

# St. John's UCC, Fullerton

575 Grape Street † Whitehall PA 18052  
www.stjohnsuccfullerton.org † 610-264-8421



*We Worship, We Love, We Serve  
– No Matter What!*

**April 7, 2024  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Holy Humor Sunday  
21:30**

# We Worship

***Welcome to St. John's UCC, Fullerton!***

*We are a place where love can grow!*

*As the music begins, please find your place and quietly center your spirit for our worship of God together.*

***Our Offering*** is received as we gather for worship, with plates located on pedestals at the back. We graciously accept your gifts to God of praise and gratitude, to be presented during the service. While guests are welcome to contribute, please know there is no obligation; the financial support of our church is primarily the responsibility of our congregation members.

***Children's Faith Formation*** is integrated into the early part of our worship service in the sanctuary, including the Children's Message. The children then proceed to Room 101 for the 'Blessed to Be a Blessing' lesson. Parents are invited to accompany their children to the classroom for a brief orientation and to sign them in. Children should be picked up from Room 101 following the worship service.

**\* Those who are comfortably able, please stand**

## **Chimes**

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Steven Davis

## **HOLY HUMOR**

**\*Greeting and Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**One:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** **And also with you!**

## **Music to Prepare our Hearts for Worship**

*This is the Feast of Victory*

New Hymn for Worship

Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

**\*Call to Worship**

Liturgist: Tyler Shankweiler

One: Christ is risen!

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

One: Joy is loose,

All: **In the wiggles of the children**

One: The whispers of the youth,

All: **The smiles of the adults.**

One: We praise God for this glorious day,

All: **Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places  
and in silly ways.**

One: Joy and praise fill our hearts and in our songs

All: Let the laughter be deep, for we are God's people.

One: This is the day that the Lord has made;

All: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

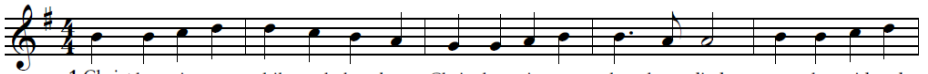
**\*Opening Hymm**

*Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers*

Verses 1 and 2

# Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers

*Alternative Melody: Hymn to Joy*



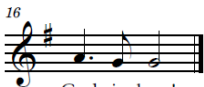
1.Christ has ris-en while earthslum-bers; Christ has ris-en where hopedied, as he said and  
2.Christ has ris-en for the peo-ple whom he died to love and save; Christ has ris-en



as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de-nied. Let the moon em-brace the bless-ing;  
for the wom-en bring-ing flowers to grace his grave. Christ has ris-en for dis-ci-ples



let the sun sus-tain the cheer; let the world con-firm the ru-mor: Christ is ris-en,  
hud-dled in an up-stairs room. Hewhose word in-spired cre-a-tion can't be si-lenced



God is here!  
by the tomb.

## **Easter Gathering Prayer**

Liturgist: Tyler Shankweiler

**One:** You smiled and the sun burst through the shadows of chaos; you laughed, and all that is good and beautiful was given shape by you, Imaginative God. Snickering at the feeble attempts of the evil one, you showed us how to resist temptation; giggling at sin's desperate desire to hold on to us, you released us by your love; howling with laughter at death's foolish belief that the tomb could hold you, you burst forth into the kingdom as the stars pealed with joy, Laughing Jesus.

**All:** **As you fill us with new life, may we delight in sharing it with others; as you tell us the good news which can never be taken from us, may we rejoice in offering it to the broken, the sad, the lonely; as you tickle us with grace, may we give it away with laughter on our lips and joy in our hearts, Spirit of Easter. Holy in One, our hearts overflow with wonder.**

## **Prayer of Confusion**

Liturgist: Tyler Shankweiler

**One:** None of us likes to look foolish, but which is sillier? Chasing after the world and all its gaudy trinkets which flatter our souls, or being a 'fool for Christ', imitating him in service to others, offering ourselves in love and joy to the world? Choosing to feast on the pain of the world, we skip the picnic offered in paradise. Clinging to the despair which is our best friend, we ignore Jesus. who can bring us home to your heart.

**All:** **Forgive us, Heart of Joy, and make us open to the startling, and upside-down, ways in which you work. Fill us with Easter's laughter; fill us with your healing joy; fill us with the love poured into us through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.**

*(Time for Silent Prayer)*

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Liturgist: Tyler Shankweiler

**One:** The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this joy is now given to us.

**All:** **Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy. We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed, to bring healing to the broken, to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness. Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

## **Children's Message**

Children and youth are welcome to come up to the chancel steps.

## **Choir Anthem**

*Halle, Halle, Halle*

Tony Alonso

## **HOLY HUMOR**

### **Scripture Reading:**

1 John 1:1-5

Read By: Mike Gravely

*\*Please rise as you are able for the reading of the Gospel*

**One:** The word of God for the people of God.

**All:** **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **Sirmun**

Rev. Davis

Complete Joy!  
We Are Witnesses

## **Hymn**

*This is the Feast of Victory*

Verses 1 and 2

*found on page 5 of the bulletin*

## **HOLY HUMOR**

## 315 This Is the Feast of Victory

*Refrain (Unison)*

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose  
 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and  
 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and  
 4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to  
 5 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.  
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.  
 God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
 gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia! (to Final Refrain)

WORDS: John W. Arthur (1922-1980); para. Revelation 5:12-13

MUSIC: Richard Hillert (1923-)

Words © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (Admin. Augsburg Fortress)  
 Music © 1975, 1988 Richard Hillert

FESTIVAL CANTICLE

Irregular

# We Love

Pastoral Prayer and Prayers of the People

Rev. Davis

## The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

**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**

## Sung Response:

*First time sung by choir, then repeated by all.*

## Psalm 118: Let Us Rejoice

Refrain

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re -  
Or: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -  
joice and be glad; this is the day the Lord has  
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -  
made, let us re - rejoice and be glad!  
ia! Al - le - lu - lu - ia!

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

Rev. Davis

*Please sign the communion book in the back of the church  
if you have not done so at a service of communion in 2024.*

*We are an Inclusive Community!*

*In the United Church of Christ, we observe an "open communion."*

*ALL people are welcome to receive  
the gifts of God's grace and love with us at the table.*

*In the UCC, ALL means ALL!*

# The Invitation to Receive

# “Come Just As You Are”

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## Come Just As You Are

Joseph Sabolick

**♩ = 88**

**Solo**

Come just as you are, Hear the Spir-it call— Come just as you are,

**7** **ALL**

Come and see, come, re-ceive; Come and live— for - ev - er. Come just as you are.

**13**

Hear the Spir-it call— Come, just as you are. Come, re-ceive Christ the king

**19** **Choir Only**

Come and live— for - ev - er - more. Life ever last ing and strength for to - day—

**26** **ALL**

Taste— the Liv-ing Wa-ter— and nev - er thirst a gain. Come just as you are.

**32**

Hear the Spir-it call— Come, just as you are. Come, re-ceive Christ the king

**38**

Come and live— for - ev - er - more.

## Words of Consecration

Rev. Davis

## Sharing the Meal

*The elements will be passed in the pew.  
We will receive the bread and eat at the same time,  
then the cup is passed and all drink together.*

## Him during Communion

*Take and Eat*

*Please join in singing the refrain*



Take and eat; take and eat; this is my bod - y  
 giv - en up for you. Take and drink; take and drink:  
 this is my blood giv - en up for you.

One: The body of Christ, given for us.

**All: Amen**

*Please join in singing the refrain*

One: The cup of our salvation, given for us.

**All: Amen**

*Please join in singing the refrain*

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

**All: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen**

## Offering Our Grits, Tithes and Offerings to God

**(HOLY HUMOR)**

**Scan, Support & Sustain  
 BECOME AN AUTOMATIC CONTRIBUTOR!**

Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness in supporting the ministry of St. John's UCC! Next Sunday is your last to pick up your giving statements from 2023.

**\*Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all Blessings Flow  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**\*Prayer of Dedicaton**

Liturgist: Tyler Shankweiler

**All: God of great gifts: With resurrection humming in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your song of peace! We joyfully present these gifts to you, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for your kingdom come! This we pray in your most holy name. Amen.**

**Receiving New Persons in Covenant Relationship**

(See Pg 12 for the new persons' names)

Questions to those to be Received in Covenant

**One:** Let us, the members of St. John's United Church of Christ, Fullerton, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

**All:** We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

## We Serve

**\*Closing Hymn**

*Alleluia No. 1*

Verses 1, 2, and 3

*found on page 11 of the bulletin*

**\*Benediction Humor**

Rev. Davis

**\*Postlude**

*Fanfare on Alleluia No. 1*  
Arr. by Noel Rawesthorne  
Patrick Sandt, Director of Music

*When the altar candles have been extinguished, our time of worship is concluded  
and our service in the world continues.*

*The Benediction and Postlude send us out  
to be the people of God in our community.*

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**Our Worship & Faith Formation Sunday Schedule**

**8:30am Adult Faith Formation**

- Friendship Sunday School Class

**9:30am Worship / Children's Faith Formation**

- with Sunday Social time following worship

**11:00am Confirmation Class and other Youth**

**Bulletins**

Today's bulletins are sponsored in loving memory of Richard Rarich  
by the Rarich family.

**Attendance – March 31**

Onsite – 190    Online - 39

**Serving in Worship Leadership**

**April 7**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter – Holy Humor Sunday**

Liturgist – Tyler Shankweiler

Scripture Reader – Mike Gravely

Acolyte – Sophia Pagan

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Social Hour Hosts – The Gutekunst family

Ushers – Kay Chryst, Paul Raszler, Kathy Roth, Tyler Shankweiler

# Alleluia No. 1

EASTER

291

*Refrain (Unison)*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris - en Lord, Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name!

*Harmony*

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.  
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth;  
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.  
 4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God.

He is the King of cre - a - tion.  
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.  
 Now we shall live for - ev - er.  
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

*to Refrain*

WORDS and MUSIC: Donald Fishel (1950- )

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**April 14**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

Liturgist – Dewey Yeatts

Scripture Reader – Barbara Seeds

Acolyte – Matthew Buskirk

Worship Tech – Bill Castello

Social Hour Host – Colleen Kulhamer

Ushers – Staci and Sophia Pagan

**In Our Prayers**

Please remember in your prayers all those who are ill, in our area hospitals, or otherwise in need of prayer: Mike Agrippine, Freda Albright, Larry Albright, Phyllis Ambearle, Clarence Biehn, Joe Catalini, Margaret and Mike Davis, Samuel, Nick and Amanda Devaney, Tracey Glass, Phyllis Gutekunst, Ray Hower, Geraldine Keim, Gayle Mihulec, Karen Moyer, Joey Raszler, Dale Serfass, Tessa, Zoey and Aiden.

Continued prayers for those suffering from weather disasters across the US, as well as the war against Ukraine by Russia, now over 700 days, and the war between Israel and Hamas, and the Palestinian people. Pray for all the innocents killed and suffering in Gaza. Pray for actions to change policy and practice.

Continued prayers for those in our military, especially Dominic DeMilio and Kaden Rossanese.

If you or a family member is admitted to the hospital, tell them you are a member of St. John's or use the church code, **473**. If you have someone for us to remember in prayer, please contact the church office.

**NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED!**

This morning, we welcome new members. Please greet them after worship!

Regina Hickman

June McCracken

Pam Repetz

Karen Schmoyer

Scotty Siegfried

\*Enid Strict, "The Church Lady"

\*Status Pending

***CONDRAGULATIONS! You're ALL Winners!***

## **SCRIPTURE READERS/LITURGISTS**

Readers and Liturgists for the months of May and June are needed. We are trying something new beginning in May: a two-month schedule for readers and liturgists. If you are unable to make your scheduled assignment, you are kindly asked to find a replacement and notify the church office no later than Thursday. For additional information, or if you are interested in becoming involved with this wonderful ministry for our Church community, please contact Regi Mohr (regimohr@live.com) or Patrick Sandt (music@sjuccf.org)

## **NEW DATES FOR PHOTO DIRECTORY**

If you have not yet gotten your picture taken for the photo directory, there are three new dates for you to sign up: today, April 7<sup>th</sup>, and next Saturday and Sunday, April 13 and 14. Talk to Bill or sign up on the church website. <https://stjohnsuccfullerton.org/directory>.

## **WALKING CHALLENGE**

The next St. John's Walking Challenge begins April 20 and ends May 11. Contact Sharon Antrim to sign up. 610-216-6207 or sharonantrim@yahoo.com. Looking forward to lots of good weather and flowers blooming along the way. Bonus points for any participants who can walk on water.

## **GRIEF SUPPORT ~ HEALTHCARE MINISTRY**

You are invited to attend a grief support group at Asbury UM Church, 1533 Springhouse Rd., Allentown on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 1pm in the upper-level Parlor and is led by Rev. Evelyn Stupp, Asbury's Pastor of Bereavement and Care Ministries. Please contact her at estupp@asburylv.org or (610) 428-9095 for more details and to indicate your interest. The next support gathering is **Tuesday, April 23**.

## **WATER GATHERING**

Help create a ritual to touch us with the waters of life from all over the world. Water bottles are available for you to take home. Please take them along on vacation to collect water from your travels, and then bring the water back and give it to Pastor Steve for safekeeping. In the Fall we will combine all the water and purify it to use for the coming year.

## **DISASTER RELIEF – UKRAINE**

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, a war that has become the largest attack on a European country since World War II and now in its third year. Thousands of lives lost; homes, schools, hospitals bombed and destroyed—there's no end in sight. If you would like to continue our support of Ukraine through UCC National, World Central Kitchen, and Project HOPE, you will find special Disaster Relief Fund offering envelopes on the table in the lounge or donations can be made online or by text giving. Be sure to indicate Ukraine in the memo section.

## **WHITEHALL FOOD PANTRY**

For April, we are collecting **mac and cheese, canned corn, canned meats, peanut butter, pancake mix and syrup**. Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome. A shopping cart can be found in the coatroom area by the sanctuary where you can place your donations. Monetary contributions are always accepted and can be forwarded to the church office, placed in the offering plate, or given online or by text. For more information, contact Gary Black at [gary.t.black@outlook.com](mailto:gary.t.black@outlook.com) (484) 274-2405.

## **AN EASY WAY TO CONTRIBUTE TO ST. JOHN'S**

Do you realize that by purchasing **Giant and Weis gift cards** and by **saving Redner's register tapes**, you are contributing money to St. John's? For every Giant and Weis card sold, the church receives 5% back. For every Redner's tape collected, the church receives 1% back. Gift cards can be purchased through the church office or by seeing Tom Moyer or Carol Raszler every Sunday morning before or after worship. The Redner's tapes can be mailed to the church office or placed in a collection jar found on the table in the lounge area. It's a simple way to give financially to the church. Think of St. John's every time you go grocery shopping.

## **PASTIE SALE**

It's time for our spring Pastie Sale. If you don't have time to cook, just pop these frozen pasties in the oven for a quick, delicious meal. You can choose from the following: beef, beef (no onion), chicken, sausage, ham, veggie melt, spinach melt, and apple, cherry, and blueberry turnovers. Try our newest selections: Philly cheese steak,

cheeseburger, chicken cordon bleu, Mexican, and pizza pasties. Prices range from \$7.25 to \$8.25 for the meat pasties & melts and \$4.25 for the fruit turnovers. Orders forms can be found on the table in the lounge area and on the church's website. **Payment is due with your order with checks payable to St. John's UCC, Fullerton.** You can return your order form and payment to the church office or place it in the offering plate or give it to Carol Raszler. Please be sure to specify your pick-up date on the form—either Thursday, April 25, or Sunday, April 28. **Today is the deadline to place your order.** If you have any questions, contact Carol Raszler at (610) 393-7572 or email at [craszler@aol.com](mailto:craszler@aol.com).

### **PHILLIES GAME**

Do you have Phillies fever?? The Phillies Phundraising program helps out non-profitable organizations by giving back if you buy Phillies tickets. There are 25 tickets available to purchase for the Phillies game vs the Cleveland Guardians on Friday, July 26 at 6:40pm. It is first come, first serve. The tickets cost \$55 each and the seats are in section 110 which is right along the first base side. It is also Trea Turner Bobblehead night! For each ticket sold St Johns receives a rebate for \$4. If all tickets sell, we get a rebate check back for \$100.00. The deadline is June 2nd to purchase tickets. **This does not include transportation. This is for tickets only.** Please see Brian Strauss.

### **OCEAN CITY TRIP**

Ocean City, New Jersey bus trip - we will try again to go to Ocean City, NJ this year. The date is Saturday, June 22nd. The cost is \$45.00 per person. We will leave the church at 8:30 AM and leave Ocean City at 7 PM. There will be a designated time during the day to bring your items back to the bus. The deadline is May 22nd to sign up. Please see Brian Strauss.

### **IRONPIGS PARTY PORCH**

St. John's annual night at the IronPigs Party Porch will be on Sunday, May 26 (Memorial Day eve) at 6:35. Tickets sell for \$39, the same as last season. Price includes baseball game, buffet, soft drinks, bottled water, and fireworks. Contact Tom Moyer for reservations ASAP.



## **BASKET SOCIAL – DONATIONS NEEDED NOW**

We need donations of baskets for our annual Basket Social in May. There are so many themes you could choose from, some of which are the following: Books, Sports, Camping, Picnic, Crafts, Puzzles, Linens, Baby Items, Baking, Beverages, Snacks, Car Care, Movie Passes, Park Passes, Beauty/ Spa Items, Children's Games/Toys, Restaurant Gift Cards, Pet Supplies, Gardening/Plants

Monetary donations are accepted if you would like us to put together a basket for you. Be sure to include a tag listing the items in your basket. **We have room now to store the baskets, so get started and bring them into church as soon as possible.** If you have any questions or plan to donate, contact our Co-Chairs: Amy Feidler, Carol Raszler, and Mike Borgman.

**Reserve the dates: Saturday, May 4, 10am-2pm  
Sunday, May 5, 8am-9:30am and 10:30am-11:30am**

Tickets will be pulled at 12:00 noon on Sunday. Tickets are \$5 a sheet (26 tickets per sheet).

Come to Fox Hall for the event. There will also be a Bake Sale on both days. Attention Bakers: a pie or cake (or two) would be a great donation – and much appreciated!

## Church Calendar for the Week of April 7 through April 14

Sun 4/7	8:30 am	Early Risers Coffee Clutch
	9:30 am	Worship and Communion
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
Mon 4/8	6:00 pm	“Hell” Raising Committee
Tues 4/9	10:30 am	Visitation Committee
	1:30 pm	The Ring Leaders Meeting
	6:00 pm	Penny Pinchers Committee
Wed 4/10	9:00 am	Bible Thumpers
	6:30 pm	Break-a-Hip Aerobics
	7:00 pm	SAA Recovery Group
Thurs 4/11	6:00 pm	Ding-a-lings
	7:00 pm	Harmony Hootenanny
Sat 4/13	9:30 am	Break the Other Hip Aerobics
Sun 4/14	8:30 am	Friendship Class
	9:30 am	Worship
	10:30 am	Social Hour
	11:00 am	Confirmation
		<b><u>Newsletter Deadline</u></b>

## OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Steve Davis srpastor@sjucf.org
Spiritual Support Counselor	Bishop RuPaul Charles
Director of Music Ministries	Patrick Sandt music@sjucf.org
Co-Director of Music Ministries	Miranda Priestly
Office Administrator	Alison Berger Boor officesecretary@sjucf.org
Executive Paper Pusher	Sally Bowles
Treasurer	Sue Weldner sbweldner@gmail.com
Chief Executive Abacus Operator	Sec. Janet Yellen
Financial Secretary & Coordinating Custodian	Michelle Gutekunst financialsecretary@sjucf.org custodians@sjucf.org
Assistant Financial Secretary	Bernie Madoff
Worship-Media Tech & Connections Newsletter Editor	Bill Castello stars@sjucf.org newsletter@sjucf.org
Artistic Design Consultant	Stephen Spielberg
Custodian	Bob Czekner rczekner11@aol.com
Custodial Consultant	Andy Rooney
Custodian	Christina Bach Ironton1@verizon.net
Custodial Consultant	Mrs. Doubtfire