



# First Parish of Westwood UCC

252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090

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Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, *Interim Pastor*

Rev. Richard Edens, *Interim Pastor*

April 18, 2021  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of EASTER

## Gathering

### PREPARATION

Annie Dillard, in her autobiography, speaks of her wonder as a child that the church treated the Bible as such a dead, lifeless book when she knew enough to know that if the Scripture were unleashed, it could cause all sorts of trouble:

*"The adult members of society adverted to the Bible unreasonably often. . . Why did they spread this scandalous document before our eyes? Where we could read that Christ uttered such cruel, stiff, thrilling words: 'Sell whatsoever thou hast.' If they had read it, I thought, they would have hid it. They didn't recognize the vivid danger that we would, through repeated exposure, catch a case of its wild opposition to their world."*

– Annie Dillard, *An American Childhood*

### RINGING OF THE HOUR

Jesse Aguilar with Fina Aguilar

### WELCOME AND PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. Jill Edens, Interim Pastor

### CALL TO WORSHIP IN MUSIC

*Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One* from "Judas Maccabaeus"

G. F. Handel

Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music

## Encountering the Word

### A WORD FOR ALL AGES

*I Feel a Foot!*

Read by Richard Edens

By Maranke Rinck & Martijn van der Linden

### LESSON

Reader: Bob Deininger

Luke 24: 36b-48, *NRSV*

*Today's reading describes the fifth of the six resurrection-related episodes in Luke. The disheartened disciples gather in Jerusalem to talk about Jesus' appearance to Peter at the empty tomb and Jesus' appearance to Cleopas and his companions on the road to Emmaus when Jesus suddenly stands in their midst. They fail to recognize him until he shows them his crucified, but now resurrected body, and they believe. The disciples are thus called to be witnesses.*

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

### MESSAGE

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

>>> continued >>

### PASTORAL PRAYER CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

**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, for ever. Amen.**

ANTHEM

*Morning Has Broken*  
First Parish Choir

Scottish Gaelic tune

## Giving Thanks in Response to the Word

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD AND TO ONE ANOTHER

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

Until that day when we gather again in the sanctuary, please send your tithes and gifts for First Parish to the church office at 252 Nahatan Street, Westwood, MA 02090.

## Sending

BENEDICTION

Rev. Richard Edens, Interim Pastor

BLESSING IN MUSIC

*Go in Peace*

First Parish Choir  
Dr. Sarah Tocco, Director of Music