

The Episcopal Church
in
Gettysburg, PA



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From the Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Jim Strader-Sasser



The Supper at Emmaus - Rembrandt

"Emmaus never happened. Emmaus always happens." (John Dominic Crossan)

The Road to Emmaus story is one of my favorite New Testament passages. It is right up there with The Good Samaritan and Paul's closing chapter of his epistle to the Philippians. I love the imagery of the story. Cleopas and his unnamed companion are seemingly traveling toward their home in Emmaus. Who is the 2nd disciple? Is she/he someone we should know? It is conceivable – at least in the beginning of Luke Chapter 12 - that the two were in the room when Mary Magadele and two other women reported that “two men in gleaming bright clothing” informed them that Jesus had been raised (verse 6)

When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. (Luke 24: 28-31)



(Continued from page 1)

These two disciples – maybe as members of the “all of the group” (Luke 24: 8) heard the women’s report about Christ’s Resurrection. Here’s a shock – nobody in the room believed the women (verse 11).

One way or another, during Good Friday’s terror and grief, Holy Saturday’s silence, and the hopefully unbelievable news of Easter morning, Cleopas and his traveling companion were striving to make sense of their experiences with Jesus before his entry into Jerusalem and the preceding days’ shocking and irrational events.

It is then, in the crucible of faithful confusion, resilient aspiration, and impending despair when Jesus appears – at first unrecognizably. God’s incarnate presence walks alongside of them. He teaches them along The Way on Easter Day just as he sought to do months before in Galilee. At day’s end and as darkness approaches, he joins them for a sacred meal. He breaks and blesses bread and them before departing in many ways as he appeared to them – hours and months before. They depart with haste and return to Jerusalem to validate the women at the

1. The Greek term used for resurrection here is *egeirō* - to arouse as if from sleep – awake as well as to recall the dead to life.



tomb’s witness and the reality of Christ’s resurrection!

I learned something about ancient Jewish rituals as I was writing this article. The people of Israel celebrated their Sabbath with priests ritually consuming shewbread or “the bread of the arrangement.” (Lotha, 2011) The bakers prepared this “Bread of Presence” to offer a symbolic reality of God’s presence, material sustenance and abundance. The priests placed the bread on a uniquely designed table that was in the Tabernacle or Temple. They temple priests consumed the bread that had been on the table for a week. They then replaced it with newly prepared bread for the coming week. (Kamiker, 2019). Early “Christ-believers” most likely reformed this tradition, and the bread became “The Bread of Life” as known in Christ’s presence in their midst. I appreciate this hypothesis because it honors God’s presence among God’s people as well as Jesus’ and his disciples’ Jewish ancestry. It likewise is sacramentally “real” when we commune with one another.

I have another idea that I can't objectively prove. I read this text with an assumption that The Gospel of Luke's author (s) invites the gospel's readers to consider themselves to be the unnamed disciple. There are many assumptions about who [Cleopas](#) was, as well as the identity of the other traveler. We don't have a video recording of this incident, even if it did occur. Let's look at it in a different manner. It is quite important for us as contemporary Christians, especially during Eastertide, to capture, reflect, and act upon how God is showing up for us in (un)seen ways. What experiences in your life – especially the ones involving suffering, loss, and grief have given you a sense of rebirth, renewed joy, and resilient optimism. Victor Perton writes:

“At its core, optimism provides a framework that enables resilience, fostering an attitude that looks beyond immediate difficulties towards a brighter, more hopeful future. ... Optimism is not just about having a positive outlook; it is about fostering a mindset that views challenges as opportunities for growth.” (Perton, 2023)

Easter, beyond its significant salvific meanings, offers observable, “springtime” delights. The tree in the parish garden suddenly has newborn life. Forsythia is all over the place,

Lambs are being born all around Adams County's farms Very Cool!

I'll close with a [Gerard Manley Hopkins](#) poem that I treasure. He was only 21 when he composed this piece. It lyrically offers his sense of our travels from Lent into Easter,



from Golgotha to Emmaus, and manifestations of joy for us to travel with now.

Blessings along The Way, Jim+

Easter Communion

Pure fasted faces draw unto this feast:
 God comes all sweetness to your Lenten lips.
 You striped in secret with breath-taking whips
 Those crooked rough-scored chequers may be pieced
 To crosses meant for Jesu's; you whom the East
 With draught of thin and pursuant cold so nips.
 Breathe Easter now; you serged fellowships,
 You vigil-keepers with low flames decreased,
 God shall o'er-brim the measures you have spent
 With oil of gladness, for sackcloth and frieze
 And the ever-fretting shirt of punishment.
 Give myrrhy-threaded golden folds of ease.
 Your scarce-sheathed bones are weary of being bent:
 Lo, God shall strengthen all the feeble knees.



Our Forever Home

Last week Dan and I went to Williamsburg, Virginia for the first time in five years. We had lived there for a long time before we moved to Pennsylvania. We had grieved the loss of our family house and the beautiful, historic place we'd called home. It was lovely to be back; to revisit all our old haunts; to begin the season of Springtime- and the Celebration of our nation's 250th birthday. We had so much fun we decided to make it an annual event. But the big surprise was that we found ourselves VISITORS. Our HOME is in Pennsylvania now. In Pennsylvania we have friends and activities and church and service and family and purpose. We can always visit Virginia. It was a good thing to learn.

On our last night, we went to see our son's new waterfront property not far from Jamestown. It was enchanting. They had a gorgeous home in North Carolina where he served in the Marine Corps, but his wife had always said, "*This isn't our forever house.*" I never really knew what that meant. I have moved many, many times- dozens even. I never thought of a "*forever house.*" Over the past year, several of our parish members have sold their houses and moved to new-

mostly smaller- homes. Moving is always a challenge- and when I say that, I mean *the opposite of heaven!!* It gets worse, I think, when you're over 65. Though the lifetime of collected "*stuff*" seems never-ending, it's the lifetime of memories that is harder to let go of. It's where we were comfortable. It's where we felt safe. It's where we knew our neighbors. It was home.

But life doesn't stay the same. Life changes. Our needs change. And, somehow, by the grace of God and the help of faithful friends, we find ourselves in new homes- with new neighbors. And- over time- we find ourselves feeling safe and comfortable in new ways in our new places. God takes care of us. He travels with us.

Now that I think of it, my daughter-in-law, is not the only person who has spoken of a forever house. Jesus did. All of us who have been to a funeral- or "*Celebration of Life*" service- have most likely heard the Gospel reading from John 14. It's the one where Jesus tells his disciples about his Father's house with many rooms- the house in Heaven where he assures us that he will show us the way. **THAT IS OUR FOREVER HOUSE!** It's not in Virginia or Pennsylvania or Vermont. It's in the place where we will spend our eternity- with Jesus and all our loved ones who have gone before and will go after. I'd say that is the best real estate imaginable!

There is a hymn I used to sing to my beloved ones as they were dying. You all know it. It's **Hymn 490** *I want to walk as a child of the light*. The last verse has the most meaning for the moment when Jesus comes to gather us up into his arms to live with him forever. It goes:

I'm looking for the coming of Christ, I want to be with Jesus. When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus. Alleluia.
Amen.

Rev Cathy+

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Sunday school classes will be concluding the end of May, please look for announcements in the bulletin. We have had a fun year learning together. We look forward to another fun year. Please keep an eye out mid-summer for information for next year.

DECORATING

"Many thanks to for all the flower dedications and the help decorating and watering this Easter Season. We are so blessed to have wonderful volunteers who come and help set everything up so quickly."

Holy Strollers

Join Prince of Peace's walking group, the Holy Strollers, on one of our upcoming Saturday morning strolls. All walks meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. to depart for the walking site. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch. Contact Ed Sonnenberg should you have any questions.

1. Saturday, April 18: "Par for the Course": Walking the old Gettysburg Country Club Golf Course. Meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. or meet us at the entrance to the walking path located on Country Club Lane near Old Mill Road at 9:15 a.m.
2. Saturday, May 9: "A Walk in the Park": Norlo Park, Route 30, Fayetteville, Franklin County. Meet at the church at 9 a.m. or meet us at the barn at Norlo Park at 9:20 a.m.

QUILTS FOR COMFORT

The May Quilts for Comfort quilt bee will be held on Tuesday, May 12th, 9:30am-2:30pm. This will be the last bee before our summer hiatus. The next Quilts for Comfort quilt bee won't be until September 8th. We have had a couple of people from outside of the parish attend our bees and it would be great to have more representation from Prince of Peace join us. You are welcome to come for all or part of the day. Come on out and see what it's all about.

From the Organist and Choir

Director



HYMNAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR EASTER:

Easter Sunday’s Processional Hymn, *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*, has become the hymn most associated with Easter Sunday. It was written by **Charles Wesley**, the co-founder of the Methodist movement, and appeared under the title "*Hymn for Easter Day*" in *Hymns and Sacred Poems* by Charles and John Wesley in 1739. The hymn is a variation of an earlier hymn, "*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*" (sung earlier by the choir in today’s special music prelude), a 14th-century Latin hymn which had been translated into English and published in *Lyra Davidica* in 1708.

The hymn became well known for its "*Alleluia*," which was added later after each line, and sung as a "melisma" (many notes to one syllable), representing the unbounded joy experienced by Christians on celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord.

Easter Sunday’s Recessional Hymn, *The Day of Resurrection!*, was written by **St. John of Damascus**, an eighth-century Greek poet/philosopher, known for his writing of six canons for the major festivals of the church year. He lived a life of wealth and honor, until becoming dissatisfied and giving away all his possessions, freeing his slaves and entering the monastery of St. Sabas in the desert near Jerusalem.

EASTER SUNDAY MUSIC:

Please join us for special festive musical offerings at the 10:30 AM Easter Sunday worship service, presented by Karen and Duane Botterbusch – flute and bass; Heather Swope – timpani; The Edge of Brass Quintet; and of course, the Prince of Peace Choir.

Special music prelude begins at 9:55 AM.

SING “THE HALLELUJAH CHORUS” on EASTER SUNDAY

Those members of the congregation wishing to join the Prince of Peace Choir and Brass Quintet in the singing of Handel’s "*Hallelujah Chorus*" on Easter Sunday (April 5th) are invited to come up to the chancel during the singing of the recessional hymn. The music will be on the organ. All are invited to sing!

He became a great theologian in the Eastern church, defending the use of icons, codifying the practices of Byzantine chant, and wrote about science, philosophy and theology.

The text of the hymn is a reminder that Easter is the second Passover, and the importance of the resurrection light, recalled by the description of the ancient Easter rite of the “blaze of light from thousands of tapers”— a symbol of life conquering death, and of goodness overcoming evil. The hymn ends with a doxology, an allusion to the opening statement of belief stated in the Nicene Creed: “We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.”

Published in a chapel hymnal for the Duke of Württemberg (*Gesangbuch der Herzogl*, 1784), the tune to which today’s hymn is sung, **ELLACOMBE** (the name of a village in Devonshire, England) was first set to the words “*Ave Maria, klarer und lichter Morgenstern.*” The tune may also be known and recognized as having been used for the hymns, “*Hosanna, Loud Hosanna,*” and “*I Sing th’Almighty Power of God.*”

An interesting side note, the ELLACOMBE is also the name of a bell-ringing apparatus, devised in 1821 by Reverend Henry Thomas Ellacombe of Gloucestershire, in which bells are suspended in a fixed position, and hammers mounted on the inside of each bell are pulled by ropes toward the ELLACOMBE player causing the bell to strike.

There are known to be over 400 Ellacombe chimes in working order in the UK and at least 40 in the other parts of the world.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Choral Evensong – Saturday, April 18th at 5:30 PM - The Memorial Church of the Prince of Peace

An evening service in celebration of Creation and the Springtime

Presented by members of the Prince of Peace Choir

Evensong: a service traditionally held near twilight, focuses on the singing of Psalms, hymns and other biblical canticles. It is loosely based on the canonical hours of vespers and compline, Old English speakers translating the Latin word *vesperas* as *æfensang*, which then became 'evensong' in modern English.

In the early church, prayers were offered eight times a day, at services which were not a part of the regular Mass (Eucharist). These services included psalms, canticles, antiphons, responsories, hymns and readings, and were referred to as the “Divine Services.”

The two services coming at the end of the day, Matins and Vespers, were referred to as “Evensong” by the English Church. Following the reformation and the publication of the 1549 prayer book, a separate order of worship was created just for Evensong, independent of the Divine Services. Evensong continued to evolve and was eventually published in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

The service is sung by the choir with some participation from the congregation. The primary elements of Evensong are preces and responses, the psalm, the canticles (Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis) and anthems. Originally Evensong was sung on Saturday evenings as a preparation for Eucharist the next morning. It is now also customary to have Evensong sung on Sunday afternoons.

Special Music Recitals at Prince of Peace

Members of the congregation and community are invited to attend a free musical concerts presented by ‘cellist **Beatrice Russell** on **Sunday afternoon, April 26th - @ 2:00 PM** and

“Theatrical Recital’ offered by violinist Prof. Michael Jorgensen (of Lehigh University) on **Tuesday May 12th @ 7pm**

The Prince of Peace Choir

It is never too late to become a part of the church’s Music Ministry: all those who currently sing in the Prince of Peace Choir, or have sung in the choir in the past, OR would simply like to consider singing in the choir and just haven’t gotten around to itplease consider yourselves invited to join us

on **Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM**. The Choir will be singing at worship through Pentecost: May 24th, and Trinity Sunday: May 31st.

The choir is open to anyone from high school age through adult. Please come and bring a friend as we celebrate together, “*Singing and making melody unto the Lord,*” – all are welcome!

The Prince of Peace Handbell Choir

The church has a three-octave set of handbells, as well as a three-octave set of choir chimes, and at one time had quite a fine handbell choir.

Might there be an interest in starting up the Prince of Peace Handbell Choir again? If you can hold a bell and count to 4, you have what it takes to ring. If interested in learning more, please speak with Cathy to discuss possibilities.

SERVICE SCHEDULE
SUNDAY WORSHIP
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
12:00 Noon
Holy Eucharist

CAT AND DOG FOOD DONATIONS

Lee Baer Shull continues to deliver donations of cat and dog food to local no kill shelters. The local no kill shelters in the area are Forever Love in Gettysburg and the Helen Krause Animal Foundation in Dillsburg. When you go to the grocery store think about “God’s Little Ones” and pick up a can or two or a bag of cat or dog food to help these shelters feed, rehabilitate and find good loving homes, “Forever Homes”. Donations may be dropped off at church in a designated container on the last Sunday of every month. Thank you to Lee for taking the lead on this opportunity to help “The Little Ones,” Lee’s “pet name” for these abandoned cats and dogs.

We thank everyone for the very generous outpouring of support this past Sunday, March 29th. Lee has picked the products up for delivery to the shelters. He expresses his sincere thanks to everyone who donated. The next intake will be on Sunday, April 26th and then again on May 31st.

Mark Your Calendars

Please mark your calendars for the upcoming events at Prince of Peace:

Tuesday April 2, 7:00 PM

Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 3rd 7:00 PM

Good Friday Service

Saturday, April 4th 9:45 AM

Decorating for Easter

Holy Saturday Prayers **11:30 AM**

Monday, April 13th 5:00 PM

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, April 14th

Quilt Bee Upstairs Conf. Room **9:30 AM**

Sunday, April 26th

Beatrice Russel Senior Recital **2:00 PM**

Saturday May 2, 11:00 AM

Book Club

Monday, May 11th 5:00 PM

Vestry Meeting

Tuesday, May 12th

Quilt Bee Upstairs Conf. Room **9:30 AM**

Violin Recital **7:00 PM**

**You
help us
when you
donate**



WETZER SCHOLARSHIPS

In 1998, the Hilda Wetzer Scholarship Fund was established at Prince of Peace. Hilda was a longtime member of our church. When she died, she bequeathed a sum of money to Prince of Peace with the stipulation that it be used for academic scholarships for the “youth” of Prince of Peace.

Applicants must be active members of Prince of Peace pursuing an undergraduate degree or equivalent. Both full-time and part-time students are welcome to apply. Applications will be approved by the Vestry. Scholarship monies will be sent to the recipient’s college at the beginning of the school year. The application deadline is June 15th. If you have questions, please contact Carolyn Fouts.

WETZER SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

2026-2027

Please complete the information requested below and return the application to the church office by June 15, 2025.

Please type or print clearly

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name of School _____

Student ID # _____ Class Year _____

____ Full-time (3 or more courses/semester) ____ Part-time (less than 3 courses/semester)

Address of Financial Aid Office _____

Activities participated in at Prince of Peace _____

A brief statement concerning your need for financial assistance

April 5**Easter Day**

Acts 10:34-43
 Colossians 3:1-4
 Matthew 28:1-10
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

April 12**Easter 2**

Acts 2:14a,22-32
 1 Peter 1:3-9
 John 20:19-31
 Psalm 16

April 19**Easter 3**

Acts 2:14a,36-41
 1 Peter 1:17-23
 Luke 24:13-35
 Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

April 26**Easter 4**

Acts 2:42-47
 1 Peter 2:19-25
 John 10:1-10
 Psalm 23

**May 3****Easter 5**

Acts 7:55-60
 1 Peter 2:2-10
 John 14:1-14
 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

May 10**Easter 6**

Acts 17:22-31
 1 Peter 3:13-22
 John 14:15-21
 Psalm 66:7-18

May 18**Easter 5**

Acts 11:1-18
 Revelation 21:1-6
 John 13:31-35
 Psalm 148

May 25**Easter 6**

Acts 17:22-31
 1 Peter 3:13-22
 John 14:15-21
 Psalm 66:7-18

May 31**Trinity Sunday**

Genesis 1:1-2:4a
 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
 Matthew 28:16-20
 Psalm 8
 or Canticle 13

**The Memorial Church of the
 Prince of Peace**

**P. O. Box 3005, 20 W. High St.
 Gettysburg, PA 17325-3005**

Telephone: 717-334-6463

**The Rev. James Strader-Sasser
 Priest In Charge**

**The Rev. Pamela Cooper White
 Ph.D. Priest Associate**

**The Rev. Richard A. Ginnever
 Priest Associate**

**The Rev. Jan Heller Ph.D. Priest
 Associate**

**The Rev. Cathy McKinney
 Chaplain for Pastoral Care
 Cathy Elkiss**

Organist and Choirmaster

Marrie Sanders

Parish Administrator

**princeofpeace@gettysburgepis
 copal.org**

Tim Back, Sexton

Office Hours:

**Monday-Thursday
 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**