

St. John United Church of Christ
“In Christ We Live, Celebrate, & Serve”

April 20, 2025

Easter (C)

Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor

David R. Ekstrand, Dir. of Music

9:30 Zoom & In-Person Worship

9:30 Sunday School for Children

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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 AND BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*GREETING ONE ANOTHER WITH A SMILE AND WAVE

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN ***“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”*** #288

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

Luke 24:1-12

...the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen”.....Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. (Vss. 5b, 10)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER¹

Based on Psalm 118, Acts 10,
John 20 & Luke 24

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day of resurrection.

Let us rejoice and celebrate!

This is Easter Sunday.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

On this first day of the week,
remembering the day that changed our lives forever,
let us pray together:

God of life and love, we are eager to hear the good news of new life. Enter our lives and cast our fears aside. Lead us on a journey from grief and despair to hope and joy. We are ready to celebrate and give thanks for your transforming love. We are eager to rejoice in the glory of this day! Give us Easter spirits and open hearts. Amen.

*HYMN ***“Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven”*** Vss. 1 & 4 #289

*LITANY OF YEARNING¹

Based on Luke 24

Several women went to the tomb,
bringing fragrant spices to anoint Jesus' body.

The stone was rolled away. The body was gone.

Two men dressed in gleaming bright clothing were there.

All of them were frightened. What was happening?

The men said, “Why do you look for the living among the dead?
He is not here but has risen!”

***They went and told the disciples,
who thought they spoke nonsense.***

Today we believe and know the truth:

Jesus is alive! Alleluia!

Now we are to go and tell the glorious truth:

Forgive us, Lord, when we hold back.

Forgive our fear of others' disbelief.

We receive the never-failing love of the Lord
and live with the promise of mercy and forgiveness.

Gracious God, thank you for life and hope, your gifts of Easter. When death and evil seemed to rule the day, you brought forth life. Now, when we are afraid and discouraged, remind us that love is stronger than death. Like spring flowers, your loving peace is everywhere, encouraging and renewing our spirits. May we be Easter people and rejoice in your love. Amen.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 10:34-43

pg. 121

ANTHEM

Sing Praise to Our Risen Lord
Arr. by David R. Ekstrand

Chancel Choir

MEDITATION

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN ***"The Day of Resurrection!"*** #298

PASTORAL PRAYER

RESPONSE ***"The Lord's Prayer"*** (One Amen) #740

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

*RESPONSE² ***"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"*** Vs. 2 #289
***Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
see the ancient powers of evil in confusion and retreat;
once he died, and once was buried: now he lives forevermore.
Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
whom we worship and adore.***

*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹

***God of life and love, we are grateful for your promise of
resurrection and new life. Your love is stronger than the powers
of evil and injustice. With joy, we bring our gifts to you this day.
Use our gifts and our lives to proclaim Christ's triumph over
death. Amen.***

INVITATION³

From Hymn #311, *Now the Green Blade Rises*

"Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.
In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
Thinking that he would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.
Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
Love is come again like wheat arising green."

Love is come again. Love for all creation. Love for all the peoples.

Everyone come now to the Lord's table of Love.

Grain of the earth. Fruit of the vine. Blessed to be shared by all.

Life renewed. Hope restored. We declare Love is come again.

COMMUNION PRAYER WITH CONFESSION AND PARDON

PREPARING AND SHARING THE ELEMENTS

All are invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The inner circle of cups contains white grape juice. The outer circles contain wine. Please hold each element when served in the pews so all may partake together, remembering that in the upper room last supper Jesus said, "take this and divide it among yourselves." (Luke 22:17b)

*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING³

We have received life and hope in the joy of this blessed meal, and we give you thanks, Holy One. "When our hearts are wintery, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again...For love is come again like wheat arising green." To you be all glory and honor, now and forever. Amen.

*HYMN

"Thine Is the Glory"

#310

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

Majesty

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The **bulletins** are given in loving memory of our parents, **Thelma & Rich Suess and Rose & Robert Douglas** by Veronica & Dave Douglas.

If you would like to place **flowers on the altar**, and pick them up after church or on Monday, please call **Pam Sullivan at (618) 540-0098**. Flower Emporium offers \$25 (small), \$30 (medium), or \$35 (large) arrangements. If you would like to **sponsor a bulletin**, please call the **Church Office at (618) 877-6060**. The following dates are currently available; May 4 & 11, 2025, July 13, 2025, August 31, 2025, October 19, 2025, & November 30, 2025.