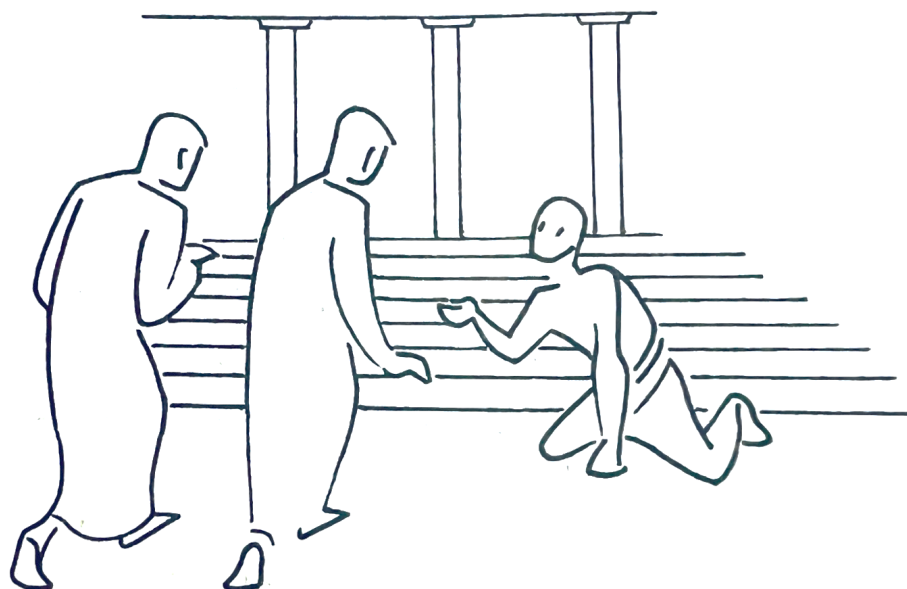


Cross Lanes United Methodist Church

Order of Worship Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, April 21, 2024



GATHERING

Prelude

Whether you are joining us in person or on-line, know that we are here to journey along with you as you grow in love of God and neighbor, and as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Opening Hymn They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

verses 1 and 2 TFWS 2223

*Call to Worship

As early followers of Jesus gathered
for fellowship and worship,

**praying and singing and reading the scriptures,
so we gather this morning.**

We read in Acts that the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul.

One heart.

One soul.

They shared everything—

**everything they owned,
everything they had.**

God's grace was at work in them,

**powerfully at work
within them all.**

There was not a needy person among them.

May it be so for us as well. Amen.

Music for all Ages I've Got The Joy (Down in my Heart)

Word for Children

First Lesson Acts 3:1-17

Healing of a crippled man

³ Peter and John were going up to the temple at three o'clock in the afternoon, the established prayer time. ² Meanwhile, a man crippled since birth was being carried in. Every day, people would place him at the temple gate known as the Beautiful Gate so he could ask for money from those entering the temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he began to ask them for a gift. ⁴ Peter and John stared at him. Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ So the man gazed at them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶ Peter said, "I don't have any money, but I will give you what I do have. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, rise up and walk!"

⁷ Then he grasped the man's right hand and raised him up. At once his feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ Jumping up, he began to walk around. He entered the temple with them, walking, leaping, and praising God. ⁹ All the people saw him walking and praising God. ¹⁰ They recognized him as the same one who used to sit at the temple's Beautiful Gate asking for money. They were filled with amazement and surprise at what had happened to him.

¹¹ While the healed man clung to Peter and John, all the people rushed toward them at Solomon's Porch, completely amazed. ¹² Seeing this, Peter addressed the people: "You Israelites, why are you amazed at this? Why are you staring at us as if we made him walk by our own power or piety?"

¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of our ancestors—has glorified his servant Jesus. This is the one you handed over and denied in Pilate's presence, even though he had already decided to release him. ¹⁴ You rejected the holy and righteous one, and asked that a murderer be released to you instead. ¹⁵ You killed the author of life, the very one whom God raised from the dead. We are witnesses of this. ¹⁶ His name itself has made this man strong. That is, because of faith in Jesus' name, God has strengthened this man whom you see and know. The faith that comes through Jesus gave him complete health right before your eyes.

¹⁷ "Brothers and sisters, I know you acted in ignorance. So did your rulers.

Anthem Majesty

Second Lesson Acts 4:1-20 CEB

⁴ While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple guard, and the Sadducees confronted them. ² They were incensed that the apostles were teaching the people and announcing that the resurrection of the dead was happening because of Jesus. ³ They seized Peter and John and put them in prison until the next day. (It was already evening.) ⁴ Many who heard the word became believers, and their number grew to about five thousand.

⁵ The next day the leaders, elders, and legal experts gathered in Jerusalem, ⁶ along with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and others from the high priest's family. ⁷ They had Peter and John brought before them and asked, "By what power or in what name did you do this?"

⁸ Then Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, answered, "Leaders of the people and elders, ⁹ are we being examined today because something good was done for a sick person, a good deed that healed him? ¹⁰ If so, then you and all the people of Israel need to know that this man stands healthy before you because of the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹ This Jesus is the stone you builders rejected; he has become the cornerstone! ¹² Salvation can be found in no one else. Throughout the whole world, no other name has been given among humans through which we must be saved."

¹³ The council was caught by surprise by the confidence with which Peter and John spoke. After all, they understood that these apostles were uneducated and inexperienced. They also recognized that they had been followers of Jesus. ¹⁴ However, since the healed man was standing with Peter and John before their own eyes, they had no rebuttal. ¹⁵ After ordering them to wait outside, the council members began to confer with each other. ¹⁶ "What should we do with these men? Everyone living in Jerusalem is aware of the sign performed through them. It's obvious to everyone and we can't deny it. ¹⁷ To keep it from spreading further among the people, we need to warn them not to speak to anyone in this name." ¹⁸ When they called Peter and John back, they demanded that they stop all speaking and teaching in the name of Jesus.

¹⁹ Peter and John responded, "It's up to you to determine whether it's right before God to obey you rather than God. ²⁰ As for us, we can't stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Sermon

Rev. Deborah Coble

***Response To The Word**

Gloria Patri UMH 70

Glory be to the the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Mission And Ministry Moment

Sharing Our Tithes and Offerings

As forgiven and reconciled people,
Let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

Offertory

He Lives

***Doxology: Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.**

**Praise Him above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

***Prayer Of Thanksgiving After Offering**

**Almighty God, giver of every good and perfect gift,
teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, so that we may praise you, not
with our lips only,
but with our whole lives, turning the duties, the sorrows, and the joys of all our days into a
living sacrifice to you;
through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*** Hymn Christ Has Risen TFWS 2115**

*** Going Forth**

**Life is short, and we have too little time
to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.
So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind,
and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and
always. Amen.**

***Choral Benediction Bind Us Together TFWS 2226**

Postlude

We are so grateful that you have joined us this morning for worship!

Learn more about Cross Lanes UMC online at: crosslanesumc.org

If you have any other questions, please call the church office:
(304) 776-3081.

Feel free to contact Pastor Deborah: RevDeborahWV@gmail.com