

ST. MATTHEW'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 31, 2024

7th Sunday in Lent – Easter Sunday

“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) Alleluia! Christ is risen!

(ALL) Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

(L) This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

(ALL) Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

***OPENING HYMNS See, What A Morning (Resurrection Hymn)**

*See, what a morning, gloriously bright, with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem;
Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light, as the angels announce “Christ is risen!”
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love, borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,
Fulfilled in Christ the Man, for He lives: Christ is risen from the dead.*

*See, Mary weeping, “Where is He laid?” As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb.
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name; It's the Master, the Lord, raised to life again!
The voice that spans the years, speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,
Will sound till He appears, For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead.*

*One with the Father, Ancient of Days, through the Spirit Who clothes faith with certainty.
Honour and blessing glory and praise To the King crowned with pow'r and authority.
And we are raised with Him; Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered.
And we shall reign with Him, For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead.
And we are raised with Him; Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered.
And we shall reign with Him, For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead.*

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

*I know that my Redeemer lives; what hope this sweet assurance gives!
That He who gave His life for me Arose with healing in His wings.
He lives, the tomb is empty still; redemption's promise He fulfilled.*

No condemnation now remains; the stone of death is rolled away.

REFRAIN: *My Redeemer lives, my Redeemer lives
on heaven's throne and in my very soul, I know that my Redeemer lives.*

*I know that my Redeemer lives; and all my life is bound to His.
In realms above, He intercedes; our sinless Savior, perfect Priest.
No fear can follow where He guides; His constant presence is my light.
No power on earth or heaven above can separate us from His love. **REFRAIN***

*I know that my Redeemer lives; in life and death I trust in Him.
My soul secure, my future safe; He'll not forsake me to the grave.
He lives, and He will not delay; my eyes will wake to brightest day
And in my flesh I'll see Him stand when Christ in glory comes again,
And every eye will see Him stand when Christ in glory comes again. **REFRAIN 2x***

Jesus Is Alive

*There is now a hope that lasts beyond our days.
For the one that once was buried lives again.
Now the tomb is bare and empty and the stone is rolled away.
Praise the Risen one who overcame the grave.*

*All you brokenhearted, all you worn and weak.
Come find living water, everlasting streams.
To the wandering spirit, lost and searching wanting something more.
Find the risen King who overcomes the world.*

CHORUS: *Let there be dancing in the darkness and let our song break through the night
Lift your voice and sing that Christ is King for Jesus is alive.*

*No more condemnation, no more doubt and fear.
For our sin and shame they have no power here.
In his resurrection, perfect love has set the captives free.
Praise the risen King who stands in victory. (CHORUS-2x)*

BRIDGE (2x): *Hallelujah, death is undone; Hallelujah, Jesus has won,
Hallelujah, we overcome Oh in Jesus, Oh in Jesus. (CHORUS-2x)*

TAG: *Lift your voice and sing that Christ is king for Jesus is alive.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus' rising from the dead assures us that we, too, have been given new life. Let us repent of our sin before God and one another, certain of God's mercy.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All-knowing, all-powerful God, we confess that, even on this most holy day, we are unable to believe in the victory over death shown to us in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. We confess our utter dependence on you not only for life but also for faith, hope and love.

Without your astonishing appearance to our ancestors and your stunning presence throughout the ages, we would be lost.

Forgive us and transform us, that in every way our work and prayer will make whole what is broken and give peace on earth. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

By the grace of God and the witness of our ancestors, the good news of Jesus' resurrection is our rock and our salvation.

You are forgiven of your sins, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, who lives and reigns now and forever.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE 9:00 am only
"THE PASSING OF THE PEACE"

Staci Gower

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

INVITATION

With compassion for our needs, the Risen One stands beside us, calling our names. Let us, with the same mercy, bring forth tithes and offerings to relieve the suffering of this world and to proclaim far and wide the good news of resurrection life.

OFFERTORY O Worship The Risen Christ

*What name is the praise of the heavens above,
That enraptures the wonder of angels?
Whose Glory outshines all the burning of suns
And shall blaze all the brighter through ages?*

CHORUS: *O praise the One, the Risen Christ The name of names, the Lord of Life
Let songs of joy now fill the skies He lives, he lives O Worship the Risen Christ*

*What morning has known such a glorious light,
And what hour beheld such a promise;
When He who was slain dawned the end of all night,
When He rose to crush death and our darkness. (CHORUS)*

*From heaven to earth, for a people He came
From the earth bore our sin unto Calv'ry
From Cal'ry he sank to the depths of the grave
From the grave unto infinite glory (CHORUS)*

*What riches of hope, now what treasures are mine
What a blessed foretaste of redemption
What oceans of happiness when we meet Christ
And we're swept into his resurrection. (CHORUS)*

*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

Holy God, you shower us with gifts so abundant, we cannot measure them all. You give us life itself and the power to befriend our companions in this world. Bless these gifts for the sake of those in need, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE READING OF SCRIPTURE

Lisa House

Old Testament Lesson:

6:30am Psalm 118 1-2, 14-24 Pew Bible pg 492, 493

9:00am Isaiah 25:6-9 Pew Bible pg 568

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

*New Testament Readings:

6:30am Galatians 2:20 Pew Bible pg 946

9:00am 2 Corinthians 5:7 Pew Bible pg 939

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

SERMON

"The Cross, a Symbol of Identity and Hope" 6:30am Keith House
"Is Easter Unbelievable" 9:00am Keith House

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION See insert

***THE LORD'S PRAYER – ALL** Led by Keith House

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 *In Christ Alone*

*In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace, When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all— Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless Babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid— Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine— bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand; On Christ, the Solid Rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death— This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand;
'Til He returns or calls me home— Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.*

***CHARGE AND BLESSING** Keith House

Go from here renewed and strong, knowing that the Lord is alive, almighty and present. Look for the blessings that await you this week. Weep with those who weep. Rejoice with those who celebrate. Tell the story of hope.

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





The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 31	Easter Dawn Service Light Breakfast Easter Service	-Sanctuary, 6:30am -Social Hall, 7:30am -Sanctuary, 9:00am
Monday, April 1	Exercise Group	-Office Closed -Gathering Room, 10:30am
Wednesday, April 3		-Office Open 10am - 2pm
Thursday, April 4	Exercise Group 1 st Thursday Game Day All are welcome!	-Office Open 10am - 2pm -Gathering Room, 10:30am - Social Hall, 12:30pm
Sunday, April 7	2 nd Sunday of Easter Guest Preacher – Pastor Tom Albright	- Sanctuary, 9:00am

March Lead Usher – Tom Barr

Altar Flowers

Vase #1 – In memory of Helen Gower by Michelle & family
Vase #2 – In loving memory of Roy Anthony

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)

Thank you to Keith House for leading our service today.

The Property Committee walked through the basement and saw the need to clean up/organize or clean out. All committees, please take the time to attend to your areas. Whatever is not removed or organized by April 13th will be thrown out.

The Men’s Group will meet on April 13th at 8:00am to help with service projects.

April 13th is clean up day for the basement, cemetery and grove starting at 9:30am.

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

There is a box on the table by the flower book for your questions for the Town Hall meeting on April 14th. Renee will forward the questions to Pastor Mike so he can prepare to answer your questions at the meeting.

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 April 14th and the follow-up with Bishop Randy on April 21st.

Krispy Kreme donuts pickup will be April 2nd 11am to 4pm and 5:30pm to 6:30pm.

St. Matthews United Church of Christ

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