



**First Church in Windsor, UCC: *Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope***

**The Third Sunday in Easter  
Baptism Sunday  
April 23, 2023, at 10 a.m.**

Holy Vessels: Holy and Whole in Easter

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Threshold Moment**

**Song**

*Celtic Alleluia*

Words and music by Christopher Walker  
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**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Opening Prayer**

**Holy Jesus, meet us on the road to Emmaus,  
Guide us on the path toward our destination,  
and renew our strength as we continue to walk and commune with you.  
Open our eyes, so we see the signs of your presence around us;  
open our hearts, so we may receive your peace and love;  
and empower us to pass on to others  
the grace you have shared with us so freely.  
Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace**

Response: **And also with you.**

*Please make sure to wave to our online community, send a text message of peace to someone, or pass the peace in the chat on Facebook.*

## Opening Hymn

### *Now The Green Blade Rises*

French traditional  
Words by John Crum  
Public domain

**Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;  
Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.**

**In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,  
Thinking that their Love would never wake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.**

**Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,  
Jesus, who for three days in the grave had lain,  
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:  
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.**

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.**

.

## **Sacrament of Holy Baptism: Natalie Claire Fredette**

*Today we welcome Natalie Claire Fredette, daughter of Alex and Amanda Fredette into our church family through water baptism.*

*We also welcome Natalie's godparents, Kate Ackerson & Jeremy Fredette.*

### **Questions of then Candidates**

### **Congregational Promise**

**People: We promise our love, support, and care.**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God.**

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ.**

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.**

### **Act of Baptism**

## **Children's Moment**

## Prayer of our Savior

**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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

## Scriptures

### 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, 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 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.

## Sermon

Pastor Nicole

“Eureka Moment on the Road to Emmaus”

## Anthem

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks!*

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## Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

## Prayer Response

### *Sanctuary*

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**Lord prepare me  
To be a sanctuary  
Pure and holy  
Tried and true  
And with thanksgiving  
I'll be a living  
Sanctuary, for you**

## Announcements

### Online Giving

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. If you wish, you may give online [here](#).

### Closing Hymn

#### *I Danced in the Morning*

Music: traditional Shaker melody

Words by Sydney Carter

C 1963 Stainer & Bell, administered by Hope Publishing Company

**I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun.  
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

**Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.**

**I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black,  
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.  
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone;  
But I am the dance and I still go on.**

**Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.**

**They cut me down and I leapt up high; I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you live in me: I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.**

**Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.**

## Benediction

### Postlude

Alleluia  
By Cesar Franck  
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