

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Third Sunday of Easter / Earth Day Worship
April 23, 2023
9:30 am



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Rocky River, OH 44116
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YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqj8k1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v1v)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

Third Sunday of Easter / Earth Day Worship

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day. Today's service also has an emphasis on caring for creation and the world God loves and redeems through Christ.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude and Welcome

Land Acknowledgement Video and Moment of Silence

As we live, work, and worship in the land that is now called the United States, Lutherans Restoring Creation recognizes that we do so on land that was stolen from Indigenous peoples. As we are called to restore creation, we are also called to restore right-relationship with one another. As we join in this holy vocation of loving our neighbor, we honor all our Indigenous siblings who have been companions of the lands, waters, and beings of Turtle Island since time immemorial.

We charge our community to learn about the original and continuous stewards of the land upon which we exist. We lament legacies of violence, cultural genocide, and displacement of Indigenous communities; committing ourselves to hearing and

speaking the truth of that history and its on-going effects. May we gather faithfully in mind, body, and spirit so that we may mend what has been broken and embody Christ's gospel of abundant life.

A moment of silence.

*In
Thanksgiving
for Baptism,
we recall how
God has joined
us to Christ
through
baptism and
clothes us with
mercy and
forgiveness.*

*The
thanksgiving
praises God for
all of God's
saving actions
through water
and the word,
praying and
trusting that
this assembly
will be
renewed by
the Holy Spirit
in forgiveness,
grace, and
love.*

† Thanksgiving for Baptism

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are welcomed, restored, and supported as citizens of the new creation. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We praise you, O God, for water –
For Lake Erie, and the Rocky and Cuyahoga Rivers,
For the rain that nourishes animals and plants,
For water for drinking and bathing.

We praise you, O God, for our water stories –
A flood that cleansed the earth,
A sea that drowned oppressors,
A river that can heal leprosy.

We remember the waters of Jesus –
Baptized in the Jordan River,
Calming the Sea of Galilee,
Drinking from Jacob's Well,
Washing the disciples' feet,
On the cross thirsting for us.

O God, you are the Ocean, the source of all life.
You are the River, saving us from death.
You are the Stream, restoring our community's strength.
We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever.
Amen.

† **Gathering Hymn: God of the Sparrow**
ELW 740 vs 1, 3, 6

1 God of the sparrow God of the whale
God of the swirling stars
How does the creature say Awe
How does the creature say Praise

3 God of the rainbow God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

6 God of the ages God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

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The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Along with the return of the Alleluia, the Hymn of Praise returns on Easter Sunday to signify the joy of the resurrection.

† Hymn of Praise

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. *Refrain*

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:

Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men. *Refrain*

3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

† Prayer of the Day

God of Life, you called everything you have made Good. We are gathered now in your Spirit, by your Word, to offer our prayers, our songs, our confessions to you; trusting in your mercy, your goodness, and your joy. Make us aware of your Spirit on the move in the world, that where you lead, we follow. **Amen.**

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we

are about to hear.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Acts 2:14a, 36-41

To put this reading into context:

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

Hear now the reading:

^{14a}Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd], ³⁶“Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 104 *Video interpretation by The Rev. Christyn Koschmann*

I am awestruck, Holy One at this beautiful and boundless universe—cultivated over eons with love and care. Your creative intent envelopes the world like a cloak. I see it shining in the heavens, hear it whispering in the winds, feel it crackling in the fire. For you energized the dust of the universe—the galaxies, the stars, the planets, right down to this jewel of an earth. You are wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the waves of the wind. You make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers. You paint the earth with your holy spirit, each stroke and color with purpose, place and song. You put a restlessness in our hearts that leave us to seek you always. Therefore, I will sing your songs all my days and care for all you have created and keep my heart ever open to your Love.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Lenten Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† Gospel Acclamation: Halle Halle Hallelujah ELW 172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

The Gospel is announced. Following the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks

† Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

To put this gospel reading into context:

*and praise to
Jesus Christ,
who is
revealed to us
through the
Gospel
reading.*

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

The holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³Now on that same day [when Jesus had appeared to Mary Magdalene,] two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸Then 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?" ¹⁹He 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, ²⁰and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹But 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. ²²Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and 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. ²⁴Some 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." ²⁵Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³²They 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?” ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Children aged Pre-K through 3rd grade are invited to leave the service after the Children’s Sermon and attend the 1st part of Sunday School instruction (2nd part to resume in classes after worship.)

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin

The Rev. Dr. R. Guy Erwin served as bishop of the Southwest California Synod from 2013-2020. He was the first Native American to be elected as an ELCA bishop (member of the Osage Nation). After earning a PhD from Yale University, he was lecturer in Church History in the Yale Divinity School. In 2020, Rev. Dr. Erwin was named President of United Lutheran Seminary.

† Hymn of the Day: Touch the Earth Lightly ELW 739 vs 1-3

1 Touch the earth lightly,
use the earth gently,

nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder,
ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

2 We who endanger,
who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster
clouds of disaster—
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

3 Let there be greening,
birth from the burning,
water that blesses, and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden,
hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931 Text © 1992 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community
and around the
world. The
prayers are
also
responsive,
emphasizing
our own
participation.*

† Prayers of Intercession

O God, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen:

Your great love has placed us in your creation, and you command us to care for it. Where we have degraded or destroyed earth's bounty, forgive us. Where we have taken beauty and majesty for granted, have mercy upon us. Where we have become estranged from the creatures with whom we share this planet, grant us your peace. Creator God, **receive our prayer.**

*Each petition
addresses a
different topic,*

We know that there are many things that thwart our efforts and our responsibilities to your creation. The issues of the environment and conservation are often associated with differing political

often in the same pattern:

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith community
+ The great cloud of witnesses/those now resting with God*

views. For openness to learning about environmental issues and concerns, we pray. Creator God, **receive our prayer.**

We know that because we are created in your image, we are connected with the entirety of creation, just as you are. For an awareness of how our own lifestyles can be modified to help protect the environment, we pray. Creator God, **receive our prayer.**

In an environmental catastrophe, the people who suffer first and greatest are often the poorest of the poor. Yet we rarely hear their voices. For those who live in poverty and suffer the devastating effects of flooding, drought, and other environmental issues, we pray. Creator God, **receive our prayer.**

In recent days, even the ground under our feet has begun to tremble, reminding us that we live together in a fragile community of life. For those communities across the country that have been ravaged by recent gun violence and racial profiling, we pray: Creator God, **receive our prayer.**

As members of this creation, we live and die according to the cycle of life that is common in all the world. For those who suffer from illness or are in need your comfort, we pray: Peter, Helen, Kaethe, Andrew, Martha and Jamie, Willie, Char, Marlon, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Anna, Patricia, Jeanette, Archer, our siblings in Christ at Trinity Lutheran Lakewood as they prepare for Holy Closure... and all those we name out loud or silently in our hearts. Creator God, **receive our prayer.**

God we trust that you receive our prayers, spoken and unspoken. Help us to be the change we pray for in the world, bringing about relational and ecological healing to every corner of the Earth, for our sake now and for every generation to come. **Amen.**

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always
And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:

Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.



The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

† Offering Hymn: Alleluia! Jesus is Risen ELW 377 vs 1

- 1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendor, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Refrain

Jesus is risen and we shall arise.
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926 Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

† **Offering Prayer**

Generous God,
in this meal you offer your very self.
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.
In the breaking of this bread
reveal to us the Risen One.
In the pouring of this wine
pour us out in service to the world;
through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

† **Great Thanksgiving**

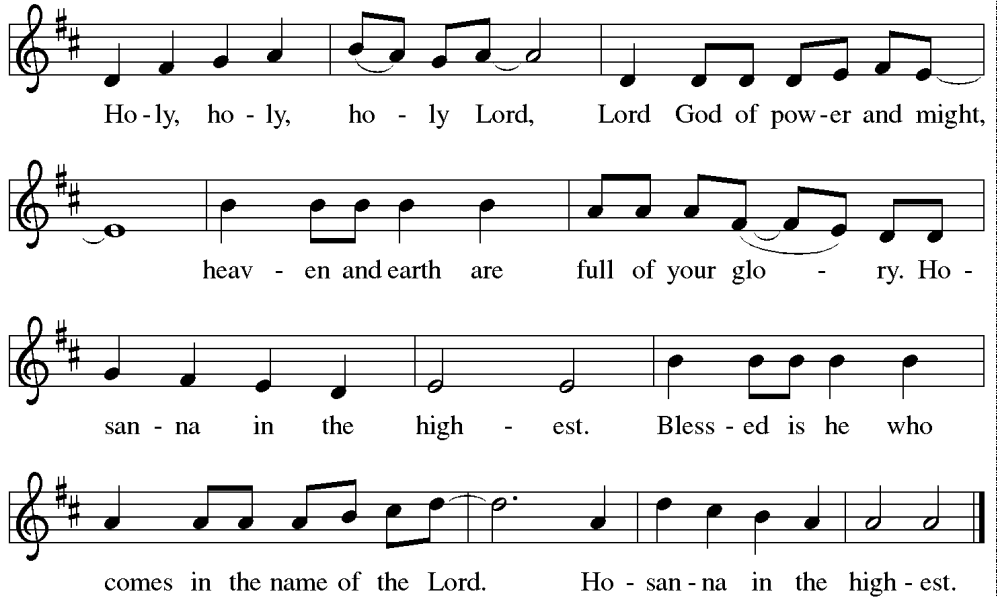
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† **Preface**

† Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray together as Jesus first taught us:

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 and ever. Amen.

† Invitation to the Table

Come, see, experience, and believe in the Risen Christ, and God's great love poured out for you. **Amen.**

We will continue to observe standing processional communion throughout the season of Easter—standing is considered “the posture of resurrection.” Another way for us to embody the resurrection of Jesus!

† Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are welcome to come to the Lord’s table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian’s preference.

When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding down the center aisle single file to the front. We will be observing standing processional communion, rather than kneeling at the rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: Morning Has Broken ELW 556

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!
- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.
- 3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965 Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Blessing of the Dandelion Team

† Blessing

The God of all creation: Of flowers and trees, of butterflies and bees, of squirrels and mountain lions, bless you, keep you, and strengthen you for the work of loving all Creation. In the name of the † Triune God.
Amen.

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world
to follow Jesus.*

† Sending Hymn: Earth and All Stars! ELW 731 vs 1, 4, 5

- 1 Earth and all stars! Loud rushing planets!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Hail, wind, and rain! Loud blowing snowstorm!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Refrain

God has done marvelous things.
I too sing praises with a new song!

- 4 Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes!
Sing to the Lord a new song!
Athlete and band! Loud cheering people!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

- 5 Knowledge and truth! Loud sounding wisdom!
Sing to the Lord a new song!

Daughter and son! Loud praying members!
Sing to the Lord a new song! *Refrain*

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Text © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!

† Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for coffee hour immediately following worship.

Coffee Hour Discussion Question:

Share a spiritual experience you've had in nature.

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Thanksgiving for Baptism adapted from Gail Ramshaw, "Thanksgiving for Baptismal Water" 2012. Used by permission.

Today's Worship Servants:

Presiding: The Rev. Marissa Harrison	Reader: Joan Zeager
Ushers: Bill Wahl Darlene Wahl	Counters: Joan Zeager Michael Wancata
Online Usher: Alex Alusheff	Acolyte: George Young
Livestream: Trey Harrison	Sunday School Teachers:

Communion Assistants: Laura O'Neil Shawn O'Neil	Louise DeBell (Early Learners) Kim Wylie (Primary) JoAnne Wancata (Middle Schoolers)
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Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, April 23, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Kaethe Buchholz, Andrew Evatt, Martha and Jamie Lanter, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Marlon Naylor, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schluep, Marie Sternad, Anna Sykaluk, Patricia Wancata, Jeanette Weidlich, Archer Oster, our siblings in Christ at Trinity Lutheran Lakewood as they prepare for Holy Closure.

For those celebrating their birthday:

Kaethe Buchholz (Apr 25), Ariel Benewiat (Apr 26), Laura O'Neil (Apr 29)

Acts Bible Study 7pm via Zoom: We hear from the book of Acts every Sunday throughout the Season of Easter. Join Pastor Marissa for a bible study via zoom at 7pm on these Wednesdays (4/26, 5/3, 5/10) to explore the book of Acts and connections with Good Soil's new Guiding Principles. Please RSVP to admin@goodsoillutheran.org to sign-up and receive the zoom link (zoom link also included in e-news). Grow in faith and relationships with fellow Good Soil members and friends!

Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Apr 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am
Wed, Apr 26	Acts Bible Study – Zoom	7:00 pm
Sun, Apr 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour 	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:30 am
Wed, May 3	Acts Bible Study – Zoom	7:00 pm