



April 19, 2026
Third Sunday of Easter

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing an experience of belonging, with God's music and the love
and justice of Jesus at the heart of what we do.

Welcome

Rachel Robicheau

Opening Music: Christ Is Alive

Guided Breath & Centering Moment

Opening Prayer

Rev. Timothy Sylvia

Entry Into Worship

Cheryle Totten

One: We come from our separate lives,
our separate weeks, our separate hungers.

Many: And we come to the same table.

One: We come with questions we haven't finished asking
and griefs we haven't finished grieving.

Many: And we come to the same table.

One: We come as people who have been fed here before,
who know what it is to be seen across a shared meal,
to be surprised by who sits down beside us.

Many: And we come to the same table.

One: This is the table where the broken are welcomed.
This is the table where the stranger becomes neighbor.
This is the table where eyes have been known to open.

Many: This is why we come.

One: So let us worship together,
not as strangers performing the same ritual in the same room,

**Many: but as a people who belong to each other,
and to the God who keeps setting more places.**

Scripture: Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

Cheryle Totten

Gospel: Luke 24: 13-35

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.

Music: Stand in Your Love

Sermon: It Survived Because of Tables

Rev. Timothy Sylvia

Music: Draw Us In The Spirit's Tether

Affirmation (Unison)

Rachel Robicheau

**We believe that the table is not a metaphor.
It is a practice; physical, political, and radical.**

**We believe that who sits down together
is a theological statement.**

**We believe that who gets turned away from the table
is a theological statement too.**

**We believe that Jesus was recognized in the breaking of bread
and that this means something for how we eat,
and with whom,
and whether we leave room.**

**We believe that the early church survived
not because it had the best doctrine
but because it had the most scandalous dinner parties
rich and poor, Jew and Gentile, the respectable and the ruined,
all of them passing the same bread.**

**We are the inheritors of that table.
We are responsible for who sits at it.
We are the ones who get to decide**

**whether belonging here is real
or just a thing we say.**

**We choose the table.
We choose to mean it.**

Offering Invitation

Rachel Robicheau

Pastoral Prayer (with 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Closing Music: Because He Lives

Sending Forth

Rev. Timothy Sylvia, Pastor
Jeff Hobart, Director of Music Ministry

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This morning's flowers are to welcome Aunt Glo "in person" and wishing her safe travels home, given by Tony Massaroni and John Croto.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE, April 20th: Please submit to Nadine (firstuccrandolph19@gmail.com) anything you'd like included in the May edition of Changing Lives by April 20th. Thank you.

BOOK NOOK, April 25th, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm: Stop by the Book Nook to check out our latest selection of gently used books...nothing more than \$1.00! Look for the 'Open' flag on the little, white building behind the church.

ISS STOP THE STIGMA WALK, Saturday, April 25th, 9:30 am: A church team has been set up for this year's walk. If you'd like to join the team, please contact Susan Goodale (psgoodale@comcast.net) prior to registering. Funds raised will go to the New Directions Counseling Center at ISS. Anyone is able to go for counseling regardless of insurance or inability for their copay. Stop the Stigma against mental illness, substance abuse. You can donate to our team, or an individual on our team, by clicking on this link: <https://interfaithsocialservices.org/stop-the-stigma-5k/?form=5Kdonation> and specify that you are donating to First Congregational Church Randolph or the specific walker's name. Everyone is welcome to participate in our raffle to support our Stop the Stigma 5K. You do not need to be a race participant in order to purchase entries. Raffle chances are \$5 for each entry and can be purchased now through April 29th, (<https://interfaithsocialservices.org/stop-the-stigma-5k/>).

LITTLE WOMEN THE MUSICAL: Based on Louisa May Alcott's life, Little Women follows the adventures of sisters, Jo, Meg, Beth and Amy March. Jo is trying to sell her stories for publication, but the publishers are not interested – her friend, Professor Bhaer, tells her that she has to do better and write more from herself. Begrudgingly taking this advice, Jo weaves the story of herself and her sisters and their experience growing up in Civil War America. **Performances are May 29th, 30th and 31st.** Get your tickets at [Bit.ly/2026LittleWomen](https://bit.ly/2026LittleWomen).

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Racial Justice

Monday, April 20th

6:00 pm in the Chapel

SCAN OUR QR CODES:



Online Giving



Events Page of Our Website