**St. John United Church of Christ**

***“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| April 16, 2023 | 2nd Sunday of Easter (A) |
| Rev. Charles Preston | Dan Comer, Music Technician |
| 9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship | 9:30 Sunday School for Children |
| 2901 Nameoki Road | Granite City, IL 62040 |
| E-stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com | (618) 877-6060 |

Web-stjohnuccgranitecity.com

Large print bulletins are available from the Ushers.

***Bold italic denotes congregation reads or sings.***

\*Denotes all who are able, please stand.

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN 1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*All the Love in the World* MC Yogi

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

Be not dismayed, for Christ is alive, bringing hope and joy to our lives this day.

***Alleluia!***

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

***Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice.***

Do not worry or fear, for Christ is alive!

***In this place, we find hope and joy.***

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

***Let us worship the one who brings new life.***

Let us pray together:

***Life-giving God, we gather today to celebrate the resurrection of your Son. We are grateful for the new life he brings. We are grateful for the hope and joy he shares. We are grateful for leading the way, as he goes before us. Gracious God, today and every day, we offer***

-2-

***you our thanks and praise. Strengthen our faith, that it may sustain us during difficult days and enable us to share your love with others. Open our hearts to new life and new possibilities. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*** #358

\*RESPONSIVE READING2 *Jesus, We Have Gathered*

Jesus, we have gathered here

in this quiet atmosphere,

***Waiting patiently to know***

***peace and power you would show.***

Born to living hope once more,

we would worship and adore

***God, whose mercy opens wide***

***doors once closed to those outside.***

May we live no more in fear;

breathe your Spirit on us here.

***Take away the doubts we nurse;***

***come among us to reverse***

Sin’s allure and pride’s disgrace,

that we may your signs embrace.

***By God’s mercy born anew,***

***we would praise and honor you.***

Our inheritance we claim

as you set our hearts aflame.

***We, your resurrection church,***

***give our lives to join the search***

For that new and better way

God reveals to us each day.

***May we find in your employ***

***healing grace and fullest joy.***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

PSALTER READING Psalm 16 pg. 469

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL LESSON John 20:19-31 pg. 108

-3-

REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”*** #461

PASTORAL PRAYER & UNISON 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.***

INVITATION TO STEWARDSHIP AND DEDICATION OF PERSONAL STATEMENTS OF BELIEF

OFFERTORY *Offering Song* The Lads

\*RESPONSE ***“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”***

Traditional Doxology pg.#34

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***praise him, all creatures here below;***

***praise him above, ye heavenly host:***

***praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION1

***Holy One, we give you thanks and praise for your promise of new life. We thank you for these gifts. As we offer them into your hands, may they bring hope and new life to those in need. In the name of the resurrected Christ, we pray. Amen.***

\*HYMN  ***“He Lives”***  #302

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE *The Swan (Le Cygne)*  Saint-Saëns

1From The Abingdon Worship Annual 2023. Copyright © 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

2Reprinted, with permission, from *Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 1992 by The Pilgrim Press.

-4-

Welcome to worship, Christian education and fellowship. May God bless and strengthen you here today.

The **altar centerpiece** is given in honor of the April 19th birthday of Joshua David Douglas with love, from his parents, David & Veronica.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Karen Orr** at (618) 558-4192. If you would like to sponsor the **bulletins**, please call the **church office** at (618) 877-6060. The next available dates to sponsor the bulletin are April 30th and May 7th.

Thank you to **Connie Ahlers** for serving as liturgist, to **Rae-Ellen Vogeler** for greeting and to **Dan Comer** for serving as music technician.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: In-person and Zoom Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.

Monday: Al-Anon, 9:30

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday: Cemetery Scatter Garden Meeting, 5:00 p.m.

Friday: **Herald Deadline**

Saturday: Earth Day

Next Sunday: In-person and Zoom Worship, 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m.



We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of **Mildred Kenison**, who died on Friday, April 7, 2023. A funeral service will be held at 10:45 a.m. on Monday, April 17, 2023 at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain her loved ones during this time of grief.

-5-

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Our April Mission of the Month is “Random Acts of Kindness” - helping people or places in need.

**HANGING BASKET SALE**

Order forms for the hanging basket sale were due on Tuesday, April 11th to give the grower the best estimate of how many baskets were sold. However, we can still accept orders through Sunday, April 23rd. Because of various conditions, colors of flowers cannot be guaranteed. Pickup will be Friday, May 12th, and Saturday, May 13th, just in time for Mother’s Day that Sunday! These baskets would be a great gift for mom on her special day!



April 22nd is Earth Day, when we give thanks for the life of the earth. On this day we also commit ourselves to the care of the earth as God’s created gift of love, not only for a day, but forever. Think about how you are caring for the earth, and about how you can do more for environmental sustainability. Our stewardship of God’s gifts is a responsibility we must take seriously for the good of each generation and all God’s creation.



**FREE CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN CONCERT**

The church will host a FREE Contemporary Christian and Southern Gospel concert on Saturday, April 29th at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. The name of the group is “Unbroken”. Their music is fabulous and those who attend will be impressed with their program. Prior to the concert, a casual dinner will be available in Fellowship Hall for $15.00 per person. Reservations are required for the dinner and should be made no later than Monday, April 24th along with your payment. You do NOT need to attend the

dinner in order to attend the concert. Contact the church office (618-877-6060), Kiki Cochran (618-503-3608) or fill out the

-6-

included form and return it to the church office to make your reservation.



On Saturday, May 6th, we will be hosting a church barbecue. The menu includes the following:

Pork Steak Dinner w/ 2 sides: $12.00

Bratwurst Dinner w/ 2 sides: $12.00

Hotdog Dinner w/ 1 side: $6.00

Desserts will be available for an additional cost. The barbecue will run from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. or until we sell out. Tickets for your meal can be purchased from Kiki Cochran (618-503-3608). Please call the church office (618-877-6060) if you have any questions.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

**Cedarhurst of Granite City, Memory Care**, 3432 Village Lane, Granite City, IL 62040

JoAnn King, #113,

**Eden Village**, 200 S. Station Rd., Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Earl & Marcia Buenger, Apt 9219

**The Fountains of West County**, 15822 Clayton Rd, Ellisville, MO 63011

Ruth Buer

**Granite Nursing & Rehab**, 3500 Century Dr, Granite City, IL 62040

Karen Luddeke

Jerry Shonk

**Stillwater Senior Living**, 1111 University Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025

Marjorie Schmidt, #101

**Villas of Holly Brook**, 121 S. Bluff Rd, Collinsville, IL 62234

Hilde Few, #208

**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, 577 Newhart Dr., G.C., IL 62040

Isabella Boyer, 4722 S. Hazel, Edwardsville, IL 62025

-7-

Carol Braundmeier, 2228 Nevada, G.C., IL 62040

Christopher Clark, 2223 Lincoln Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Myra Cook, 4034 Stearns Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Bonnie Fornaszewski, 200 Carlson Ave., Apt. 17D, Washington, IL 61571

Mary Franz, 3117 Willow Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Luitgard Fries, 4117 Old Alton Rd., G.C., IL 62040

Lou Hasse, 2689 Westmoreland Dr. Unit 2, G.C., IL 62040

Norman Hente, 3708 Joyce St., G.C., IL 62040

Chuck King, 3258 Kilarney Dr., G.C., IL 62040

Cindy Meyer, 2206 Lynch Ave., G.C. IL 62040

Sandy Mueller, 308 Warson Ln., G.C., IL 62040

Cliff Robertson, 2336 O’Hare Ave., G.C., IL 62040

Merle Rose, 2447 Waterman Ave., G.C., IL 62040

June Stille, 49 Riviera, G.C., IL 62040

Nancy Wilson, 4062 Sarah St. Apt 81, G.C., IL 62040

**Illinois South Conference**

Plum Hill St. John’s UCC, Rev. Don Jones. Red Bud St. Peter UCC, Pastor Cory (Geraldine) Hartz. Retired Pastor, Rev. Elmer and Linda Bowman, Jr. Trenton, IL.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Psalm 16**

**1**Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.  
**2**I say to the Lord, “You are my Lord;  
    I have no good apart from you.”

**3**As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones  
    in whom is all my delight.

**4**Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;  
    their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out  
    or take their names upon my lips.

**5**The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;  
    you hold my lot.  
**6**The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;  
    I have a goodly heritage.

**7**I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;  
    in the night also my heart instructs me.  
**8**I keep the Lord always before me;  
    because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

-8-

**9**Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
    my body also rests secure.  
**10**For you do not give me up to Sheol  
    or let your faithful one see the Pit.

**11**You show me the path of life.  
    In your presence there is fullness of joy;  
    in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**John 20:19-31**

**19**When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **20**After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. **21**Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” **22**When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. **23**If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” **24**But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. **25**So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” **26**A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” **27**Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand

and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” **28**Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” **29**Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” **30**Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. **31**But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

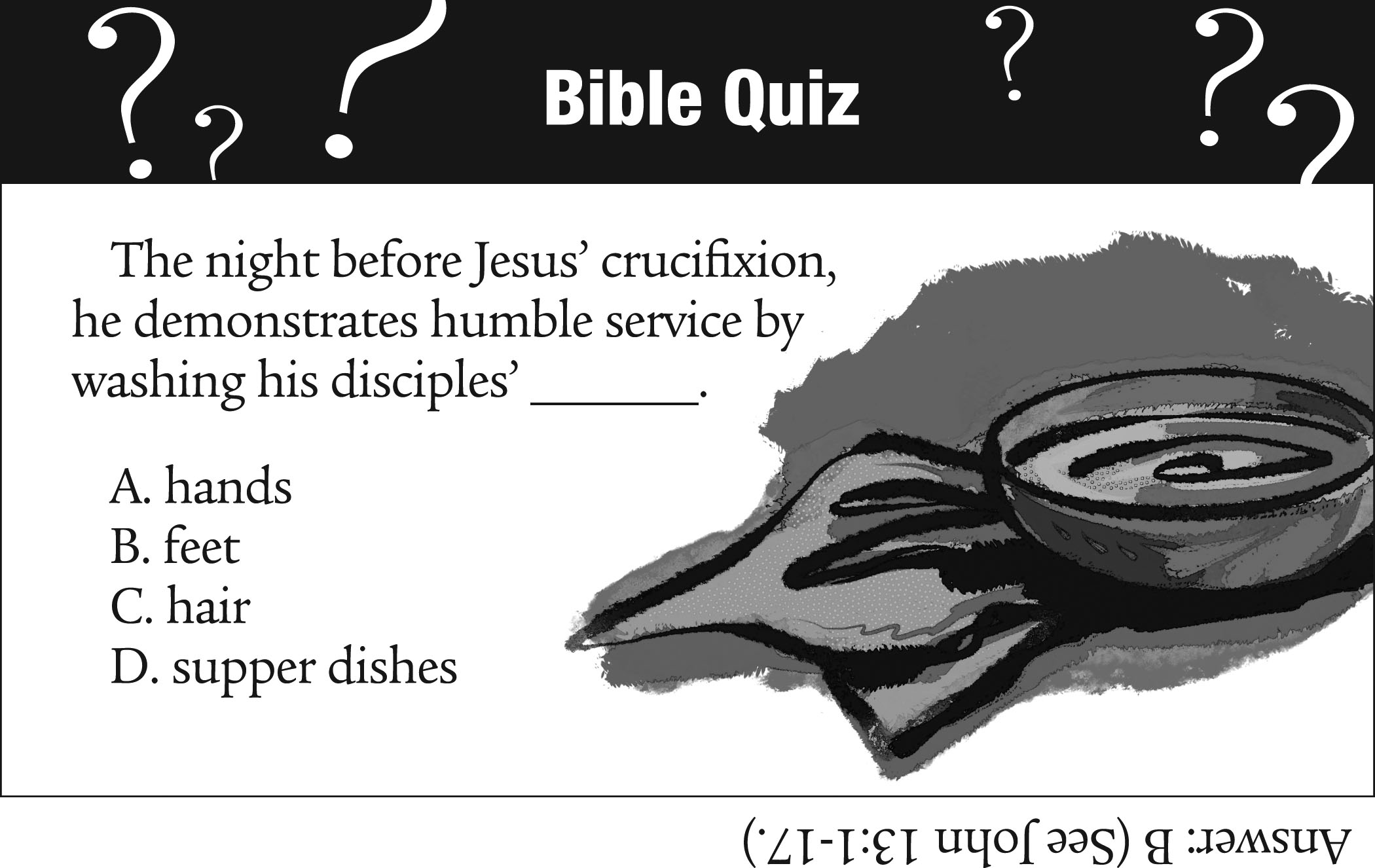
-9-

**Try our QR code! This little square will take you directly to our secure MyVanco website where you can contribute to any of our various funds. Just follow three simple steps:**

1. **Qr code

   Description automatically generatedOpen your smart phone’s camera app**
2. **Aim the camera at the black and white square below and a link will appear on your screen.**
3. **Click the link and you’ll be directed to our donations website. From there, you can select a fund to which you’d like to make a contribution.**

**Thank you!**



-10-

**CALL FOR INFORMATION**

Bell Choir – Talk to Kathy Morris, 618-210-6095

Cemetery – Talk to Kathy Montgomery, 618-876-5811

Chancel Choir – Talk to John Nitchman, President, 618-288-5297

Council – Talk to Kiki Cochran, President, 618-797-2511 or Donna Brandes, Vice President, 618-802-1072

Evening Guild – Talk to Christie Roth, 618-931-6194

Financial Reports – Talk to Mike Seibold, Treasurer, 618-792-4301

Angela Potter, 618-877-6060 church office

Heavenly Stars – Talk to Betty Meszaros, 618-451-1968

Karen Gaines, 618-288-0845

Herald – Talk to Angela Potter 618-877-6060 church office

Hilltoppers – Talk to Dee Roethemeyer, 618-876-6860

Historian – Talk to Sandy Dawson, 618-931-3467

Men’s Brotherhood – Talk to Chuck Hasse, 618-876-0936,

Dave Douglas, 618-452-3336

Quilters – Talk to Sandy Dawson 618-931-3467

Doris Peterson 618-877-1606

Sausage Dinner – Talk to Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

Nancy Jacobs, 618-931-0673

Scrip Orders – Talk to Melissa Lane, 314-575-7627 or Betty Meszaros 618-451-1968

Sunday School – Talk to Donna Brandes, 618-802-1072

Youth Fellowship – Talk to Sharon O’Toole, 314-420-1548

***“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”***

***Love divine, all loves excelling,***

***Joy of heaven to earth come down,***

***Fix in us thy humble dwelling,***

***All thy faithful mercies crown.***

***Jesus, thou art all compassion,***

***Pure, unbounded love thou art;***

***Visit us with thy salvation,***

***Enter every trembling heart.***

***Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit***

***Into every troubled breast;***

***Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.***

***Take away the love of sinning,***

***Alpha and Omega be;***

***End of faith, as its beginning,***

***Set our hearts at liberty.***

***Come, almighty to deliver,***

***Let us all thy life receive;***

***Suddenly return, and never,***

***Nevermore thy temples leave.***

***Thee we would be always blessing,***

***Serve thee as thy hosts above,***

***Pray and praise thee without ceasing,***

***Glory in thy perfect love.***

***Finnish then thy new creation,***

***Pure and spotless let us be;***

***Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:***

***Changed from glory into glory,***

***Till in heaven we take our place,***

***Till we cast our crowns before thee,***

***Lost in wonder, love, and praise.***

***“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”***

***Breathe on me, breath of God,***

***Fill me with life anew,***

***That I may love whate’er you love,***

***And do what you would do.***

***Breathe on me, breath of God,***

***Until my heart is pure,***

***Until with you I will one will,***

***To do and to endure.***

***Breathe on me, breath of God,***

***So that your will is mine,***

***Until this earthly part of me***

***Glows with your fire divine.***

***Breathe on me, breath of God,***

***So shall I never die,***

***But live with you the perfect life***

***Of your eternity.***

***“He Lives”***

Words & Music: Alfred H. Ackley ©1933, Ren. 1962 Word Music. Reprinted by permission, CCLI License #1334401.

***I serve a risen savior,***

***He’s in the world today;***

***I know that he is living,***

***Whatever some may say;***

***I see his hand of mercy,***

***I hear his voice of cheer,***

***And just the time I need him***

***He’s always near.***

***He lives, he lives, he lives, he lives,***

***Christ Jesus lives today!***

***He walks with me and talks with me***

***Along life’s narrow way.***

***He lives, he lives, he lives, he lives,***

***Salvation to impart!***

***You ask me how I know he lives?***

***He lives within my heart.***

***In all the world around me***

***I see his loving care,***

***And though my heart grows weary,***

***I never will despair;***

***I know that he is leading***

***Through all the stormy blast,***

***The day of his appearing***

***Will come at last.***

***He lives, he lives, he lives, he lives,***

***Christ Jesus lives today!***

***He walks with me and talks with me***

***Along life’s narrow way.***

***He lives, he lives, he lives, he lives,***

***Salvation to impart!***

***You ask me how I know he lives?***

***He lives within my heart.***

***Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian,***

***Lift up your voice and sing***

***Eternal hallelujahs***

***To Jesus Christ the King!***

***The hope of all who seek him,***

***The help of all who find,***

***None other is so loving,***

***So good and kind.***

***He lives, he lives, he lives, he lives,***

***Christ Jesus lives today!***

***He walks with me and talks with me***

***Along life’s narrow way.***

***He lives, he lives, he lives, he lives,***

***Salvation to impart!***

***You ask me how I know he lives?***

***He lives within my heart.***