Westminster Presbyterian Church

APRIL 18, 2021
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

Welcome and Announcements — **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Gathering Words — **Janelle and Jim Collier**

The bread of life opens our eyes.
The word of life opens our ears.

The risen one shows us God's own brokenness,
and by those wounds we are healed.

Peace be with you.
And also with you.

Opening Prayer — **Janelle and Jim Collier**

Living God,
There is nothing that can destroy or contain your life—
life always slipping through
the cracks of the world and of our lives,
always sending out its shoots and scattering its seeds,
giving birth to new promises and possibilities.

Give us eyes and ears, hearts and minds
that are attuned to the signs and songs of life,
that respond to life's rhythms and reasons.

Forgive us when we do not respond to the life
that flows in tears of joy
and that stumbles through tears of grief;
when we mock life that resists even the harshest violence
and that slowly rises from ashes.

Teach us, O God, to respond to the life
that dances in the untamed places of the planet,
and that walks gently in cities and technology.

Empower us, O Living One, to recognize your life
always slipping through the cracks of the world and of our lives,
and respond as witnesses
in this moment and always. Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 254 — That Easter Day with Joy was Bright — PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

1 That Easter day with joy was bright;
The sun shone out with fairer light when,
To their longing eyes restored,

The apostles saw their risen Lord.

2 He bade them see his hands, his side,
Where yet the glorious wounds abide,
The tokens true which made it plain
Their Lord indeed was risen again.

3 From every weapon death can wield,
Your own redeemed forever shield;
O Lord of all, with us abide
In this our joyful Eastertide.

Prayer of Illumination **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading Luke 24:36-48 *The Message translation*

36-41 While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you." They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death. Jesus continued with them, "Don't be upset, and don't let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it's really me. Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn't have muscle and bone like this." As Jesus said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn't believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true.

41-43 Jesus asked, "Do you have any food here?" They gave him a piece of leftover fish they had cooked. He took it and ate it right before their eyes.

44Then Jesus said, "Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled."

45-49 He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read their Bibles this way. Jesus said, "You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in Christ's name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem! You're the first to hear and see it. You're the witnesses."

Sermon **Holy Encounters** **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

Hymn No. 722 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak CANONBURY

Prayer of the People **Janelle and Jim Collier**

We pray in the name of the One who is to come, Jesus the Christ, who taught us to pray together:

O Breathing Life, your Name shines everywhere!
Release a space to plant your Presence here.
Imagine your possibilities now.
Embody your desire in every light and form.
Grow through us this moment's bread and wisdom.
Untie the knots of failure binding us,
as we release the strands we hold of others' faults.
Help us not forget our Source,
Yet free us from not being in the Present.
From you arises every Vision, Power and Song from gathering to gathering.

Amen—
May our future actions grow from here!

Closing Hymn No. 729 Lord, I Want to Be a Christian I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Benediction **Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy**

*Note: The Opening Prayer was inspired by John van de Laar's poem *Responding to Life*.
The Lord's Prayer is a retranslation from the Aramaic by Mark Berry from the Emerging Church Movement.