



Welcome to the Congregational Church on Mercer Island

We strive to be a forward-looking community.

Where God is all-loving and inclusive.

Where people are welcomed and accepted as they are.

Where our minds are nourished as much as our souls.

Where Jesus the healer meets Jesus the revolutionary.

Where together we grow a just and peaceful world.

**ALL HYMNS INCLUDED AT THE END OF THIS
BULLETIN**

Sunday, April 19, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Yuan Zhou

Introit

Sun Don't Set In The Mornin'

Call to Worship

Rev. Jennifer Castle

We come as people carrying stories - stories of hope, and stories of loss.

We come as people walking the long road, not always knowing where it leads.

Sometimes we walk with heavy hearts, speaking aloud what we had hoped would be.

Sometimes, without knowing it, we are joined by holy presence along the way.

Come, let us worship the One who walks beside us,

and who reveals new life where we least expect it.

Opening Hymn

#458

Ours the Journey

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Hymn

#638

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Scripture Reading

Luke 24: 13-35

Read by Jinny Sewall

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. 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?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 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. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 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. 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.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 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. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. 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?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Reading

Adapted from *Blessing for the Brokenhearted*

by Jan Richardson

Read by Jinny Sewall

This blessing is not for the brokenhearted alone - it is for those who walk the long road of loss, who speak the words *we had hoped* and do not yet know what comes next.

It is for those who do not recognize that they are not alone.

This blessing will not fix you. It will not take away the sorrow. But it will come and sit beside you. It will listen as you tell the story again.

And in the telling, in the walking, in the quiet companionship - it will kindle something within you that had not entirely gone out. A small flame. A steady warmth. Enough to light the next step.

Sermon

“Hidden Hope”

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Anthem

In the Morning Joy

Prayers

Holy One beyond all Names, Eternal Wellspring, may love rise again in us today with food for every table, shelter for every family, and reverence for every life. Forgive us our failings in love and free us from all falseness, that the light of our souls may shine, and the strength of our spirits endure, for Earth and all its people this day, tonight, and forever. Amen

Closing Hymn

#231

Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us

Blessing

Rev. Jennifer Castle

Upcoming Events:

Tuesdays, 2:00 pm on Zoom – Bible Study via Zoom
Thursdays, 7:00 pm – Choir Rehearsal – ALL WELCOME
Thursdays, 10:30 am until April 30 – Women’s Bible Study

April 26, 11:30 am – Sandwich Making (Operation Nightwatch)

May 2, 8:30 am – Men’s Breakfast
May 3, 10:30 am -Communion
May 9, 9:00 am – Women’s Breakfast
May 17, 10:30 am – Scout Sunday
May 17, 11:30 am – Congregational Meeting & Land Sale Vote

PLEASE NOTE THAT CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE UPSTAIRS

Bring your children up, we’d love to look after them during worship!

To make a gift to the church, scan the QR code below with the camera on your smartphone and you will be directed to the appropriate link on the church website. Thank you!



Pastor
Music Director
Administrator

Rev. Jennifer Castle
Deeji Killian
Janet Morris

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Closing

Ours the Journey

458

Unison

1. In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,
 2. Through the flood of starv-ing peo-ples, war-ring fac-tions and de-spair,
 3. Though we reach the high-est heav-ens, hold-ing worlds at our com-mand,
 4. Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with-draw in pain,

who will lead the pil-grim peo-ples wan-der-ing their sep-'rate ways?
 who will lift the ol-ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?
 we are yet a des-ert peo-ple search-ing for the prom-ised land.
 may your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir-it res-ur-rect the church a-gain.

Refrain

God of rain-bow, fier-y pil-lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar,

we your peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev-er-more.

WORDS and MUSIC: Julian B. Rush, 1979

OURS THE JOURNEY
 87.87 w. refrain

© 1979 Julian B. Rush

♩=108-112

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

638

Unison

1. In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2. There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3. In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise; but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

WORDS and MUSIC: Natalie Sleeth, 1986

PROMISE
87.87D

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♩=84-92

231 Sing of One Who Walks Beside Us

F Dm Gm Dm Am Gm7

1. Sing of one who walks be - side us and this day is
 2. We have walked with him as strang - ers through the jour - ney
 3. Ris - en one, stay with us, raise us, once a - gain the

B \flat 7 Dm C Dm C B \flat 7

liv - ing still, one who now is clos - er to us
 of the day, and have told him of the vi - o - lence
 night is near. Dine with us and share your wis - dom,

Am B \flat 7 C F F Dm7

than the thoughts our hearts dis - till, Christ who once up -
 that has swept our hope a - way. He has of - fered
 free our hearts from ev - 'ry fear. In the calm of

B \flat 7 Gm7 B \flat 7 Am7 B \flat 7 Gm7 C

on a hill - top, raised a - gainst the power of sin,
 words of com - fort, words of en - er - gy and light.
 each new eve - ning, in the fresh - ness of each dawn,

F Dm C Gm7 Am B \flat 7 C6 C F

died in love as his own crea - tures cru - ci - fied their God and Friend!
 Did our hearts not blaze with - in us as he broke the bread this right?
 if you hold us fast in friend - ship we will nev - er be a - lone.