

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

March 31, 2024 9:30 a.m.

EASTER SUNDAY

Bonnie Jacque, Pastor

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Creation Joy

***HYMN** Christ the Lord is Risen Today #233

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

MANY: CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

One: Darkness has been vanquished!

MANY: THE BRILLIANT LIGHT OF HOPE HAS COME!

One: Come let us worship and celebrate the Good News!

MANY: ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! AMEN!!

***OPENING PRAYER** Loving, Powerful God, joy floods over our souls on this day! Christ is risen! Fear is vanquished! Open our hearts and our spirits to receive fully the joy which has been given for us! Let us celebrate the victory of Christ and the hope for the future!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Living Lord, when we stand before the empty tomb, we don't always feel the joy of resurrection. We feel fear, doubt, and distrust. We feel empty. Forgive the fear that paralyzes us at the brink of new life. Forgive our doubt of your love. Forgive our distrust of your surprising, joyous plan. Fill our emptiness with your glorious light. Raise us to abundant new life for the glory of your name. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PASSING THE PEACE

One: Peace be with you.

MANY: And also with you.

***HYMN**

Christ is Risen

Insert

SCRIPTURE READINGS Isa. 25: 6-9; Ps. 118: 1-2, 14-24; John 20: 1-18

***STATEMENT FOR EASTER DAY**

One: The beat of life is stronger than the crush of death.

MANY: The rising of the dawn is louder than the roll of a stone.

One: The folding of the graveclothes is noisier than the hammer of the nails.

MANY: for each is full of alleluias.

One: And the shout of alleluia is more enduring than the shout of crucify.

ALL: You are alive! And we are alive in you.

One: The belief of Mary is greater than the sentence of Pilate.

MANY: The surprise of the disciples is more telling than the torture of the guards.

One: The silence of the Sunday is louder than the clamor of Friday.

ALL: For each is full of alleluias.

One: The shout of alleluia is more enduring than the shout of crucify.

ALL: You are alive! And we are alive in you!

CHOIR

He Lives!

MEDITATION

Tears

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

#236 X 2

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Halle, halle, hallelujah.

Hallelujah, hallelujah.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful for your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you. Amen.

***HYMN**

Crown with Your Richest Crowns

#301 v 1, 3, 4

BENEDICTION

CHOIR SUNG BENEDICTION Every Morning is Easter Morning

POSTLUDE

*If rising from a seated position is an issue for you, please remain seated. The phrase “Please stand in body or spirit as you are able” is intended to give you permission to do so without embarrassment.

Congregational Response to each prayer request is: **Your prayer is our prayer. Your joy is our joy.**

Resources: ucc.org, ministrymatters.com, katebowler.com, re-worship.blogspot.com

Reminders:

04/02 – Seniors

04/11 – Bible Study 1 pm

04/18 – Women’s Guild noon

04/21 – Earth Day Sunday and Mission Maniacs Pizza Fund Raiser

04/25 – Coffee with Bonnie at Fiddleheads in Menomonee Falls at 10 am

04/27 – SPRING CLEAN UP

Please remember in your prayers: Ron S., Joyce O’K, Ken S., Sheila A., and Isabel H.

Greeters for This Week: Kyle and Katie G.

Greeters for Next Week: Sunday School

Liturgist for This Week: Carl R.

Liturgist for Next Week: Kim K.

Following worship, all are invited for coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall.