

Friday News from SouthWest

April 21, 2023

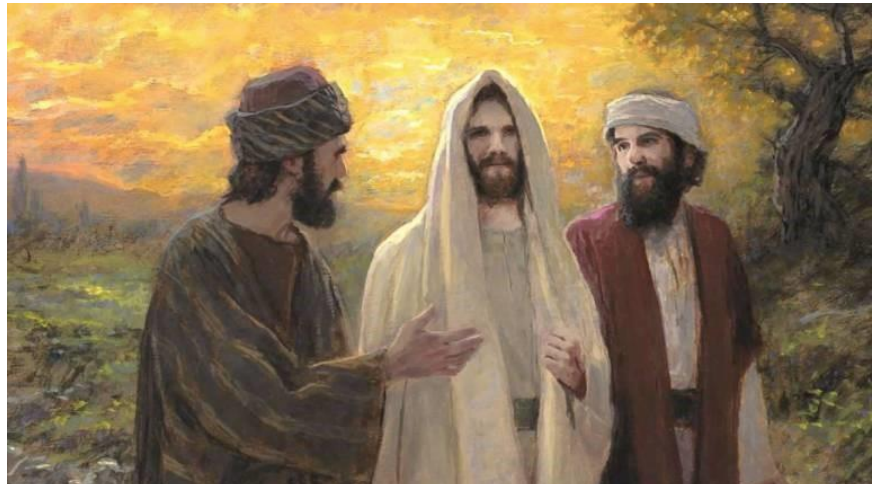
Eyes of the Heart: Easter 3

Luke 24:13-35 New International Version On the Road to Emmaus

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 didn't 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 Scriptures concerning himself.



Biblical scholar John Dominic Crossan remarks, "Emmaus never happened," clarifying that "Emmaus always happens." We are given opportunities, over and over again, to see and be changed by the risen Christ. Now. Here. We are invited to see with new eyes.

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." ³⁵ Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

The exact location of Emmaus, where the two disciples see the risen Christ in Luke 24:13–35, is unknown. Emmaus may be anywhere. Hearts burning and eyes opening do not occur in only one geographical or spiritual place. Emmaus comes into sight wherever a path leads us toward communion with God and whenever we recognize the risen Christ among us.

When Jesus joins the two travellers on the road, they do not recognize him immediately; perhaps their grief and loss blind them. When they offer Jesus hospitality, a sign of love, and when he blesses and breaks bread, the revelation happens, and they recognize the stranger with whom they have been walking and talking.

A transformation occurs within the travellers; they shift from standing still in a state of sadness to being "on fire" with hope. In great haste, they return to Jerusalem to tell the other followers of Jesus what they have experienced: Christ's resurrection and their own.

Sometimes, our hearts are heavy with the burden of grief, sorrow, and anguish. We have been cut to the heart, but nothing changes, until that moment when we are open to the realization that we are not alone; that seen or unseen, Spirit is with us.

Other times, our hearts can help us to see more grace and love. We may fail or refuse to recognize how God is changing our hearts, believing we are on a road of our own making. We can be hardened, but God expands the vision of our hearts.

Prayer For Easter 3

God, you come and walk beside us. You accompany us into the unknown and challenge us to see the world with new eyes. Remind us of your vision, again and again. Amen.

In peace

Pastor Beryl, DLM

Announcements:

Artisan Fair – Bake Sale – Saturday, April 29th

Based on the success of recent Summerlea Bake Sales which included the sale of more than freshly baked goods, we will once again offer a selection of frozen pies, soups, & other tasty dishes.

This year the Sale will be “in person” with 2 tables of Summerlea baking. One table will be the traditional table of freshly baked goods, while the second table will present frozen goods and marmalades. (Already made!)

You are ALL invited to contribute favorites from your cooking / baking repertoire.

From the freezer we are hoping to be able to offer:

- Savoury goods – soups, chili, quiche, mac'n cheese.
- Sweets; pies, crisps, and other frozen desserts.
- Gluten free items of any type clearly labelled.
- Dog biscuits

**** Packaging:** To standardize the sizing and pricing, and to ensure food safety, we are asking that this year you follow these Guidelines:

Soups, chili, etc.:

Please freeze in clear plastic containers 1 litre or single serving of 500mls. (We can provide the containers)

Pies, quiches, crisps etc:

Please freeze in aluminum pans 8" or 9" diameter.

(Frozen items may be delivered to the church any weekday morning between 8am and 12pm)

Cookies and squares:

Will be packaged by a team at the church. Please bring them in **uncut** in pans or boxes, labelled with your name and description/ingredients.

Cakes and loaves:

Please package in clear plastic and label with list of ingredients.

(Fresh items may be delivered to the church on Thursday, April 27th between 2pm and 4pm or on Friday, April 28th between 10am and 7pm)

Help Needed! Able-bodied helpers are needed to stay after church on Sunday, April 23rd to set up for the sale.

Spread the word! Here's the info about the Artisan Fair and Sale in a nutshell:

Artisan Fair, on Saturday April 29th, from 10am-3pm, and **2-Day Book Sale** on Friday, April 28th & Saturday, April 29th from 10am-3pm, at Summerlea United Church, 225-50th Avenue, Lachine.

There will be many artisans displaying their beautiful crafts, delicious home baking, and many books for adults and children at great bargain prices!

A lunchroom serving quiche or chili, & homemade dessert will also be available.

For information call Colleen at 514-634-2651.

Calendar

April 23: Easter Three. Join us at 10am

April 28-29 (Friday & Saturday): Used Book Sale, 10am to 3pm both days/ April 29: Artisan Fair: 10am to 3pm

Our Prayer List

John Adnum

David Adnum

Bridget McCarthy

Phyllis Luther

Shirley Mitchell

Patrick O'Leary

Natalie Lalonde

Doris Smith

Maurice Tringle

Helen Cameron

May Cook

Donna Cobb

Keith Wood

Violet L'Esperance

Roberta Roberts

Sylvia Vallee-Girouard

If you would like your name added to the prayer list, or if you are requesting on behalf of a family member, call the office or contact Pastor Beryl directly.

Pastoral Care: for emergencies, you may contact Pastor Beryl directly on her cell phone. No calls after 9pm please: 514 942-6212.



SouthWest United Church

225 50th Avenue, Lachine, Qc. H8T 2T7

phone: 514 538-0624

email: southwestunited@gmail.com

Web: southwestunited.net