

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

April 12, 2026

2nd Sunday of Easter (A)

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

*RESPONSE ***“The Day of Resurrection!”*** Vs. 3 #298

Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth its song begin!

The world resound in triumph, and all that is therein;

Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend;

For Christ the Lord has risen, our Joy that has no end.

MESSAGE FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

1 Peter 1:3-9

Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy...(Vs. 8)

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER¹

Holy one, you have touched the wounds of the world,

And you have been wounded by the world.

We have not seen you, Risen One.

We have not touched you,

But we believe you are our Lord and our God.

You are our refuge in hurt and pain.

You are the path of life.

You are our Lord and our God! Alleluia!

Let us pray our joy!

Jesus of the Cross, Jesus of the Resurrection, we rejoice in you. Long before the trauma of the cross, you defeated the powers of sin, pain, and death in the hurting people around you. And then YOU were struck down. But you defeated the cross and stood before your beloved disciples, as you are present today—alive again. We rejoice in you, Risen Savior, for you open before us your life-giving peace and power. You are our Lord and our God. Alleluia! Amen.

*HYMN & NOISY OFFERING

“That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright”

#298

*RESPONSIVE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH²

Liturgist: Let us affirm our Faith:

Congregation: We believe in God,

Liturgist: Who lights the dawn to chase away the darkness;

PASTOR: WHO ROLLS AWAY EACH STONE OF DOUBT;

Liturgist: Who surprises us with incredible gifts of family and friends,
silence and laughter;

PASTOR: WHO RAISES US FROM SADNESS AND DESPAIR TO
THE POSSIBILITIES OF BLESSING AND JOY.

Congregation: We believe in Jesus,

Liturgist: Friend of the poor and searcher for the lost,

PASTOR: WHO COMES TO US IN OUR GRIEF AND LONGING,
CALLS US BY NAME AND SENDS US ON THE PATHS
OF PEACE,

Liturgist: Who speaks of an awesome love that is not overcome
by death.

Congregation: We believe in the Holy Spirit,

Liturgist: The hidden partner, the gentle messenger of God,

PASTOR: WHO FILLS OUR EVERY BREATH WITH BLESSING;

Liturgist: Who guides us in the dark, beckons us to do good,
speaks to us in dream and image, and watches over us
with tender compassion.

Congregation: We believe in the church,

Liturgist: An instrument of God in this present moment,
striving for justice, celebrating joy, clawing at despair,
living in hope, praying for healing,

PASTOR: AND FOREVER PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS
OF GOD’S PERSISTENT AND REDEEMING LOVE.

¹Adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2026*. Copyright © 2025 by Abingdon Press.

²Adapted from *Sourcebook of Worship Resources, Volume 2*. Copyright © 1996 by Communication Resources, Inc.

We thank Kiki Cochran for serving as liturgist, and Rae Ellen Vogeler for serving as greeter.