

**Third Sunday of Easter  
April 26, 2020  
Worship On-Line  
Community Congregational Church of Chula Vista  
United Church of Christ**

*Today is designated as Pacific Asian American Ministry (PAAM) Sunday, which is when our denomination, the United Church of Christ, celebrates and honors Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who are members and ministers within the UCC. We, at Community Congregational Church are blessed to have many members in our congregation, from Filipino and Samoan backgrounds, as well as from Asian countries and Hawaii! In honor of them we are using the worship service that has been written by a colleague and friend of Pastor Liz's, Rev. Mitchell Young. It has been adapted for our use today by Pastor Liz.*

**Welcome and Passing of the Peace** [Greet one another with "Peace be with you" in the language of your choice.]

*Accompany your verbal greeting with South East Asian noncontact greeting gestures: Thai "wai", (cf. "Namaste" of Southern Asia). Demonstrate the gesture by joining your hands together in front of you in a praying gesture held anywhere between chest to forehead level, the higher you position your hands the greater the respect/deference you offer. The most common level for your peers is with fingertips at chin level.*



Rev. Mitchell's daughter greets him with wai, (a Thai greeting).

**Call to Worship (Based on Luke 24:13-35; in English and Tagalog)**

Leader: Jesus walks with us from Jerusalem to Emmaus, from San Diego to Chula Vista .  
**People: We journey with Jesus on the road. Jesus travels with us on every road of our lives!**  
 Leader: And yet we could not recognize Jesus  
**People: until we broke bread together, until we shared some pansit and lumpia!**  
 Leader: At once, our eyes are opened and we say:  
**People: Oh! Our hearts were burning for that familiar voice!**  
 Leader: Christ is risen!  
**People: Christ is risen, indeed!**  
 Leader: Christ is risen, indeed! *Si Cristo ay nabuhay na tunay!*  
**All: Praise God! Alleluia!**

**Prayer of Invocation: On this last Sunday of the month, we thank you loving God for you call us from all walks of life into a continued journey of faith with you. We thank you that just as you met the disciples on**

the way to Emmaus, you welcome us, too. May your Holy Spirit unite as we continue to travel through this time of pandemic with you and with one another. May we recognize you in all the faces of your children from Asia, to Alaska, from the South Pole to the North Pole, from San Ysidro, to Lemon Grove! Thank you for always meeting us on the way. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Hymn of Adoration: "Thine Is The Glory" #291, Red Hymnal; Verses 1 and 3**

Thine is the glory, Risen conquering Son;  
 Endless is the victory Through o'er death hast won.  
 Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
 Kept the folded grave clothes where Thy body lay.

(Chorus:)

Thine is the glory, Risen, conquering Son;  
 Endless is the victory  
 Thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt Thee, glorious Prince of life!  
 Life is naught without Thee; aid us in our strife.  
 Make us more than conquerors, through Thy deathless love;  
 Bring us safe through Jordan to Thy home above.

**Pastoral Prayer** (Luke 24:29-31, Psalm 116:3, 15, UCC Statement of Faith)

Gracious God, we come before you in the name of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior, the one who walks with us, talks with us, eats with us. We have broken bread together; we have shared the same pot of rice; it has fed us all.

On this PAAM Sunday, we give you thanks and pray for the Pacific Islander and Asian American Ministries of our United Church of Christ: for 46 years strengthening the voices of the Pacific Islander and Asian American churches, taking seriously God's call to bind in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.



For such a time as this global pandemic, we give thanks for people who have ceased referring to this global pandemic as "Chinese Virus". We give you praise for voices that actively work against racism and violence. We pray also for your guidance and compassion for those who hold on to misinformation against and point fingers at their neighbors. Give us all courage in the struggle for justice and peace as we welcome the stranger into conversation along our mutual journey.

God of resurrection hope, as the world hunkers down in fear and isolation, we look to you. We pray for the tens of thousands who have lost their lives in the pandemic; we embrace their families as well. We know that the death of your faithful ones is precious in your sight. We trust that you are greater than any virus, continuing to bring lives together, even when we are apart from one another. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

## **Scripture Reading    Luke 24:13-35**

<sup>13</sup> Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup> and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup> While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup> but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup> And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup> Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” <sup>19</sup> He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth,<sup>[c]</sup> who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup> and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup> But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup> Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup> and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup> Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” <sup>25</sup> Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup> Was it not necessary that the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” <sup>27</sup> Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

<sup>28</sup> As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup> But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup> When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup> Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup> They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” <sup>33</sup> That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup> They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” <sup>35</sup> Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## **Song of Meditation: “He Is The Lord”**

## **Sermon “When Jesus Shows Up”**

**Closing Hymn “I Know That My Redeemer Lives” #295, Red. Hymnal, Verses 1, 3, and 4**

I know that my Redeemer lives:  
 What joy the blest assurance gives!  
 He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
 He lives, my every lasting Head!

He lives, and grants me daily breath;  
 He lives, and I shall conquer death;  
 He lives, my future to prepare:  
 He lives, to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His Name;  
 He lives, my Savior, still the same;  
 What joy the blest assurance gives;  
 I know that my Redeemer lives!

**Benediction** (*Peace Be With You- said in Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Hawaiian*)

*Samoan: la outou manuia*

*Spanish: Que la paz de Dios sea con usted*

*Tagalog: Kapayapaan ay sumainyo*

*Hawaiian: Aloha 'oukou*

**Brief Description of PAAM**

PAAM has initiated, sponsored, supported and participated in many activities on local church, regional, national, and ecumenical levels. It have worked for greater Pacific Islander Asian American representation on the national and conference boards and staff positions. As an advocate for human rights in Asian and Pacific Island countries, PAAM has questioned the role of our church and nation in these countries. PAAM continues to address institutional racism within the church and society. PAAM is also concerned with strengthening local churches, as well as nurturing and developing clergy, lay leaders, and youth.

**Breaking Bread in Quarantine for PAAM Sunday, the Third Sunday of Easter, Year A**, was written and revised to be used on this Sunday, by the Rev. Mitchell Young, pastor of Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church, UCC in Montebello, CA. He and Pastor Liz met each other when they served together on the Worship Planning Committee for the 28<sup>th</sup> General Synod in Tampa FL, in 2011.