



Sunday, April 18, 2021

3rd Sunday of Easter
9:30 am Worship Service

Mission Statement: Compelled by God's love and our faith in Jesus Christ, Unity Church, a diverse people of faith, seeks to realize God's dream for the world through worship, learning, giving, and serving.

Core Values: We love children. Serve Christ with courage. Embrace diversity. Nurture community. Be an advocate for justice and peace.

Vision Statement: We are called to Reach Up, Reach In and Reach Out

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We invite you to contact Unity's staff members:

The Rev. Clarence Pettit, Senior Pastor
302-293-5415; pastorpettit@hotmail.com
Office hours: Tuesday to Friday – 9:00 to 1:00

The Rev. Dr. Melissa P. Lemons, Pastor for Community Ministry
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Office hours: T 11 – 1:00 & appt. Day off: Monday

Norwood Coleman, Jr., PhD, Music Director
Mrs. Sharlene Drummond, Choir Director

YOU CAN ACCESS US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:30AM ON YOUTUBE, UNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, WILMINGTON, DE WITH THE CURRENT SUNDAY DATE. FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE, USE LINK BELOW.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN4vkddPnbKEzTKIFg-Lkvg>

“Enter to Worship”

*Those who are able are invited to stand ** **Please, no walking or standing during this time.** **BOLD PRINT:** Congregation responds, P: Presider, A: Assisting Minister/Worship Leader

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

> PRAISE & WORSHIP – “Awesome in this Place”

**You are awesome in this place mighty God
You are awesome in this place Abba Father
You are worthy of our praise
To you our lives we raise
You are awesome in this place Mighty God**

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Introduction

The gospel for the third Sunday of Easter is always one in which the risen Christ shares food with the disciples, meals that are the Easter template for the meal we share each Sunday. In today’s gospel, Jesus both shares the disciples’ food and shows them the meaning of his suffering, death, and resurrection through the scriptures, the two main elements of our Sunday worship.

OPENING HYMN – “Because of Who You Are”

**Because of who you are I give you glory
Because of who you are I give you praise
Because of who you are I will lift my voice and say
Lord I worship you because of who you are
Lord I worship you because of who you are**

**Jehovah Jireh, my provider
Jehovah Nissi, Lord you reign in victory
Jehovah Shalom, my prince of Peace
And I worship you because of who you are**

CONFESSION & FOREGIVENESS

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

**We thank you, risen Christ, for these waters where you make us
new, leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.**

**We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth, like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls, like cups of cool water shared
with strangers.**

**Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.**

Make us one, risen Christ. Cleanse our hearts. Shower us with life.
To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God,
now and forever. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God, you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be
your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses
to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives
and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Acts 3:12-19

¹²[Peter] 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?¹³The 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. ¹⁴But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁸In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

AL-LE-LU-IA, LORD TO WHOM SHALL WE GO. YOU HAVE THE WORDS OF E-TER-NAL LIFE. AL-LE-LU-IA.

***GOSPEL (please stand)**

P: The Holy Gospel according to: LUKE 24:36B-48

C: Glory to you, O Lord

^{36b}Jesus himself stood among [the disciples] and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look 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." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence.

⁴⁴Then 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." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things."

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY "Rough Side of the Mountain"

**O Lord I'm striving, trying to make it through this barren land
But as I go from day to day, I can hear my Savior say
"Trust me child, come on and hold my hand"**

**I'm coming up on the rough side of the mountain
I must hold to God, his powerful hand
I'm coming up on the rough side of the mountain
I'm doing my best to make it in**

**I'm coming up Lord, I'm coming Lord although my burdens
Sometime press me down, but if I can only keep this faith
I'll have strength to run this race, I'm looking for my starry crown**

**This old race will soon be over, there will be no more race to run
And as I stand before God's throne, all my heartaches will be gone
I'll hear my Savior say "Welcome Home"**

SERMON

Pastor Clarence Pettit

Notes...

APOSTLES CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Or, "he descended to the dead," another translation of this text in widespread use. From sundaysandseasons.com.

Prayers of Intercession

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

A brief silence.

Living God, in the midst of Easter joy we are still filled with questions and wondering. Open our hearts and minds as we encounter the scriptures, so that the church embodies repentance and forgiveness in the name of Jesus to all nations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, like a master artist you have fashioned the universe out of your love and delight. Heal your creation where it is in need of restoration (*local concerns for creation may be named*). Provide all the inhabitants of earth a peaceful and sustainable home. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all, the nations hunger and thirst for your righteousness. Many call on you for guidance and strength. Answer their hopes with the peace of Christ and give your lovingkindness to national, state, and local leaders of people. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Healing God, you hear the cries of those in need and answer them in their distress. Grant to those who are sick and suffering your compassion and nurse them back to health and wholeness (*especially*). Be close to the hearts of the lonely. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Loving Parent, you have given us such love that we should be called the children of God. Reveal yourself to us so that we in this community of faith will become more and more like you in our mutual love and bold witness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of all times and ages, those who have died in you now see you as you are. We thank you for their lives among us (*especially*). Assure us of the peace you have promised, that we may join them in everlasting life. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERING

(God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Cor. 9:7, 8)

We ask that you place your offering in the plate as you exit the church. God bless you.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of love, you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer. Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Child, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *All are welcome to communion*

P: The Lord be with you **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. We remember and proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in Christ's death and resurrection. We look with hope for the Lord's coming and ask...**Come, Lord Jesus. Come Holy Spirit. Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us:
(*Alternate/modern versions of prayer in This Far by Faith p. 3, WOV p. 39*)

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

The risen Christ invites us to this table. Come, eat and be satisfied.

Prayer after Communion

Wellspring of joy, through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts. Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc.

HERE IS A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO DONATE TO UNITY VIA TEXT AND CREDIT CARD. SET UP VANCO ON YOUR MOBILE PHONE BY TEXTING TO (844)794-0738, AND FOLLOW DIRECTIONS TO DONATE BY CREDIT CARD.

United Voices collection bin for items is in the Narthex. Thank you for your support.

Hospitality Baskets in Narthex – Tickets will be on sale following morning worship to benefit our hospitality ministry. \$1. For 1 ticket; \$2. For 3 tickets & \$5. For arm length. Drawing will be May 9th.

Unity Church thanks Richard Porto, the Director of the Food Pantry, for his gift of cleaning and polishing the floors throughout and especially the floors of the sanctuary. They are glistening, and we extend our heartfelt thanks.

THE SENDING

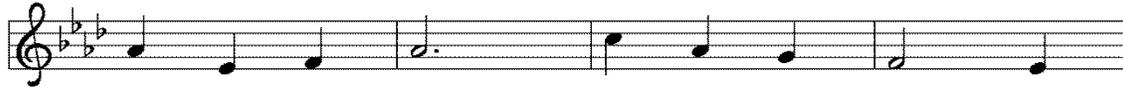
God blesses us and sends us to minister to the world.

BLESSING

May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to know and to love the risen Lord Jesus. The God of life, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn "Thine is the Glory" ELW 376

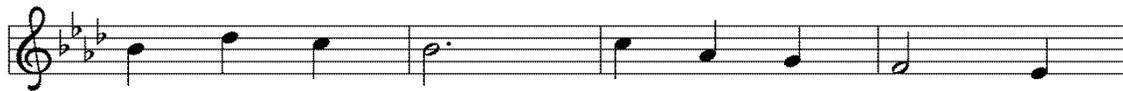
Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en!
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter
3 Je - sus the vine, we are the branch - es;
4 Weep - ing, be gone; sor - row, be si - lent:
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er,



Trum - pets re - sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light!
tell - ing the sto - ry to o - pen our eyes;
life in the Spir - it the fruit of the tree;
death put a - sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright.
gold - en Je - ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb,



Splen - dor, the Lamb, heav - en for - ev - er!
break - ing our bread, giv - ing us glo - ry:
heav - en to earth, Christ to the peo - ple,
Cher - u - bim sing: O grave, be o - pen!
riv - er of life, saints and arch - an - gels,



Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

Refrain



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise.



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926
Music: David N. Johnson, 1922-1987
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DISMISSAL

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
Go in peace. Share the good news. Alleluia! **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

“Let us exit to serve”

We are called to reach up, reach in, and reach out.....

IF YOU HAVE ANYONE YOU WOULD LIKE TO ADD TO THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE @ 302-658-5288. THIS WEEK WE ASK THAT YOU KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:

**BETTY BACHER
DICK ULLMAN
ERIKA ULLMAN
JIM PIETSCHMAN
DOTTIE DODDS
DELORES BOUZOUKIS
SHARON WRIGHT
MARY DOUGLAS
DELANEY ASHWORTH**

**PASTOR CLARENCE PETTIT
PASTOR MELISSA LEMONS
UNITY CHURCH
TRACY COOPER
THE MILLER FAMILY
MIKE (BRAD) BRADLEY
ALEXIS JOHNSON
ALLIE MAE BOUIE**