

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter

"A faithful family reaching out to serve Christ."

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(L) The bread of life opens our eyes.

(P) The word of life opens our ears.

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

(P) and by those wounds we are healed.

(L) Peace be with you.

(P) And also with you.

***HYMN** *Make a Joyful Noise*

Make a joyful noise, shout to the Lord all the earth.

Serve the Lord with gladness. Come into His presence with singing.

Know that the Lord, He is God; It is He who has made us not we ourselves.

We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.

Show thankfulness to Him and bless His name.

For the Lord is good; His love is everlasting.

His truth endures to every generation.

***UNISON OPENING PRAYER**

**Almighty God, your power makes the lame walk
and the dead rise to new life.**

**We give you thanks for the love poured into our world through Christ Jesus
who opened our minds to understand what you have made,
whose appearance among his followers brings peace,
and who creates faith through touch and taste.**

**Show us Jesus, even now,
through the mystery of your threefold presence,
one God, abiding 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

Diane Huber

The First Lesson: Acts 3: 12-19

12 When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? **13** The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. **14** But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, **15** and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. **16** And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. **17** "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. **18** In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. **19** Repent therefore and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

The Psalter Lesson:

(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.

(P) How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame? How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

(L) But know that the Lord has set apart the faithful for himself; the Lord hears when I call to him.

(P) When you are disturbed, do not sin; ponder it on your beds, and be silent

(L) Offer right sacrifices, and put your trust in the Lord.

(P) There are many who say, "O that we might see some good! Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"

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

(P) 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.*

*The Gospel: Luke 24: 36b-48

36 Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

37 They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost.

38 He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **39** Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." **40** And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" **42** They gave him a piece of broiled fish, **43** and he took it and ate in their presence. **44** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." **45** Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, **46** and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, **47** and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things.

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

THE SERMON "Something Different" The Rev. Suzanne Brooks-Cope

***HYMN** *Be Thou My Vision*

*Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art--
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.*

*Be Thou my Wisdom and Thou my true Word; I ever with Thee and Thou with me,
Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son, Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.*

*Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.*

*High King of heaven, my victory won, May I reach heaven's joys bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** The UCC Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify: God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death. God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord; God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. AMEN.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Living Hope*

*How great the chasm that lay between us. How high the mountain I could not climb.
In desperation, I turned to Heaven and spoke Your Name into the night.
Then through the darkness, Your loving kindness saw through the shadows of my soul.
The work is finished, the end is written; Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.*

*Who could imagine so great a mercy? What heart could fathom such boundless grace?
The God of Ages stepped down from glory to wear my sin and bear my shame.
The cross has spoken, I am forgiven. The King of kings calls me His own.
Beautiful Savior, I'm Yours forever; Jesus Christ, my Living Hope.*

*Hallelujah, praise the One Who set me free! Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken ev'ry chain; there's salvation in Your Name-- Jesus Christ, my Living
Hope! (2x)*

*Then came the morning that sealed the promise; Your buried body began to breathe.
Out of the silence, the roaring Lion declared, "The grave has no claim on me." (2x)*

Jesus, Yours is the victory!

*Hallelujah, praise the One Who set me free! Hallelujah, death has lost its grip on me!
You have broken ev'ry chain; there's salvation in Your Name-- Jesus Christ, my Living
Hope! (2x)*

Jesus Christ, my Living Hope! God, You are my Living Hope!

***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.*

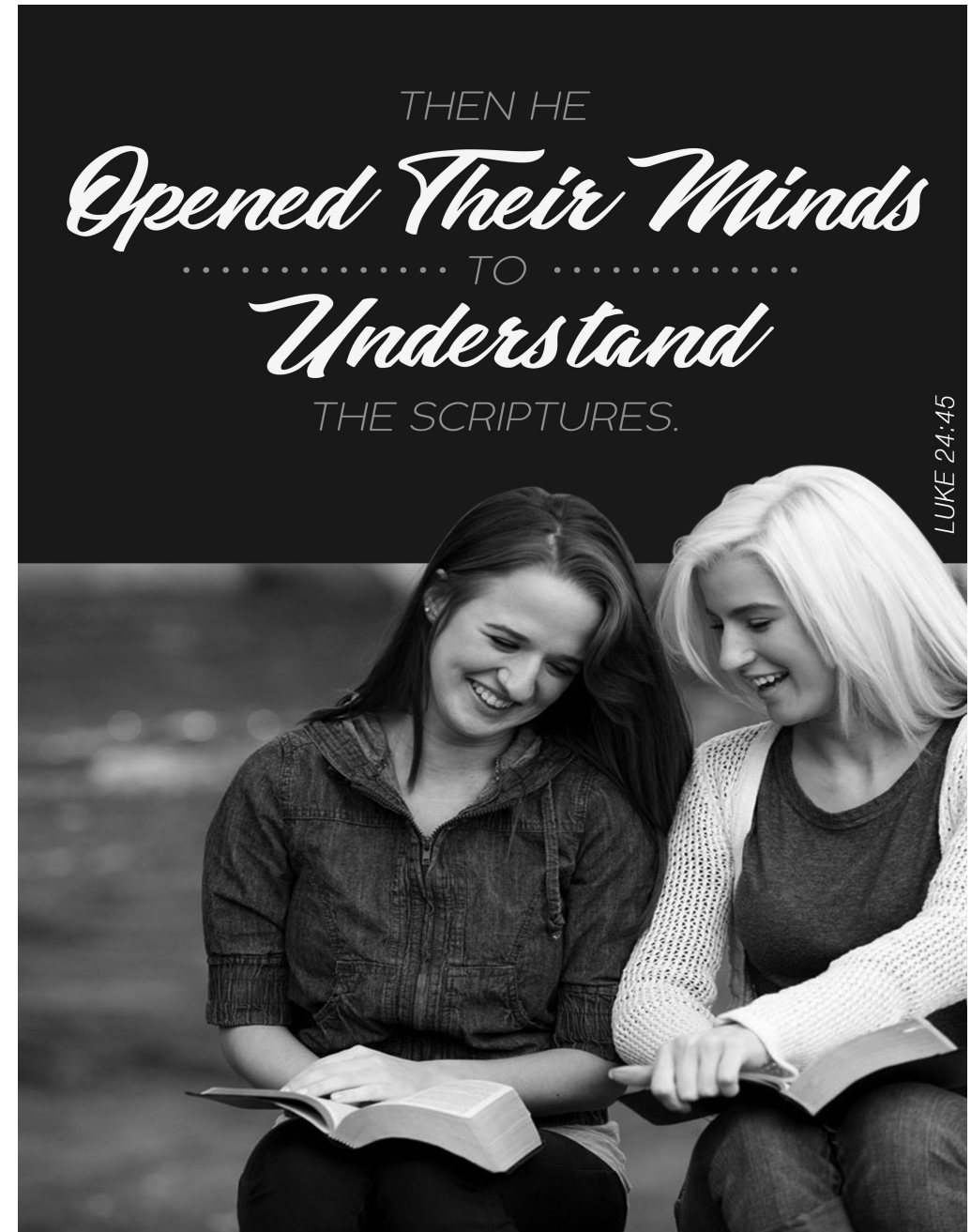
*Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.*

*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





Friends, we welcome you in the name of the one God who has defeated death forever by raising Jesus from the tomb. We too now walk in new life.

This Week Ahead

Sunday, April 18	Third Sunday of Easter Worship	- Sanctuary, 9 am
Monday, April 19		-Office Open 10:30 am-1pm
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Wednesday, April 21		-Office Open 10:30 am-1pm
	Laymen's Fellowship (brown bag lunch)	-Social Hall, 10 am
	Exercise Group	-Gathering Room, 1 pm
Thursday, April 22		-Office Open 10:30am-1pm
Saturday, April 24	Grove Stand Clean-Up	-Grove, noon
	Alton Kleintop's Memorial Celebration	-Social Hall, 11 am
Sunday, April 25	Fourth Sunday of Easter	- Sanctuary, 9 am
	CIA Class	- Stage Classroom 10:30 am

Prayer Concerns

Conner Bittenbender, Hudson Stewart, 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 Roy Anthony, Megan Stranahan, Bill Norton, and Ernie Norton,

Today's Ushers:

Harry Koehler and Jennie Rose Serfass

Next Week's Ushers:

Cheryl Dorshimer and Gabrielle Bentley

Today's Acolyte: Lydia Borger

Next Week's Acolyte: Ty Borger

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: Grapes--Joel 2:15, Grapes--Esther 4:14, Pear--Jonah 3:10



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. Tell your friends and neighbors and come and play.

Grove and Food Stand Clean-up day is next Saturday April 24th at noon. Please come and give us a hand as we prepare the grove for our summer activities. Thank You!

Thank you to all who donated blood last week at our Blood Drive. The Blood Bank was grateful...they will be able to help 54 people with the 17 pints of blood that was donated and several of the donors had blood types that were particularly needed. We will be scheduling quarterly blood drives at the church to make it easy for our members and our community to donate.

The Council decided at their April meeting to move Sunday morning worship back to the Grove from Memorial Day to Labor Day, weather permitting. Up at the Grove, people will be able to scatter out around the gazebo or stay in their cars for worship. Also, since Pennsylvania is loosening COVID restrictions, the council will be expanding our allowed number of worshipers in the sanctuary to 90. We will be placing hymnals and bibles back in their pews. Please however continue to attempt to sit 6 feet away from anyone not in your family and continue to wear masks during worship.



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.