**St. John United Church of Christ**

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

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| --- | --- |
| April 9, 2023 | Easter (A) |
| Rev. Karla Frost, Pastor | Chris McMillan, Guest Organist |
| 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.

Text, letter

Description automatically generated

**WE COME TO WORSHIP GOD**

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS CALLING TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE AND CENTERING OUR HEARTS ON WORSHIP

*Ye Watchers And Ye Holy Ones* arr. Smith

A STORY FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN AND SONGS Psalm 118:1

*O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!*

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER1

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

***Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!!***

Christ is alive,

***Moving among the living.***

Christ is risen,

***Inviting us to rise in fullness of life.***

Christ is calling,

***Proclaiming life and hope for all.***

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

***Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!!***

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Let us pray:

***Risen Christ, enter our worship and our hearts this day. As you live and move among us, remind us to proclaim and live the life you offer. Inspire us to walk as children of your resurrection, each and every day. Amen.***

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

\*LITANY OF CONFESSION AND MERCY2

On this day of resurrection, we remember the high expectations God has of us. We are called away from our frantic distractions to recognize the Creator of all things.

God, who shows no partiality, invites us to be witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ among all whom we meet.

***God, we have lost our awe of you in the busyness of our day. We have forgotten to look for Christ in the people we meet. We have ignored your mandate to live as Christ in relation to our neighbors. On this day of resurrection, we ask you to raise us up and restore in us a commitment to our risen Savior. May we die to all that is selfish in order that Christ may live in us. Amen.***

God answers our prayers and offers us salvation. In following Christ, we find wholeness and joy. We set our minds on God’s gracious intention for us. Give thanks to God, whose steadfast love endures forever. Rejoice that Christ sends us out to tell others that they, too, may know resurrection joy.

\*RESPONSE ***“Alleluia No. 1”***  Vss. 1 & 2 #291

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***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!***

***Jesus is Lord of all the earth. He is the King of creation.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!***

***Spread the good news o’er all the earth; Jesus has died and has risen.***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord,***

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name!***

**WE HEAR GOD’S WORD**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Acts 10:34-43 pg. 121

ANTHEM *Come with Rejoicing* Chancel Choir

GOSPEL LESSON Matthew 28:1-10 pg. 32

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REFLECTION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

\*HYMN ***“The Day of Resurrection!”*** #298

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

SUNG RESPONSE ***“The Lord’s Prayer”*** (One Amen) #740

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

STEWARDSHIP INVITATION

OFFERTORY *Christ The Lord Is Risen Today*  arr. Balcombe

\*RESPONSE ***“He Lives”*** Vs. 1 #302

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***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.***

\*UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***We have heard the message the Disciple Peter proclaimed long ago, O God, the message of peace by Jesus Christ who is Lord of all. May our gifts spread this message of salvation to the ends of the earth. With these offerings we also give of ourselves and dedicate our lives to discipleship. Make us unafraid to go and tell the Good News of your mercy and share the joy with all. Amen.***

GOSPEL LESSON John 20:11-18 pg. 108

INVITATION AND COMMUNION PRAYER

BREAKING, POURING AND PARTAKING

\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING1

***Living God, by your Holy Spirit, you open our eyes to see the new light of this day; open our lips to tell of the empty tomb; open our hearts to believe the***

***good news. We praise and thank you for the power of your saving love revealed in this Sacrament and the resurrection of our Lord. As you have***

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***raised Jesus from the dead, give to us the gift of everlasting life, that we may glorify you forever; through Christ, our risen Savior. Amen.***

\*HYMN ***“Thine Is the Glory”*** #310

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE  *Jesus Shall Reign* arr. Mansfield

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Jesus, you meet me today and every day, as you met Mary outside the empty tomb. Call my name, so I will know for sure that it’s you.

The **bulletin** is given in loving memory of Myrna Bischoff Rich’s birthday by Herb & Jeanie Bischoff, Jennifer, Britt, Alex & Nick Robertson. The **bulletin** is also given in loving memory of our parents Thelma & Rich Suess and Rose & Robert Douglas by Veronica & Dave Douglas.

The **two large Easter Lilies** are given in honor of my family, friends, and church family by Karen Orr.

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 16th, 30th, and May 7th.

Thank you to **Greg Young** for serving as liturgist, to **Allison Reynolds** for serving as acolyte, and to **Chris McMillan** for serving as guest organist.

**THIS WEEK**

Today: **Easter Sunday**

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

Sunday School for Children, 9:30 a.m. (Gather in front pews on pulpit side)

Communion

Fellowship by Council

Monday: **OFFICE CLOSED**

Brotherhood, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday: Quilters, 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.

Hilltoppers, 12:30 p.m.

Cemetery Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday: TOPS, 9:00 a.m.

Bell Choir, 5:30 p.m.

Chancel Choir, 6:30 p.m.

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Thursday: Council Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

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 **Leonard Schaefer** who died on Sunday, April 2, 2023. A funeral service was held on Saturday, April 8, 2023. May the peace and comfort that come from God sustain his loved ones during this time of grief.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

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

**SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

Our Easter offerings are designated for the General Fund to support the church’s ministries.

**HANGING BASKET SALE**

Order forms for hanging baskets are available on the website under the events tab and are also available in the Narthex. Orders are due on Tuesday, April 11th, but can be collected as late as 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! So these baskets would be a great gift for mom on her special day!

**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. Reservations are required for the dinner and should be made no later than Monday, April 24th. Contact the church office 618-877-6060, Kiki Cochran 618-503-3608, or Mike Seibold 618-792-4301 to make your dinner reservations. You do NOT need to attend the dinner to attend the concert.

**OUR PRAYERS**

**Nursing, Assisted, & Independent Living**

Earl Buenger, Marcia Buenger, Ruth Buer, Hilde Few, JoAnn King, Karen Luddeke, Marjorie Schmidt, and Jerry Shonk.

**At Home**

Chloe Affolter, Isabella Boyer, Carol Braundmeier, Christopher Clark, Myra Cook, Bonnie Fornaszewski, Mary Franz, Luitgard Fries, Melba Grady, Lou Hasse, Norman Hente, Chuck King, Mina McBrian, Cindy Meyer, Sandy Mueller, Cliff Robertson, Merle Rose, June Stille, and Nancy Wilson.

**Illinois South Conference**

Pana United in Faith Church, Rev. Leon (Kay) Goff. Pinckneyville St. Paul UCC, Rev. Jason (Petrice) Eisele. Retired Pastor, Rev. Jean Carmean, O’Fallon, IL.

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**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Acts 10:34-43**

**34**Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, **35**but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. **36**You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. **37**That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: **38**how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. **39**We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, **40**but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, **41**not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. **42**He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. **43**All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**Matthew 28:1-10**

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. **2**And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. **3**His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. **4**For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. **5**But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. **6**He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. **7**Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” **8**So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. **9**Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. **10**Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

**John 20:11-18**

**11**But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, **12**and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. **13**They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” **14**When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. **15**Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” **16**Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). **17**Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ” **18**Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and she told them that he had said these things to her.

***“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”***

***Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!***

***All creation, join to say Alleluia!***

***Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!***

***Sing ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!***

***Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!***

***Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!***

***Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!***

***Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!***

***Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!***

***Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!***

***Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!***

***Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!***

***Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!***

***Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!***

***Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!***

***Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!***

***“The Day of Resurrection!”***

***The day of resurrection!***

***Earth, tell it out abroad;***

***The Passover of gladness,***

***The Passover of God.***

***From death to life eternal,***

***From sin’s dominion free,***

***Our Christ has brought us over***

***With hymns of victory.***

***Our hearts be pure from evil,***

***That we may see alright***

***The Lord in rays eternal***

***Of resurrection light;***

***And, listening to his accents,***

***May hear, so calm and plain,***

***His own “all hail” and, hearing,***

***May raise the victor strain.***

***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.***

***“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.***

***“Thine Is the Glory”***

***Thine is the glory,***

***Risen, conquering Son;***

***Endless is the victory***

***Thou o’er death hast won.***

***Angels in bright raiment***

***Rolled the stone away,***

***Kept the folded grave-clothes***

***Where thy body lay.***

***Thine is the glory,***

***Risen conquering Son;***

***Endless is the victory***

***Thou o’er death hast won.***

***Lo! Jesus meets us,***

***Risen from the tomb;***

***Lovingly he greets us,***

***Scatters fear and gloom.***

***Let his church with gladness***

***Hymns of triumph sing,***

***For her Lord now liveth:***

***Death hast lost its sting.***

***Thine is the glory,***

***Risen conquering Son;***

***Endless is the victory***

***Thou o’er death hast won.***

***No more we doubt thee,***

***Glorious Prince of life!***

***Life is nought without thee:***

***Aid us in our strife.***

***Make us more than conquerors,***

***Through thy deathless love:***

***Bring us safe through Jordan***

***To thy home above.***

***Thine is the glory,***

***Risen conquering Son;***

***Endless is the victory***

***Thou o’er death hast won.***