

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 4, 2021, 9 AM

Resurrection of the Lord

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L) This is the Good News—the grave is empty, Christ is risen!

(P) ALLELUIA!

(L) This is the Good News—the light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never be put out.

(P) ALLELUIA!

(L) This is the Good News—once we were no people, now we are God's people.

(P) ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

***HYMN**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today. Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high. Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King. Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Dying once, He all doth save. Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? 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!

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!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ you broke the power of death and opened the way to eternal life. As the empty tomb stands witness to his triumph over death, make your church to be a bold testimony to his enduring victory in life, that all we do may proclaim to the world, "He is risen, indeed. Through Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. AMEN.

***ACT OF PRAISE # 307**

*Good Christians all, rejoice and sing! Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring: "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"*

*The Lord of Life is risen today; death's mighty stone is rolled away:
let every tongue rejoice and say, "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!"*

THE TIME FOR CHILDREN

Staci Gower

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 25: 6-9

Joyce Fusner

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. **7** And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; **8** he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. **9** It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Psalter Lesson: Palm 118: 1-2, 14-24

Joyce Fusner

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

(P) Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."

(L) The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

(P) There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

"The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

the right hand of the Lord is exalted;

the right hand of the Lord does valiantly."

(L) We shall not die, but we shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has punished us severely, but he did not give us over to death.

**(P) Open to us the gates of righteousness,
that we may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.**

(L) This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

(P) We thank you that you have answered us and have become our salvation.

(L) The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

(P) This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

(L) This is the day that the Lord has made;

(P) Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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

*The Gospel: Mark 16: 1-8

1 When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. **2** And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. **3** They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" **4** When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. **5** As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. **6** But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. **7** But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." **8** So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

THE SERMON "He is not here...head to Galilee" The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

THE RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Presentation

Profession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

(L) Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?

(P) I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

(L) Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

(P) I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

(L) Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

(P) I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Baptism and Reaffirming of the Baptismal Covenant

Prayer and Welcome

***HYMN**

Red Letters

There I was on death row, guilty in the first degree.

Son of God hanging on a hill. Hell was my destiny.

The crowd was shouting, "Crucify!" It could've come from these lips of mine.

The dirty shame was killing me. It would take a miracle to wash me clean.

Then I read the red letters, and the ground began to shake.

The prison walls started falling, and I became a free man that day.

Felt like lightning hit my veins, my dead heart began to beat.

Breath of God filled my lungs, and the Holy Ghost awakened me.

Yeah, the Holy Ghost awakened me,

When I read the red letters, and the ground began to shake.

The prison walls started falling, and I became a free man that day.

For God so loved the whole wide world, sent His only Son to die for me,

Arms spread wide for the whole wide world.

His arms spread wide where mind should be.

Jesus changed my destiny.

Thank You, God for red letters, when the ground began to shake.

The grace of God started falling, and I became a free man that day. (3 times)

The grace of God started falling, and I became a free man that day.

And I became a free man THIS day.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you...**and also with you**

Lift up your hearts... **we lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God...**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn

Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord, God of Saboath

Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of your glory.

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the LORD

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

...We proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Christ Arose

*Low in the grave He lay- Jesus, my Savior! Waiting the coming day- Jesus, my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose, With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain, And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

*Vainly they watch His bed- Jesus, my Savior! Vainly they seal the dead- Jesus, my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose, With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain, And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!
Hallelujah! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

*Death cannot keep his prey- Jesus, my Savior! He tore the bars away- Jesus, my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose, With a mighty triumph o'er His foes.
He arose a victor from the dark domain, And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (#312)**

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love drowned in death can never die.*

*Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.*

*Christ is alive and comes to bring good news to this and every age;
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.*

***POSTLUDE**

(*Please stand in body or spirit.)



St. Matthews United Church of Christ

102 Church St, Kunkletown, PA 18058

610-381-2442, stmatts@ptd.net

Pastor: The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

Coordinator of Spiritual Formation: Mrs. Staci Gower

Office Manager: Mrs. Rose Arace

Council President: Mr. Cheryl Dorshimer

Sunday Worship, 9 AM; Adult Sunday School, 10:30 AM

Children's Sunday School is virtual at

www.stmattsucckunkletown.com



Christ is risen! Alleluia! Welcome to worship — and to resurrection life — on this most joyous day.

This Week Ahead

Sunday, April 4	Easter Sunrise Service Easter Sunday Worship	- Grove, 6 am (bundle up) - Sanctuary, 9 am
Monday, April 5	Easter Monday	-Office Closed
Wednesday, April 7	Exercise Group Holy Humor Rehearsal	-Office Open 10:30 am-1pm -Gathering Room, 1 pm - Sanctuary, 6 pm
Thursday, April 8		-Office Open 10:30am-1pm
Saturday, April 10	Cemetery Clean-Up	-Cemetery, 9 am
Sunday, April 11	Holy Humor Sunday CIA Class	- Sanctuary, 9 am - Stage Classroom 10:30 am

Prayer Concerns

Conner Bittenbender, Chip Diehl, Shirley Borger, McCoy Rapa, Doug Hawk, Gladys Meixsell, Janet Gower, Eliza Dymond, Lois Bohn, Neal Murphy, Janet Gower, Grace Everett, Dora Tartar, Randy Cramer, Lila Kleintop, Gladys Lindenmoyer, Joyce Smith, Rose Arace, Erica Pozza, Rosemarie Stranahan, Shirley Smith, Andrea Holec, Brayden Wunder, Kim and Trevor Cope, Josh & Kevin Engler, Mae Borger, and the Families of Lorraine Borger, Bill Norton, Ernie Norton, Bob Lovewell and Joanne Moyer

Today's Ushers:

Darryl Breinich, Jessica Slawter, Jennie Rose Serfass

Next Week's Ushers:

Shirley Brotzman and RJ Cramer

Today's Acolyte: Jake and Emma Procita

Next Week's Acolyte: Cody Borger



As members become vaccinated against COVID19, we ask that you continue to always wear a face covering when inside the building and to keep 6 feet away from others not in your household. We will continue to only allow 57 people in the sanctuary at any time. If you are not feeling well, *please* stay home. The Gathering Room and Social Hall are available for overflow worshipers and late comers.

Thank You all who helped with our Holy Week Events. We appreciate Harry and John who got the Grove ready for Easter. Our readers, musicians, and tech crew have done a wonderful job helping observe Maundy Thursday and celebrate the resurrection today. Thank You!

Don't forget to play CIA's Bible Bingo game based on the Fruits of the Spirit. Directions are on the back of the Bingo card. If you would like an extra card, speak to Diann Bittenbender. **This week's fruit is: Banana- Colossians 1:3, Orange-1 Peter 5:7, Pear- Acts 1:11.**

On April 11, join us for our first Holy Humor Sunday at 9 am. The Creative worship Team has been working on this service for over a year (thanks COVID) but join us for a fun and laughter filled worship experience. ***We invite you to wear mismatched clothes, bright colorful socks, ties or scarves.*** Bring your neighbors who think church is boring. It won't be.

Our Secretary, Rose Arace will be out of the office for 8 weeks beginning March 31 due to surgery. Office hours will be 10:30 am to 1 pm on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursdays while she is gone. The office will be closed on Fridays during her recovery. Joan Madden is filling in for Rose while she is away. Magen Snyder will be editing the White Dove Flyer.

Our faithful and committed Sexton, Dean Zacharias is resigning. He is staying on until we can higher his replacement. If you are interested in becoming our next Sexton/Housekeeper, please contact Cheryl Dorshimer, our Council President.



CIA is hosting gift card bingo in the grove on May 2nd. Refreshments are being sold at 12pm and gift card bingo is at 1pm.

We are hosting a blood drive on April 12th. There are a few slots left in the afternoon.

Cemetery Clean up in preparation for spring mowing will take place on Saturday, April 10 at 9 am in the cemetery. Please remove any decorations that you want to keep that may impede the work of our lawn service company. Any decorations not removed will be discarded.

Grove and Food Stand Clean-up day has been moved to April 24th. Please come and give us a hand as we prepare the grove for our summer activities. Thank You!

