

# emmaus road



## Worship Resources for Sunday April 12th

Easter Sunday, Year A

*We encourage you to read and reflect on these scriptures, songs, notes, and prayers as we look forward to our time of worship together this coming Sunday. You may access a PDF copy of this guide from our website, <https://emmausroadfc.org/worship-resource-20200412/>.*

*Please print this guide or have it handy in digital format for use during the service.*

*And don't forget to join us Sunday immediately following the service in our virtual foyer for a group video chat! <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/202653556>*

### SERMON SCRIPTURE

*In the days leading up to our Sunday gathering, please read through the sermon scripture as the Holy Spirit prepares your heart for the sermon inspired by this passage.*

**Luke 24:1-35 (NRSV)**

### WORSHIP

*Our musical resource this week consists of four playlists which thematically aim to provide expressions of worship appropriate for wherever you may find your heart in a given moment. Pastor Daniel has provided a [video below introducing the playlists](#) while also including the links to these lists from popular streaming services. We pray these are a blessing and a guide to you in the weeks to come.*

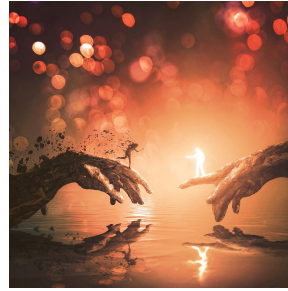




#### Emmaus Themes: FAITH

Songs which speak truth and faith into moments of sorrow or doubt.

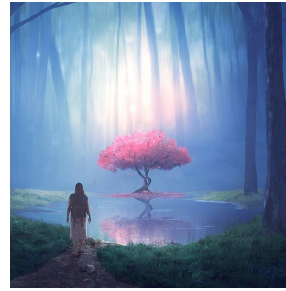
[APPLE MUSIC \[LINK\]](#)  
[SPOTIFY \[LINK\]](#)



#### Emmaus Themes: HOPE

Like all creation, our hearts are drawn to the light. These songs speak hope into our hearts as we hold onto the promises of God.

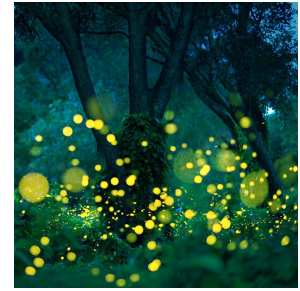
[APPLE MUSIC \[LINK\]](#)  
[SPOTIFY \[LINK\]](#)



#### Emmaus Themes: PEACE

Songs which give us space to rest and find peace. This quiet list includes many instrumental tracks perfect for filling the silence with beauty.

[APPLE MUSIC \[LINK\]](#)  
[SPOTIFY \[LINK\]](#)



#### Emmaus Themes: JOY

Sometimes you just need to get up and dance, and this list was carefully crafted to get the moves on.

[APPLE MUSIC \[LINK\]](#)  
[SPOTIFY \[LINK\]](#)

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Bold lines to be read aloud corporately.*

Christ is risen...

**Christ is risen, indeed.**

God is alive...

**New birth is given.**

Hope is alive...

**A new age is dawning.**

Joy is alive...

**Redemption is here.**

Love is alive...

**Death cannot harm us.**

We are alive...

**New life is within us.**

The church is alive...

**God's spirit is within us.**

**God of life, we worship you.**

**God of creation, we praise you.**

**God of revelation, we learn from you.**

**God of resurrection, we come to celebrate you.**

*(Life in Liturgy, from the Christian Church)*

## CONFESSIONAL PRAYER

Would we be counted among the doubters hiding in the shadow cast by that cruel cross?  
Or, when challenged, like Peter openly deny you?  
There are times, Lord, when doubts assail and the distance between us seems to increase.  
There are times, Lord, when sin has its hold, like a barrier between us that will not move.  
Who is there we can turn to when we feel so overwhelmed?  
Who can roll away the stone and reveal the empty tomb?  
No-one but you, Jesus, no-one but you!

*(John Birch, Faith and Worship)*

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls. (1 Peter 2:24-25)

**All: Thanks be to God**

## SERMON NOTES

Sermon notes may be downloaded in PDF format from our website [shorturl.at/cjrN6](http://shorturl.at/cjrN6)

### **The Uprising Begins**

Luke 24:1-35 (NRSV)

#### LEAVING JERUSALEM

Put yourself in the disciples shoes for a moment: They had spent the last several months listening to the teaching of Jesus, amazed at his miracles, and were now convinced he was the long-awaited Messiah. Now Jesus was dead; crucified by the state.

Watching that happen was utterly disorienting.

Their journey away from Jerusalem is symbolic of where they were at emotionally and spiritually. In just a matter of days, their lives had been turned upside down. In many ways, as they left Jerusalem, they were also leaving certainty, clarity, and order. They were walking now with disappointment, confusion, doubt, and fear. They were walking away from the hope they once had (vs. 21).

#### WE'VE LEFT JERUSALEM

Perhaps that feeling sounds familiar. With the challenges we are facing as a global community, you may have moments where you step back and look at the scale of what is going on and think, "With all of our technology and the resources available, we should be able to stop this."

Maybe you were certain it would never get this bad. Perhaps you are mourning the loss of the way things used to be. Our lives have been turned upside down in just a matter of days. There is a lot that feels like walking away from Jerusalem.

## RETURN TO JERUSALEM - THE UPRISING

During their journey away from Jerusalem, Jesus joins them in their disorientation (though they don't recognize him at first). Hear this: in their journey away from certainty; in their journey away from the religious center of their lives, in their journey away from comfort they are joined by the resurrected Christ. Jesus speaks to them about resurrection and their hearts are opened! They learn to see in new ways. After sharing a meal in Emmaus, they realize it was Jesus all along!

The scriptures say "that same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem." (vs. 33) They return to the place they had just left a few hours earlier, but they do not return in the same way.

Now they return with wonder instead of order, awe instead of certainty, a sense of presence instead of rules of religion. Everything had changed for them because of their encounter with the living Christ in the mist of their disorientation.

It was an uprising....not just in the sense that Jesus has risen, but now new things have the possibility of rising up! Usually an uprising refers to a violent revolt against oppressive leaders and regimes. This is certainly an uprising that confronts oppression, but in a different way! This is an uprising of hope instead of hate, love instead of violence, life and peace instead of hostility and death. It's an uprising of open hands instead of clenched fists. It's a journey to something new that is brought about in a new way!

## OUR RETURN TO JERUSALEM

In the midst of disorientation, the risen Christ is present with us speaking words of resurrection and hope. It is no small thing that in the midst of walking away from everything they thought they knew, Christ joined them there. The presence of Christ is not dependent upon our certainty or the measure of our hope. Christ joins us in our journey - even as we walk away!

Be confident that the presence of Christ is with us during this time. Whenever you hear of people caring for one another, helping each other, putting themselves in harm's way to care for the sick. In all these ways and a thousand others the resurrected and universal Christ is present.

I'm hoping and praying that one day we'll return to Jerusalem, but I hope we'll return in a new way! My hope is that as a Church, nation, and global community, we won't just try to return to the same old order of things, but that we'll return back to the rhythms of life with a sense of togetherness instead of competition; with awe at the gift of life instead of mundaneness; with humility instead of arrogance. For when we embody these things, we honor the God of life and resurrection.

Easter 2020, as we gather in our living rooms to worship and celebrate the resurrected Christ despite the dangers that lie outside our front doors, I pray that we would know the presence of the living Christ and be confident that He is the God of life who has defeated death through resurrection.

## COMMUNION

*Prepare the elements of "bread" and "wine" for use as we gather around The Lord's Table. These can be any items convenient around the home that symbolize these for you.*

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

Leader: In unity with the Church throughout the ages, we confess our faith:

**All: Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.

## BENEDICTION

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death  
and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the day of the Lord's resurrection,  
may, by your life-giving Spirit, be delivered from sin and raised from death;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
Amen.  
(Collects, Easter Day, Book of Common Prayer 2019)