

The Road We Are On Together



OPENING PRAYER

*Gracious God,
There is no doubt that we are all on a journey here on earth. In this time, our journey feels like nothing we could have ever foreseen. We are living in ways we haven't before: cut off from our family and friends; activities, school and work interrupted; many things left unfinished and in limbo. As we journey through these uncertain and anxious times, living our lives in different ways, be with us. Help us to more clearly see your presence around us. Amen.*

Take some time to read the Road to Emmaus story—Luke 24:13–35.

Is there a word or phrase that sticks out for you today from this story?

Which person can you relate to today? The “blind” disciples walking with Jesus? The astounding women who shared the good news of the empty tomb? The disciples, after they realize they are in the presence of the risen Christ?

This story about the 7 mile (11 km) walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus, is full of twists and new discoveries. There are many surprises along the way. When you read it, which point in the story do you want to get to? Probably most of us want to jump to the part where Jesus breaks the bread and is revealed to the disciples. The a-ha moment of the story! It's Jesus—He is alive and He is here with us!

Our journeys on earth are full of twists and turns, joys and sorrows. As Christians, we find our hope in Christ. Even, or maybe especially, during these harder times. But as the disciples found out on the road to Emmaus, Jesus is journeying alongside them. In the midst of their grief and sorrow, Jesus is right there. Just not in the way they expected him.

Our hope is that you remember that Jesus is there, right beside you.

Where do you see Jesus in new and unexpected ways today? Perhaps in the dedication of our essential service workers, who are still at work? In our mail delivery people. In our grocery store clerks. In our sanitation workers. Perhaps in the many people who are reaching out to the more vulnerable people in our society. Perhaps in the renewal of the earth, as we enter spring time. Perhaps in those Zoom meetings, TicToc dance challenges or IG stories.

We are an Easter people who believe in the hope of the resurrection. May we cling to that hope and the promise of Jesus's love and grace, during this time.

Take some time to reflect on where you have seen Jesus in this past month. Write these thoughts down, draw them, or find another creative way to note them. Can you make a pledge for the coming week(s) to continue to note the ways that God is present in our lives in uncommon and surprising ways? In ways where we need to look for that divine presence in our lives.

Share your thoughts with those around you: with other youth in your youth group, with your leaders, or even share with us on the CLAY Facebook page or IG account. We are in this together!

CLOSING PRAYER

*Jesus the Risen Christ,
Help us to look for you in the world around us. Encourage us and help us to find new ways to be church in this world today. Help us to find ways to keep sharing your love. Amen.*