived out in plain sight,
 faithful witnesses blessing all others, and
 humble servants.
 Help us to wake up to the work of love,
 and to your renewing strength each day, we pray. Amen.**

*Moments for Reflection and Silence*

**Assurance of Pardon**

O God, hear our prayers of repentance and forgiveness,
and awaken us from doubt, disbelief, and distress
by transforming us into your resurrection joy!
God, we desire for your loving spirit
to be among us, to comfort us in our fears,
and to renew our faith. Amen.

**Passing of the Peace**(unmute for Passing of the Peace)

Pastor: The Peace of Christ be with you

**People: And also with you!**

**Reading** Marsha Voigt

**Psalm 4: excerpts**

4:1 Answer me when I call …. You gave me room when I was in distress. Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

4:6 There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"

4:7 You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine abound.

4:8 I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

**1 John 3:1-3 (NIV)**

3:1 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.

3:2 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.

3:3 And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

**Special Music** Jim Tilton

**Gospel Reading**

# **Luke 24:36b-48 (NIV)**

24:36b While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

24:37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

24:38 He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?

24:39 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."

24:40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

24:41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

24:42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish,

24:43 and he took it and ate in their presence.

24:44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

24:45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

24:46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,

24:47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

24:48 You are witnesses of these things.

**Musical Interlude**

**Sermon: Alike & Akin: Many Faceted Gift**

**Music for Meditation**

**Prayers of the People**(unmute yourself to offer a request, giving first names only, please)

**Hymn #508** Prayer Is the Soul’s Sincere Desire (verses 1 and 5)

(sung muted but together)

 **Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, unuttered or expressed;
 The motion of a hidden fire that trembles in the breast.**

 **O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way,
 The path of prayer you too have trod: Christ, teach us how to pray.**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Lord’s Prayer Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**Offering Invitation**

Today, we are reminded of the joy surrounding the witnesses to Jesus’ resurrection!

We remember that before their resurrection joy,
these witnesses experienced grief at the cross.
Witnessing the Risen Christ in their midst
challenged the disciples to turn their disbelief into joyful belief.
Witnessing the Risen Christ challenged the disciples
to turn their fear into a courageous proclamation of God’s glory.
God calls forth a transformative love
marking a change in the ways of repentance and forgiveness,
by witnessing the Good News of salvation for everyone, everywhere.

Bless these our gifts to you today Living God!

**Offering and Dedication Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**God of abundant love,
We offer a portion of our time, spiritual gifts, and resources
as a sign of our love for you and the world.
O God, we give you our thanks for all that we have
and ask a special blessing on these offerings.
And God, we ask that our collective offering
be an expression of healing, that brings hope to a hurting world.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**Blessing and Benediction Unison** (*Out loud, but muted)*

**Let us go forth having had laid down our burdens.
Let us go forth rich in spirit,
knowing God has a plan for our lives.
Let us go forth as witnesses to God’s hope
of justice, peace, grace, and love.
Believing fully that Christ is among all humanity,
now and always. Amen.**