

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 14, 2024

3rd Sunday of Easter

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Renee Keiper

JOYS AND CONCERNS – Please share!

FRIENDSHIP PAD – Please sign and include any contact info updates.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L) The bread of life opens our eyes.

(ALL) The word of life opens our ears.

(L) The risen one shows us God's own brokenness

(ALL) and by those wounds we are healed.

(L) Peace be with you

(ALL) And also with you.

***OPENING HYMN**

Pass the Promise

CHORUS: Pass the promise to our sons and daughters;

God most high, God our Father. We bear witness.

I will pray rejoicing from my heart, Pray rejoicing from my heart;

For in Him my victory's lifted high, His salvation is my cry.

He has overcome my enemies; Our praises scorn the enemy.

I delight in His deliverance; The Lord is our deliverance. (CHORUS)

There is no one holy like the Lord, Holy, holy is the Lord;

Our Rock and refuge is our God, All the earth belongs to God.

Do not speak with pride of noble deeds;

For the Lord will weigh our every deed.

See the strong have lost, the weak have gained;

And from the dust my life He raised. (CHORUS)

He will guard the feet of faithful ones; He will hold His faithful ones;

But the wicked they will not prevail, Not by might will man prevail.

He is coming soon to judge the earth;

He is coming soon to judge the earth,

For the Lord gives power to His King,

All Strength to His Anointed King. (CHORUS)

CALL TO CONFESSION

The One who calls us to repent, hears us. In trust that our Creator knows us through and through, let us open our hearts to the healing of God's forgiveness.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Good and gracious God, we are creatures of dust, ignorant of your revelation, misunderstanding your life, death, and resurrection among us, needing forgiveness. We repent of our failure to give as you have given to us. We beg your mercy for our fallen world. We seek your Word, that we may live with the faith of Jesus. Be our solace in this life and always. We ask this as your own children, holy and incomplete. Forgive us and lead us. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

In the name of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, your plea for absolution has been heard. God's promises are sure: your sins are forgiven.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"

OFFERING – Basket located on table in the rear of the sanctuary.

INVITATION

As Jesus gave himself fully for us and then appeared to the disciples bringing peace, so let us now bring wholeness and healing to others through our tithes and gifts.

OFFERTORY

Come to Jesus (Rest in Him)

Are you weary, heavy laden? Come and lay your burdens down;

Jesus calls you, Jesus draws you, Rest in Him.

He is gentle, he is lowly, He delights to bring us peace;

Tender shepherd, mighty Savior: Rest in Him.

CHORUS How sure His compassion for us! Oh how deep is his love;

So come, come to Jesus and rest in Him.

Are you hopeless, are you guilty? Caught in shame for all your sin?

He pursues you, to forgive you; Rest in Him.

He has paid for every failure, Mercy flows in endless streams;

Come and follow, freedom calls you Rest in Him. CHORUS

*Are you waiting, in your sorrows For this broken world to heal?
He is coming, soon returning; Rest in Him.
We will see Him, We will know Him, O what heights of grace revealed;
From his kindness, every promise then fulfilled.
Trust in Jesus, He will keep us To the end.*

*How sure His compassion for us! Oh how deep is his love;
So come, come to Jesus and rest in Him. (2x)
Come to Jesus and rest in Him.*

***DOXOLOGY**

*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*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Lord God, we offer to you only a portion of what you have given us.
All that we have is from your creative hand. All that we can give away we do
through Jesus' love. All our renewal comes from the Holy Spirit's wisdom.
Deal graciously with these gifts so that others may have joy; in Jesus' name.
Amen.

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Marie Christman

Responsive Reading: Psalm 4

(L) Answer me when I call, O God of my right! You gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer. How long, you people, shall my honor suffer
shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? (Selah)

(ALL) But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears
when I call to him. When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds,
and be silent. (Selah)

(L) Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord. There are many who say, "O that
we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"

(ALL) You have put gladness in my heart more than when their grain and wine
abound.

**I will both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down
in safety.**

***The Gloria Tibi:** *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

***New Testament Reading: 1 Peter 4:8-11** Pew Bible pg 985 and 986

***Laus Tibi:** *Praise be to thee, O Christ*

SERMON "Utilizing Your Gifts"

Jason Parsons

***THE LORD'S PRAYER – ALL**

Led by Jason Parsons

**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.**

***CLOSING HYMN**

Let the Nations Be Glad

*Let the glory of the Lord forever be our joy May redemption be the theme of our song
For by grace we have been saved And by grace we shall proclaim To the corners of the
earth that Christ is come*

Chorus: *Let the nations be glad Let the people rejoice For salvation belongs to our God
Let the whole earth be filled With the praises of the Lord For salvation belongs to our God
Let the nations be glad*

*Through the ages gone before through the trial and the sword Many saints and martyrs
conquered though they died
Still we holding out the cross Crossing oceans suffering loss Shall endure all things to win
the crown of life*

*As Your holy church goes forth in the Holy Spirit's power With the glories of the gospel to
exclaim*

*Now we pray "Your Kingdom come" And we pray "Your will be done" For the honor and
glory of Your name*

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Jason Parsons

The word of God assures us: What we will be has not yet been revealed.
Live, therefore, with hope, share your joy, withhold your anger, shed your
disappointments, turn to all people with gentleness.
The Lord bless and keep you, shine upon you with grace and mercy, and give you
What is needed for each new day.

***CONGREGATIONAL SONG RESPONSE - ALL** *Go Now In Peace*

Go now in peace; never be afraid, God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe, reach out to others, so all the world can see. God will be there, watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith and in love. Amen.

Amen. Amen.

(CCLI #2810357 Don Besig)

***POSTLUDE**

***INDICATES THAT YOU STAND IF YOU ARE ABLE**

Prayer Concerns

Beverly Frantz, John Blundetto, Jessica Speer, Tom and Lee Byrne, Barbara Souders, Rose Fritz, Debra Kemmerer, Brenda Hawk, Joan Madden, Janet Smith, Marilyn McCloud, Ellen Kresge, Ray Smith, Kyle Frable, Diane Bonser, Shirley Smith, Edith George, Doris Neumeyer, Janet Gower, Joyce Gower, Conner Brawley, Gabrielle Collins, Gene Borger, Sharlee Ahner, Ronald Frantz, Sheila Sherer, Margaret and Larry Hahn, Hudson Stewart, Conner Bittenbender, Marlene Long, Roberta Heffley, Mike Heller, and Brian Holderman (Wendy Peddigree's brother), Barry Serfass (Brenda Hawk's brother)

**...SERVE ONE
ANOTHER
WITH
WHATEVER
GIFT EACH OF
YOU HAS
RECEIVED.**



1 PETER 4:10



The Week Ahead

Sunday, April 14	3rd Sunday of Easter Town Hall	-Sanctuary, 9:00am -Social Hall, 6:00pm
Monday, April 15	Exercise Group	-Office Open 10am – 2pm -Gathering Room, 10:30am
Wednesday, April 17		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
Thursday, April 18	Exercise Group	-Office Open 10am - 2pm -Gathering Room, 10:30am
Sunday, April 21	4th Sunday of Easter Guest Preacher Bishop Randy Sizemore	- Sanctuary, 9:00am

April Lead Usher – Diann Bittenbender

Altar Flowers

Vase #1 Irene and Dean Zacharias' 13th wedding anniversary

**Vase #2 In honor of Janet Smith's 93 birthday and
Becky Koehler Kisinger's 46th birthday.
Both are on April 25th**

Thank you to Jason Parsons for leading our service today.

A BIG Thank you to everyone who came out for Clean Up Day yesterday!!

Trophy sponsors are needed for this year's Car Show. There are 24 trophies available for sponsorship at \$35 each. See Megan Snyder if you have questions.

Volunteers are needed for the Children's Church and the nursery during the service.

The Town Hall meeting will take place this evening at 6:00pm in the social hall. You can put your questions in the box on the table in the Narthex to be read for you or you can ask your questions tonight.

Bishop Randy will be our guest Pastor on April 21st. He is also planning to stick around for about an hour after the service to answer any follow-up questions that you may have after the Town Hall meeting.

Pastor Mike will be including information and resources in the bulletin to help us learn more about the EC and come up with questions for our Town Hall meeting on tonight and the follow-up with Bishop Randy on April 21st.

Eldred Twp. Spring Clean Up weekend is April 19th and 20th. A flyer is hanging in the office on the bulletin board if you want more information.

St. Matthews United Church of Christ

102 Church St, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net

Council President: Diann Bittenbender

Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Staci Gower

Office Manager: Renée Keiper

www.stmattsucckunkletown