

## St. Vincent UCC Worship Service

Easter Sunday March 31, 2024

Pastor – Rev. Susan Hanson

Church Musician – Deb Rick



### Ringing of the Bell

**Welcome:** This is a great and joyous day. We have gathered to celebrate the amazing good news of the resurrection for Jesus and for every one of us. Let us experience again the awe and wonder of this morning – the tomb is empty and death does not have the last word. Jesus Christ is alive, and because of him, we too, shall live forever. Let us meditate on the wonder of this day as we enjoy our prelude music from good heart and hands of our own Deb Rick.

### Prelude Music

*Let us rise for our Call to Worship*

#### \* Call To Worship:

**Pastor:** Welcome to Easter morning when we celebrate that our Lord is risen!

**People:** **He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Let us worship him!**

**Pastor:** Let us gather our hearts and minds together for this Easter worship in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen. Let us join our voices together in our Affirmation of Faith ...

**Affirmation of Faith:** **With all Christians everywhere, we believe in one God, who made everything. The Father sent his Son, Jesus, to live among us and teach us his ways. He died on the cross, but rose again as Lord of all, that we might live forever with him. God sent his Holy Spirit to live inside each of us, that we might grow to become more like Jesus. And so that we can affirm for our own hearts and minds that always and forever, God will love us and be with us in all things – no matter what. Amen.**

*Now, let us sing together our first hymn.*

#### \* Hymn: # 233 “Christ the Lord is Risen Today.”

**Prayer for Easter:** Let us join our voices together in prayer...

**All:** Living God, we give you thanks for Jesus and the gift of resurrection for all of us who follow him. We lift our hearts in praise to you. We stand in awe of your power over death, of your love for us, of your desire to bring peace and harmony to the whole world. Help us celebrate this day as your Easter people. Raise us to new lives of joyful worship and service to you. Amen.

*With gratitude, let us sing response...*

#### Sung Response: # 2069 “All Hail King Jesus”

**All hail King Jesus! All hail Emmanuel, King of kings, Lord of lords, bright Morning Star. And throughout eternity, I'll sing your praises; and I'll reign with you throughout eternity.**

**Scripture Reading:**

Liturgist: Brenda McFadden

**Liturgist:** We now turn our hearts and minds to the reading of God's Holy Scripture. Today's story takes us back to that first Easter morning when a miracle took place in the garden outside the empty tomb. This story can be found in the Gospel of John, chapter 20, verses 1-18.

**Let us pray:** Holy God, you have given us the gift of life and eternal life through the resurrection of your Son Jesus. Be with us this day as we celebrate this miracle and hear again the story of the first Easter so long ago.

**Reading:**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb where they had laid Jesus. She saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So, she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him."

Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there - but he did not go in.

Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture - that he would rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stayed behind and stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away."

Then Jesus said her name, "Mary!" And she turned and recognized him and said in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). She reached out to touch him, but Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

**Liturgist:** Here ends the read of God's Holy Scripture. May God bless us with understanding, and may we show our understanding in the way we live our lives. Amen.

Now, let's sing our middle hymn, "In the Garden"

**Hymn: # 237 "In the Garden"**

**Message: "Miracle of Miracles in the Garden"**

*Let us now turn our hearts and minds to the blessing of participation in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. (see insert)*

## **Easter Liturgy for the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Sung Response: “He Lives!”** (see insert)

### **Pastoral Prayer / Lord's Prayer**

**Sung Response: # 2215 “Cares Corus”**

**Offering Invitation:** The joy of Easter reminds us that anything and everything is possible with God. In gratitude for God’s love and care, let us now present with joy our morning offering for the good of God’s church.

### **Offertory**

**\* Sung Response: “Bless Thou the Gifts”**

**Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought; bless  
thou the work our hearts have planned. Ours is the faith, the  
will, the thought; the rest, O God is in thy hand.**

**\* Prayer of Dedication:**

**Holy God, we thank you for this special gift of Easter – for the sun that rises each day and the Son that rises every day in our hearts. In gratitude, we offer to you these gifts and dedicate them to your purpose, in the name of Jesus, the One who raises us up in love. Amen.**

**\* Hymn: # 245 “The Day of Resurrection”**

**\* Benediction:** We have been witnesses this day, once again, to the greatest of miracles - Jesus Christ is risen and all who follow him are resurrected people too! Let us live from this day on as people who are truly alive in his love for evermore. Amen.

**\* Response: # 2241 “The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”**

**\* Postlude Music**