

**Mid-Week Meet-UP.** Join us **every Wednesday at 6:30pm** for a simple supper and fellowship. **Bring your own dinner.** **RSVP with Pastor Hafidha at the church.** Masks and safe distancing will keep us all safe.

**Food Pantry 2021:** The Mission Committee is busy making plans to open a Food Pantry for individuals and families who may need assistance. There is much to plan for and do. If you would like to contribute to the organizing efforts of getting this mission off the ground, please leave your donation in the offering plate, or send it to the church office. Also, there is a donation container in Fellowship Hall.

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**Sunday, April 4, 2021**

**Zion’s United Church of Christ of Taborton**

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**Zion’s United Church of Christ of Taborton**

**Service of the Worship of God**

**Sunday, April 4, 2021**

**Easter Sunday**

Rev. Hafidha F. Saadiqah, Pastor \* Mrs. Ronda Stevens, Board Moderator

Mr. Conor Frost, Musician

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WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

RESPONSIVE CALL to WORSHIP

L: Rejoice! There is great news! Christ is risen!

**P: Christ is risen, indeed!**

L: Let the Church proclaim with joy

the continued presence of God in our world!

**ALL Alleluia! Alleluia!**

OPENING PRAYER

**\*** HYMN (p. ) *Alleluia! Alleluia! Heart to Heaven* WEISSEN FLAGGEN

RESPONSIVE PRAYER of CONFESSION

L: There is nothing that can destroy or contain your life, O God,

life is always slipping through the cracks of the world

and of our lives, always sending out its shoots and scattering its seeds,

giving birth to new promises and possibilities.

P**: We need eyes and ears, hearts and minds**

**that are attuned to the signs and songs of life**

**that respond automatically to life’s rhythms and reasons.**

L: Teach us, O God, to respond to the life

that flows in tears of joy,

and that stumbles through tears of grief.

**P: Teach, O God, to respond to the life**

**that resists even the harshest violence**

**and the most cataclysmic disaster,**

**and that slowly rises from ashes of destruction and war.**

L: Teach us, O God, to respond to the life

that dances in the untamed places of the planet,

and that walks gently in cities and technology.

**P: Teach us, O God, to respond to the life**

**that sings in the cry of the infant,**

**and that whispers in the sigh of the dying.**

**ALL: Life – your life – is always slipping through the cracks of the world**

**and of our lives, O God. We need only to recognize it and respond,**

**and in this moment, insofar as we are able, we live into it. Amen.**

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***\* Words of Assurance (*minister*)***

***\* Gloria Patri* (spoken)**

**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit Three in One!**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be;**

**World without end. Amen. Amen.**

***\*Offering Signs of Peace***

*INTERLUDE*

CHILDREN’S TIME

INVITATION to STEWARDSHIP & OFFERING

***Doxology (*spoken)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host.**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication***

For the wondrous gift of life, we are thankful, O God. Your generous outpouring of grace reminds us of the fruitful life we are called to bear. May these gifts of

time and labor, therefore, embody our desire to share and contribute to your coming reign among us. Amen.

**2**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE & THE LORD’S PRAYER

SCRIPTURE (p. 4) St. Mark 16:1-8

SERMON Catching Up with Jesus

*INTERLUDE*

COMMUNION at the LORD’S TABLE

\* HYMN (p. ) *Peace I Leave with You, My Friends* PEACE, MY FRIENDS

\* BENEDICTION

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***Today’s Scripture:***

**St. Mark 16:1-8**

(Common English Bible)

﻿ ﻿When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they could go and anoint Jesus' dead body. 2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they came to the tomb. 3 They were saying to each other, "Who's going to roll the stone away from the entrance for us?"  4 When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away. And it was a very large stone!  5 Going into the tomb, they saw a young man in a white robe seated on the right side; and they were startled. 6 But he said to them, "Don't be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. He isn't here. Look, here's the place where they laid him. 7 Go, tell his disciples, especially Peter, that he is going ahead of you into Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you." 8 Overcome with terror and dread, they fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

**3**

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***THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US!***

***JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP HALL***

***FOR COFFEE***

***AND***

***CONVERSATION!***

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**4**

***HYMNS FOR THE LORD’S DAY***

**ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! HEARTS TO HEAVEN**

HYMN TUNE: WEISSE FLAGGEN

TEXT: Christopher Wordsworth

1. Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise;

Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.

Jesus on the cross as savior for the world’s salvation bled;

But the crucified redeemer now is risen from the dead.

1. Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born;

Glorious life, and life immortal on this holy Easter morn;

Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by God’s liberating deed;

Now the Christ with us abiding, to eternal life shall lead.

1. Christ is risen, we are risen; shed upon us heavenly grace,

Rain and dew, and gleams of glory from the brightness of your face;

That we, with our hearts in heaven, here on earth may fruitful be,

And by angel hands be gathered and be yours eternally.

1. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to the God of joy;

Alleluia to the savior who came deaths bonds to destroy;

Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctify;

Alleluia! Alleluia! To the triune majesty.

**5**

**PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU, MY FRIENDS**

HYMN TUNE: PEACE, MY FRIENDS

TEXT: Roy Repp

***Refrain*** Peace, I leave with you, my friends,

shalom, my peace, in all you do.

Peace, I leave, with you, my friends.

I give to you so that you can give to others, too.

1. To share God’s love is why I came,

to show God’s kindness without end.

go now, my friends, and do the same,

until I come again.

***Refrain***

1. Take my hand and be at peace;

the spirit of our love I send.

And with this love you will be free,

until I come again.

***Refrain***

1. With this love now all will know

That loneliness is at an end.

Rejoice, my friends, although I go,

For I will come again.

***Refrain***

**6**

**COMMUNION AT THE LORD’S TABLE**

Adapted from *Eucharist Prayers for Inclusive Communities*

Edited by Sheila Durkin Dierks & Bridget Mary Meehan

L: May our God be with you!

**P: And also with you!**

L: Lift up your hearts!

**P: Yes! We lift them up to our God!**

L: Let us give thanks to God!

**P: Yes! We give praise and thanks to God!**

L: We praise God at all times and in all places, but especially now at Easter,

the center of the year and the center of our faith.

For Jesus the Christ is alive. Executed as a criminal, on a cross,

he comes to his friends and speaks to them.

**P: The stone that builders rejected has become the cornerstone.**

L: Christ lives, then and now. His life means life for the earth, and the cosmos.

**P: Christ is before all time, throughout all time, and beyond all time;**

**God in our flesh, God with us, God for us.**

L: In baptism we enter the tomb with him and are reborn to a life in Christ that

does not die. Therefore, we proclaim together:

**ALL: Holy, Holy, Holy, God: infinite, surrounding, all within all. Hosanna!**

**Blessed is the Christ, the One who shows us God's welcome. Hosanna!**

L: Sprit of Life, Spirit of Wisdom: be with us gathered here, for you know all

and make holy even the plainest things; the simplest foods. And the people

say:

**P: For we know now what we did not know before.**

L: Jesus' friends gathered for a meal at the Passover. They prepared the ritual

foods and reclined at table. And as they were eating, he shocked them.

He took bread in his hands, broke it, and gave it to them saying, "This is my

body." And the people say:

**ALL: "Do this to remember me."**

L: When supper was ended, he took the cup, the third cup of blessing in their tradition. He said, "This is the cup of my blood." And the people say:

**ALL The blood of the new covenant**.

L: "Drink from it, all of you. Do this in memory of me." And the people say:

**ALL: For we know now what we could not know before: Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ lives among us now and forever.**

**7**

L: We know now your grace and wisdom. Yet, we cannot comprehend

you; vast and deep, infinite and unsearchable. But, we thank you that you

reach us through our bodies, our senses, our memory.

And you reach and touch not only us, most holy God, but all things.

Therefore, we celebrate here in the line of our ancestors in faith:

The family of Jesus the Christ and his friends

The earliest Christians, who risked their lives to teach his truths.

The untold generations of those who felt his living presence.

Those persons who guide us in our time in faith, in word, and act.

And the people say:

**ALL: Thanks to all these holy ones, we know now what we did not know.**

L: The next generations who lives will be shaped by our own words and acts, and the succeeding generations who will unfold your presence in their midst:

**ALL: We pray for them, and with them. For those who have died, now live with you. And those still among us are your family.**

L: We pray for the life of our planet from which we received these simple gifts; and the cosmos, web of life for all creatures, known and unknown.

Protect all life from evil. Heal the effects of sin, violence, and greed.

In Christ, the sweetness of your presence is with us. You call us to be the

sweetness of Christ in the world. In the realm of God there is no division,

no oppression, no shame, for all who are of Christ are on body. And the

people say:

**ALL: For your holiness is too great for us to know. Yet we praise you with all that we are, for this is your gift. We praise you through Christ, with Christ, in Christ for he is our gift. We praise you by the strength of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Wisdom, for she is your gift. We praise you as one who fills all time and all space; for all is yours, and we are yours. Amen! Amen! Amen!**

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**8**

***THINKING ABOUT THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE…***

**Thoughts you have about the story:**

\*

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\*

**Questions/Observations:**

1. What is the significance of the stone already being rolled away?

2. Why would the young man tell the women to tell the disciples to go to

Galilee?

3. Why do you think the women didn’t tell anyone about their experience at

the grave?

**Prayer:**

Holy God: tune my ears for silene.

Incline my heart to listen.

Set me as a beacon of your truth and love to all whose paths I cross this week. Amen.



**9**



***Join us each week at 6:30pm***

***in***

***Fellowship Hall!***

**Bring your own dinner**

RSVP with Pastor Hafidha

**10**