On the Road Again
Third Sunday Of Easter 2017

Refection By: Deacon Paul Hursh

"He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread." (Luke 24:35b)

Why do you suppose Cleopas and his fellow disciple were so quick to leave Jerusalem, following Jesus' execution? Maybe they were afraid they would be crucified next? Had they given up on their mission and the vision of the Kingdom of God preached by Jesus? And why were they heading for the village of Emmaus?

Some scholars have suggested that they were unwilling to accept a disastrous end to what they had hoped to be the redemption of Israel. Emmaus was the hotbed of political activity, perhaps they might find a new, more militant, leader who would bring them the victory they desired.

It is evident in this story that these two disciples were saddened and downcast at the loss of their beloved Jesus through the betrayal of their religious leaders. They just couldn't make sense of what appeared to be a dead end to what had promised to be a whole new way of life. Neither did they seem to be able to put too much stock in a vision of angels or an empty tomb. Then, in this disturbed state, they have an unexpected encounter with a stranger they meet along the road.

This young Rabbi they meet puts everything in context and it all begins to make more sense, but it still seems too much for them until they sit down to dinner. In the blessing over the food, they come to realize that Jesus is not gone, only changed. Like the bread and wine, they share everything takes on the living presence of Christ, a true presence of the living truth that expands
to embrace them and all believers in the love of God. With this realization, Jesus vanishes from their sight; no longer is he separate from them, but alive and living within them in the same indwelling presence found within and among the Trinity.

With the realization and awareness of their direct participation in the Divine dance, they return immediately to the company of believers, the larger community, and the true presence of God. And since then whenever they share a meal; "He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread."