

**ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**April 21, 2024**

**4th 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 Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**(ALL) He lays down his life for his sheep.**

(L) The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**(ALL) He knows us and we belong to him.**

(L) The Lord Jesus Christ is our shepherd.

**(ALL) He speaks and we listen for his voice.**

**\*OPENING HYMNS**

**Rejoice**

*Rejoice in the Lord, now and always; Sing it again we rejoice.*

*Delight in the love He has shown us, Gratefully lift up your voice.*

*His gentleness among us Will join our hearts with praise.*

*We gather in His goodness; A family of grace.*

**CHORUS:** *With each breath He's given, praise the Lord!*

*In these times we live in, we will praise the Lord.*

*Throughout every season, I am sure We have every reason to praise the Lord.*

*Rejoice and be anxious for nothing, Praying for all that you need.*

*Come with a song of thanksgiving; Lay your requests at His feet.*

*His peace will fall upon us To guard our hearts and minds,*

*In Christ who reigns eternal, The Shepherd of our lives! (CHORUS)*

*Rejoice in the Lord now and always; Tell of the good He has done.*

*Worship the Lord to remember All of the joy yet to come.*

*The hope that burns within us The dark cannot destroy.*

*With praise that's never ending. We say again, "Rejoice!" (CHORUS)*

**All My Boast Is In Jesus**

*What wonder of wonders, what love is this; That Christ would die for me!*

*His goodness, His merit, His righteousness, This sinner's only plea.*

*O foolish pride, be crucified; The work is finished!*

**CHORUS** *All my boast is in Jesus; All my hope is His love*

*And I will glory forever In what the cross has done.*

*Now fully forgiven, my life is filled With graces undeserved.*

*For mercy that flowed down that sacred hill, Let praises now return.*

*Rise up, my soul, and bless the Lord! Who else is worthy?*

*All my boast is in Jesus; All my hope is His love*

*And I will glory forever In what the cross has done.*

*O, praise the One, forever blessed! Him alone my heart adores.*

*And I will boast in nothing less Than the love of Christ my Lord.*

*O, praise the One, forever blessed! Him alone my heart adores.*

*And I will boast in nothing less Than the love of Christ my Lord.*

*I boast not in riches, in strength or might, But in the grace of God.*

*I glory in weakness, to live is Christ In plenty or in want.*

*That I may know, that all may see His pow'r within me!*

*All my boast is in Jesus; All my hope is His love*

*And I will glory forever In what the cross has done.*

*Now I stand in His freedom; Ransomed, clean in His sight,*

*And I cannot be ashamed for My boast is Jesus Christ.*

*My boast is Jesus Christ. Forever, my boast is Jesus Christ.*

**Arkansas Traveler/All Hail the Power Of Jesus' Name**

*All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;*

*Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown Him Lord of all.*

*Bring forth the royal diadem And crown Him Lord of all.*

*Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, He ransomed from the fall,*

*Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all.*

*Hail Him who saves you by His grace, And crown Him Lord of all.*

*(sung twice) Let every kindred, every tribe On this terrestrial ball,*

*To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all.*

*To Him all majesty ascribe, And crown Him Lord of all.*

*Oh that with yonder sacred throng We at His feet may fall!*

*We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all.*

*We'll join the everlasting song, And crown Him Lord of all.*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

If we are honest with ourselves, our hearts condemn us. But God, who knows everything, is greater than our hearts; and God's deep desire for us is mercy, love and peace. Therefore, let us confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, have mercy on us. We talk about love, but our actions betray us. We talk about love, but we neglect the poor. We talk about love, but we fail to love one another. Lord have mercy on us. Forgive us and abide in us by the power of your Spirit so that our lives may show our love for Jesus Christ, in whose body we live and in whose name we pray. Amen.

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

We seek God's grace with boldness because we trust in Jesus Christ, the One who loves us and laid down his life for us. This is the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Staci Gower

### "THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"

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

## INVITATION

God's love abides in us when we see a brother or sister in need and we reach out to help. With love for God and neighbor, let us offer our lives to the Lord.

## OFFERTORY

### *Where Thou Leadest Me*

*Where Thou leadest me, I dare not find complaint  
For Thou hast never left, nor will for all my days.  
Thy presence is my good and it shall ever be;  
I will go where Thou leadest me.*

*Sovereign is Thy hand to guide me when I'm worn;  
Thy good and perfect will holds fast through every storm.  
What time I am afraid, my faith looks up to Thee;  
I will trust where Thou leadest me.*

**CHORUS:** *On the mountain high, through the valley deep,  
I will go where Thou leadest me.*

*O Shepherd, keep me near for I am prone to stray.  
The frailty of my flesh seeks refuge in Thy grace.  
This promise is my peace; my soul is safe in Thee,  
I will rest as Thou leadest me. (CHORUS 2x)*

*Savior light my path until that final day.  
If Thou art Lord of life, why should I fear the grave?  
Proud death has lost its sting for all eternity.  
I will rise where Thou leadest me.  
Home with Christ, where Thou leadest me. (CHORUS 2x)*

## \*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

Gracious God, we give you thanks that you have shown us the meaning of love through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us. Show us how to share Christ's love by giving our lives for one another; to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

## THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Dora Tartar

### Old Testament Reading: Psalm 65:9

9 You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

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

\*New Testament Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:11-21 Pew Bible pg 940

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

## SERMON

"The People of the Good News"

Bishop Randy Sizemore

## \*THE LORD'S PRAYER – ALL

Led by Bishop Randy

**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 *Lift High The Name Of Jesus / Home On The Other Side*

*Lift high the name of Jesus of Jesus our King  
Make known the power of His grace the beauty of His peace  
Remember how His mercy reached and we cried out to Him  
He lifted us to solid ground to freedom from our sin*

**CHORUS:** *Oh sing, my soul and tell all He's done  
Till the earth and heavens are filled with His glory*

*Lift high the name of Jesus of Jesus our Light  
No other name on earth can save can raise a soul to life  
He opens up our eyes to see the harvest He has grown  
We labor in His fields of grace as He leads sinners home  
(CHORUS-2x)*

**CHORUS 2:** *Swing down, chariot, stop and let me ride  
Swing down, chariot, stop and let me ride  
Rock me, Lord, rock me, Lord  
I'm going easy I've got a home on the other side*

*I looked over Jordan, and what did I see  
Coming for to carry me home?  
A band of angels coming after me  
Coming for to carry me home (CHORUS 2)*

*Well, sometimes I'm up, and sometimes I'm down  
Coming for to carry me home  
But still my soul feels heavenly bound  
Coming for to carry me home (CHORUS 2)*

*Oh, the brightest day that I can say  
Coming for to carry me home  
When Jesus washed my sins away  
Coming for to carry me home (CHORUS 2-2x)*

**\*CHARGE AND BLESSING**

**Bishop Randy**

In the name of the good shepherd, love one another. May the goodness and mercy of God follow you all the days of your life. **Alleluia!**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL SUNG 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**

*You care for the land  
and water it;  
you enrich it  
abundantly.*

Psalm 65:9





### **The Week Ahead**

Sunday, April 21	4th Sunday of Easter Q & A with Bishop Randy Brunch	-Sanctuary, 9:00am -Social Hall -Social Hall
Monday, April 22	EARTH DAY Exercise Group	-Office Open 10am – 2pm -Gathering Room, 10:30am
Wednesday, April 24		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
Thursday, April 25		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 10:30am
Sunday, April 28	5th Sunday of Easter Guest Preacher John Smith	- Sanctuary, 9:00am

**April Lead Usher – Diann Bittenbender**

### **Altar Flowers**

**Vase #1 – In memory of Lamont Dotter by Keith, Lisa and Faye**

**Vase #2 – In celebration of Brian and Dora’s 51<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary**

**Thank you to Bishop Randy Sizemore for leading our service today.**

**Bishop Randy will be here today to answer any questions that you may have about the EC Church. Also, the Men’s Group is providing brunch!! PLEASE COME TO THE SOCIAL HALL AND SHARE SOME FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP!!**

**Men’s Group – mark your calendars for May 18<sup>th</sup>. This is the date they will meet next month.**

**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.**

### **Prayer Concerns**

Beverly Frantz, John Blundetto, Jessica Speer, Wendy Peddigree, Tom and Lee Byrne, Barbara Souders, Rose Fritz, Debra Kemmerer, Brenda Hawk, Joan Madden, Janet Smith, Marilyn McCloud, Ellen Kresge, 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), Sheckler Family for the loss of Ryan’s father, Ray Smith family and Leanne Sitler for the loss of her brother, Bobby.

### **St. Matthews United Church of Christ**

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