



ABSURD TIMES
CALL FOR ABSURD
AMOUNTS of LOVE.

BRAD

12507 BIRDSEYE VIEW OF LAKE WINNIPESAUKEE, N. H.

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Rev. Becky Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Associate Pastor

Jeff Quellhorst-Council President

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!

Alleluia!

EASTER GREETING:

Christ the Lord is risen today.
Angels rolled the stone away.
It seems that death has lost its prey.
Christ the Lord is risen today!

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES (please light a candle(s) at home in preparation of worship)

MOMENT FOR MISSION: Templed Hills-The Hills are Alive!

The Hills are Alive! campaign gives churches and individuals an opportunity to invest in the future of Templed Hills—an invitation to ensure this unique place of faith formation and renewal continues to build congregations, strengthen shared ministry, and change the lives of old and young. Our mission this month is to support the Temple Hills Campaign. Every summer *The Hills Come Alive* with children, camp counselors, cooks, college student helpers, and people from across the whole state of Ohio and beyond. With our support Temple Hills can keep their doors open and can continue to improve their facilities so that they can serve the youth of Ohio. Please prayerfully consider donating to this cause for April's mission of the month. We realize that this is a difficult

season in the lives of many, so we thank you in advance for any support you can provide.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Christ has been raised from the dead. "O death, where is your victory? O grave, where is your sting?" Thanks be to God, who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion in worship today. You are invited to put out some bread (or cake or cookie or donut) and a cup with wine (or juice or milk) in preparation for the sacrament. Then following today's service, you are invited to drive to the Herman Street side of our education building where volunteers will be on hand to give you the communion elements between 11:00 a.m. and Noon.

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

No Matter

J=120

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter
who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

To verses | Last time, Fine

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Dawn breaks: light out of darkness, life out of death.

People: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: Hope replaces doubt. Faith overcomes fear. Love transforms hate.

People: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: The light shines in the darkness. The darkness has not, and will not, overcome it.

People: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: God has made this new day. We rejoice and are glad in it. God's love is always with us.

People: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

EASTER HYMN

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

EASTER

288

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. Chords are indicated above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with 'Al' indicating the start of an 'Alleluia' section.

System 1:
 Chords: C, G/B, C, F/A, F, F/C, C, C/E, Dm7, C, F/A, C/G, G7, C
 Lyrics:
 1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

System 2:
 Chords: F/A, C, F, C/E, Dm7, C, C/G, G, C, C/E, Dm7, C, F/A, C/G, G7, C
 Lyrics:
 All cre - a - tion, join to say, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

System 3:
 Chords: G, D7/A, G/B, G, C/E, G7/D, C, G, G/B, D7/A, G, C/E, G/D, D7, G
 Lyrics:
 Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

System 4:
 Chords: G, C/E, C, F/A, F, F/C, C, C/E, F, C/E, Dm7, C/G, G7, C
 Lyrics:
 Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al - le - lu - ia!

EASTER CONFESSION

Leader: Easter morning takes us by surprise, awakening us to the doubt and despair that have been rooted in our lives. Let us now confess to God.

UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN

If, at times, we deny you: God forgive. If, at times, when the risks of discipleship are high and we are nowhere to be found: God forgive. If, at times, we wash our hands of responsibility: God forgive. If, at times, we cast our lot with powerful oppressors and seek to buy freedom with silver: God forgive. If, at times, fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth or prejudice keeps us from believing it: God forgive. In the bright light of Easter morning, our sin is exposed, but your grace is revealed. Tender God, we are bold to come before you and ask you to forgive us. Help us to leave behind our broken ways so that with joy we may witness to your awesome deeds in Jesus the Risen One. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. I joyfully declare: Your sins are forgiven!

People: Thanks be to the risen Christ!

*HALLELUJAH!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Halle, halle, hallelujah!'. It consists of four staves of music in G major and 2/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are: 'Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht'. The chords are: C, Am7, D7, D, G, D, Em. The score ends with a double bar line.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

This is a happy day, isn't it? Today is Easter. The day we celebrate that Jesus rose from the grave.

Since today is a happy day, show me how your face looks when you are happy. (Show sign for HAPPY) Oh yes, that is good. Our faces show the way we feel, don't they? Let me see what your face would look like if you were sad. (Show sign for SAD) How would your face look like if you were surprised? (Show sign for SURPRISED) Afraid/Fear? (Sign for AFRAID/FEAR) Angry? (Sign for ANGRY)

I want you to help me tell the Bible story today. As I tell the story, you will help me by showing with your faces and with your hands how the people in the story feel about what is happening. Will you help me do that? Great! Let's begin.

It was early in the morning on the first day of the week when some women went to visit the tomb where their friend Jesus had been buried. He had been crucified on a cross and buried in a borrowed tomb and the women were going to put spices on his body. The women were very SAD as they went to the tomb.

When they arrived at the tomb, the women discovered that the stone that had covered the entrance had been rolled away. Can you imagine the look of SURPRISE on their faces when they saw the open tomb? When they looked inside the tomb, they had the biggest SURPRISE of all. The tomb was empty!

Suddenly, SURPRISE turned to FEAR as two men in bright shining clothes came and stood beside the women. In their FRIGHT, they bowed down with their faces to the ground. The men spoke to the women and said, "Jesus is not here; he has risen! Don't you remember what he told you when he was in Galilee?"

Then the women remembered what Jesus had told them and they were no longer AFRAID. Their FEAR turned to HAPPINESS and they went back and told Jesus' disciples what they had seen and that Jesus had risen, just as he had told them he would. What a HAPPY day!

You and I have reason to be happy today, don't we? We are happy because we know that Jesus rose from the grave and that he lives forever.

Let us pray: Dear God, we thank you today for Jesus. When you brought Jesus back from the dead, you turned our sadness into happiness. We thank you for the joy of this day. Amen.

EASTER HYMN

This Easter Celebration

This Easter Celebration

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

Aurelia

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

1. This Eas - ter ce - le - bra - tion is not like ones we've known.
2. No gath-ered choirs are sing - ing; no ban-ners lead the way.
3. Our joy won't come from wor - ship that's in a crowd-ed room
4. In all the grief and suf-fering, may we re-mem-ber well:
5. We thank you that on Eas - ter, your church is blessed to be

We pray in i - so - la - tion, we sing the hymns a - lone.
O God of love and prom - ise, where's joy this Eas - ter Day?
but from the news of wom - en who saw the emp - ty tomb.
Christ suf - fered cru - ci - fix - ion and faced the powers of hell.
a scat - tered, faith - ful bo - dy that's do - ing mi - ni - stry.

We're dis-tant from our neigh - bors— from wor - ship lead - ers, too.
With sanc - tu - a - ries emp - ty, may homes be-come the place
Our joy comes from di - sci - ples who ran with haste to see—
Each Eas - ter bears the pro - mise: Christ rose that glo - rious day!
In homes and in the pla - ces of help and heal - ing, too,

No flo - wers grace the chan - cel to set a fes - tive mood.
we pon - der re - sur - rec - tion and ce - le - brate your grace.
who heard that Christ is ris - en, and then, by grace, be - lieved.
Now no - thing in cre - a - tion can keep your love a - way.
we live the Eas - ter mes - sage by glad - ly serv - ing you.

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com | New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joy: Easter Blessings!!!!!!

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER.

God of ceaseless new beginnings, we rejoice that through your powerful love Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. In the resurrection you have shown that neither trouble nor persecution, hardship nor poverty, danger nor death can separate us from your love. Free us to trust in you that we may live in the confidence of your children. SILENCE

In the resurrection you were victorious over sin, violence, and oppression. Free us to risk ourselves in the struggle for justice and peace that we may be your partners in restoring all creation to your will. SILENCE

In the resurrection you have opened the gates of eternal life. Free us from the fear of death that we may serve you with courage. SILENCE

In the resurrection you bring new possibilities out of hopeless situations. Free us from all despair that we may bring your hope to those who have lost heart. SILENCE

In your resurrection promises, we acknowledge that you hold each of our lives and that we are your beloved children. Be with all who are sick. Be with the dying and those who mourn. Move each of us to offer hope in our world that cries out for resurrection, healing, and love. SILENCE

In the resurrection you come to us in surprising ways. Quiet our busy minds and heavy hearts that we might hear your fresh word for us this day. SILENCE

Through the presence of Jesus Christ among us, draw us into a community of freedom, hope and love. Work your new creation among us that we may serve you without fear. God Most Holy, God Most Loving, God Most Knowing, we praise your name forever. SILENCE

All of this we pray in the name of the Risen Christ who taught us to pray:

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.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Mark 16:1-8

(from Eugene Peterson's The Message)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could embalm him. Very early on Sunday morning, as the sun rose, they went to the tomb. They worried out loud to each other, "Who will roll back the stone from the tomb for us?"

⁴⁻⁵ Then they looked up, saw that it had been rolled back—it was a huge stone—and walked right in. They saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed all in white. They were completely taken aback, astonished.

⁶⁻⁷ He said, "Don't be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the One they nailed on the cross. He's been raised up; he's here no longer. You can see for yourselves that the place is empty. Now—on your way. Tell his disciples and Peter that he is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You'll see him there, exactly as he said."

⁸ They got out as fast as they could, beside themselves, their heads swimming. Stunned, they said nothing to anyone.

RESPONSE:

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!

QUESTIONS FOR THE GOSPEL READING:

- 1. What words or phrases caught your attention in this text?**
- 2. What might God be saying to you in this passage?**
- 3. What is the good news of this story?**

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

While in traveling in Jerusalem, our group was shown three possible sites for the Garden Tomb—where Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome went with spices only to discover that Jesus was not there.

The first location was a quiet, serene location that is operated by British Christians just outside the walls of Old Jerusalem. Discovered by British soldiers in the 1800's, the stone-hewn tomb was clearly in the garden of a wealthy official—possibly Joseph of Arimathea. To add to its authenticity, next to the garden: a lush place filled with fountains, trees, and flowers, was a face of rock: and I mean that literally. If you look carefully at the rocky hillside, you can see what looks like a skull: Golgotha—the traditional crucifixion site often called the Place of the Skull. And the tomb itself is amazing: it is a hewn cave in the side of a rocky hill with two small rooms: the first room to prepare a body for burial and the second one large enough to hold 8-10 bodies. Walking through the quiet, peaceful paths of the garden, you can easily imagine this to be the location of Christ's resurrection.

The second location of the Garden Tomb is in the Old City underground at the Ethiopian Orthodox Church. The Ethiopian sanctuary itself was fairly small, but their bible was enormous: shaped like a cross, it was about THIS big and the words had been handwritten on animal skin. In the Acts of the Apostles, chapter 8, we hear the story of Philip converting an Ethiopian man to Christianity. From that time until today, Ethiopian Christians consider themselves to be the first Christians and consider the location of their sanctuary to be the holiest of ground: the place where Jesus was raised from the dead.

But wait! There is yet another location in Old Jerusalem for Jesus' tomb. You have heard me mention the Church of the Holy Sepulcher before—in all of its ornate, incense and candle-filled glory: the icons on the walls and the thousands upon thousands of Christian pilgrims who visit this holy site each day. For many Catholic and Orthodox Christians, the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem is THE site of Jesus' burial and resurrection.

Indeed, as a Christian pilgrim to Jerusalem, I can tell you that seeing all three traditional sites for Jesus' tomb can be a bit overwhelming. After all, how can we ever really KNOW for certain which one is the right one? What if we have traveled half way around the world only to worship at the wrong location?

In many ways, our Easter reading from the Gospel of Mark helps to answer that question—while raising a few questions of its own.

Throughout Epiphany and Lent we have been reading from the Gospel of Mark. But the Easter story in Mark seems so incomplete, that pastors and worship leaders are offered an alternative gospel reading for the day: the more traditional resurrection story from the Gospel of John.

But just like those three burial sites for Jesus in Jerusalem, it seems important to stick with the scripture given to us: even if it IS fairly incomplete. Yes: we have the story of the women going to the tomb to anoint Jesus and finding the tomb empty. What is missing is the appearance of Jesus himself AND the odd ending. The young man or angel who appeared to the women commanded them to go and tell the disciples that Jesus is alive and to meet him in Galilee. But the frightened women do not do that. Instead, the text tells us that they ran away: saying nothing to anyone.

What kind of Easter story is THAT???

On my first trip to Israel, we went to the Mediterranean coast town of Haifa—home to Archbishop Elias Chacour: a Palestinian Christian. Archbishop Chacour argues that what matters most about the Easter story is that the tomb is empty: We don't need to worry about hanging around the tomb. What matters is that we LEAVE the tomb and travel back to Galilee to spread the good news about Christ's resurrection.

And by Galilee, Reverend Chacour means wherever we call home. That Easter's message is NOT about worshipping Christ at the tomb, but leaving the garden and going out into the world to share the good news with others. And specifically, we are to go to our own Galilee to the people who need us most.

That is good news, indeed. Our Gospel story from Mark ends with the women running away in terror, not telling anyone anything of what they had seen and heard. But we know that is not the end of the story. The story of Christ's life, death, and resurrection has been told for nearly two thousand years.

Because Mark ends so abruptly, it is now OUR turn to end the story. With whom will you share the message of Jesus' inclusive love? How has Christ's forgiveness and new life changed your own life? What is one tangible way you can be Christ Jesus to someone this coming week?

The Gospel of Mark ends with the women running away in terror, saying not a word about what the angel had told them. It is our job to

finish the story: to sing and shout and tell others the good news that Christ is Risen! He has risen, indeed! Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: This morning we will joyfully present our offerings of money to the Lord; but we will offer not just our money: we will present also the bread and wine which will be consecrated and then given to us in remembrance of Jesus who gives us everything. Today you are challenged to share the joy of Easter by supporting the many ministries and missions of St. Paul United Church of Christ.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

We bring our gifts to you in response to good news. Christ is risen indeed and abides in us still. May all that we do be in response to new life. As you accept who we are, O God, receive what we offer, and transform all our being to conform to your will. Extend your grace through us so that others may hear of the salvation you bring. Amen.

ANTHEM *Room at the Table* by Carrie Newcomer
(YouTube.com; search Carrie Newcomer *Room at the Table*)

*Let our hearts not be hardened to those living on the margins
There is room at the table for everyone.
This is where it all begins, this is how we gather in:
There is room at the table for everyone.*

*Too long we have wandered burdened and undone
But there is room at the table for everyone.
This is how it all begins, let us sing a new world in:
There is room at the table for everyone.*

Chorus:

*There is room for us all
And no gift is too small
There is room at the table for everyone.
There's enough if we share
Come on pull up a chair
There is room at the table for everyone.*

*No matter who you are no matter where you're from
There is room at the table for everyone.
Here and now we can be the beloved community
There is room at the table for everyone. (Chorus)*

*Let our hearts not be hardened to those living on the margins
There is room at the table for everyone.
Room at the table for everyone.
Room at the table for everyone
Room at the table for everyone
Room at the table for everyone*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION: Friends, whether we are gathered or scattered we are the Body of Christ. Whether we are healthy or sick, we are the Body of Christ. Jesus' resurrection at Easter is a powerful reminder that we belong to him. As we prepare for this sacrament, you are invited to have ready in your home something to eat (bread, cookie, donut, tortilla: God isn't fussy about the details). You are also invited to have something ready to drink (juice, wine, coffee, milk—again God understands our current situation). As we prepare for the sacrament, you are invited to commune together—even in our separate homes. Then, following today's service, we will have volunteers on the Herman Street side of our education building between 11:00 and Noon today to distribute communion elements in your cars. If you would like, you can replay this service later in the day, partaking of communion again.

COMMUNION PRAYER (unison)

(Footnote: from Lent and Easter Readings from Iona, Neil Paynter, Editor)

Let us pray. O Christ, Lord of the Dance, in you we live and move and have our being. Through your body and blood our sins are forgiven and all we carry which is heavy you take upon yourself so that we may dance again and give thanks and celebrate life. Let us celebrate. Let us share the bread and wine: the bread that dances with the atoms of the revolving earth and the wine that shimmers with the light of Christ's love. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We remember on that night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and said, "Take and eat. This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." He also took the cup after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it for the forgiveness of sins."

The gifts of God for the people of God. All things are now ready.

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Bread: The body of Christ—broken and redeemed: for you!

Cup: The cup of blessing—poured out and restored: for you!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Let us pray. Loving God, through your goodness we have received this bread and cup which the earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in all bread, that we might know your touch in all matter. We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer ourselves as gifts. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

698 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

C G C F Dm7 G Dm Fmaj7 G **Dm**
F

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a

C E Dm F Am7 E G D C E G7 D C F Am D Gsus G

shout of joy: bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
 set the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:

Dm7 C E Dm7 F Dm7 C G G7 C *Refrain* Am C7 G

Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard. Je - sus lives a - gain,
 love in word and in deed ex - press.
 God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

F Dm G F G Em G G7 C **Lm**/F C

earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

WORDS: Fred Kaan (1929-)
 MUSIC: Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter (1925-1980)
 Words and Music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

LINSTEAD
 L.M.Ref.

BENEDICTION

Leader: Now, with our mouths full of laughter and joy on our tongues, let us go out among the nations proclaiming that God is doing a new thing, for us and for all who dream.

People: Alleluia! Amen!

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Love our God, ev'ry day, praise with joy going on your way.

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev'ry day in ev'ry way.

Love our Holy God. Pray with hope each day.

Bless the Holy Name. Praise our God.

Love our Holy God. Pray with hope each day.

Bless the Holy Name. Praise our God.

Pass the Love

Musical score for "Pass the Love" in 4/4 time, marked ♩=95. The score consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the notes.

Staff 1: *Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go - ing on your way.*

Staff 2: *Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in — ev - 'ry way.*

Staff 3: *Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.*

Staff 4: *Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our — God.*

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: Christ has given us his peace. Let us share that peace with one another.

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"Halle Halle Halle" Words and music by Hal H. Hobson ©1998 Hope Publishing Company

"Pass the Love" Words and Music by Doris Ketner Copyright ©2000. All rights reserved.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

This week's Altar Flowers were to be given-In loving memory of Paul and Alice Wissman by Jason, Tracy, Jack & Elise Oldiges

Easter Flowers gracing our Chapel are given in loving memory of Angela Lynne Bushman and loved ones by the Dennis Bushman Family. In loving memory of James & Irene Jarvis by the David Jarvis Family. In loving memory of Shirley Schaefer by Craig & Brenda Siefring & Lauren Hohler.

Holy Communion-scheduled for worship April 12 will still happen. Pastors Becky and Dee will lead communion during the Facebook Live on April 12. On Sunday, from 11am to Noon, you can drive to the sidewalk on Herman Street and pick up your communion elements while staying in your car. If you are unable to get out, but would still like communion, please contact the church office (419-629-2502) and we'll do our best to arrange delivery to your home.

Blessing Pantry-is open 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm Monday-Friday and 5:30pm-7:30pm Tuesday's. All Donations Welcome-Thank you!

Building Entrance-St. Paul is accessible by the East Educational Building door, Monday-Friday 10:00am-Noon and 1:00pm-3:00pm. Please ring the doorbell, wait outside the doors so staff may assist you. We are currently taking everyone's temperature asking you to sanitize hands and remove shoes. Thank you!

Daily Devotions-Please join Rev Becky or Pastor Dee Monday-Friday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will be airing on our Facebook page St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

Financial Information as of April 6, 2020

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance (\$2,974.14)

Giving Income \$6,696.56 (weekly)

Endowment Transfers \$9,485.73 (YTD)

Income \$70,165.40 (YTD)

Expenses \$77,713.91 (YTD)

Balance **(\$10,522.65)**

Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$83,428.04

Income \$4,303.00 (YTD)

Endowment Income **(\$2,011.85)** (YTD)

Expenses \$4,568.78 (YTD)

Balance \$81,150.41

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$9,934.05

Income \$6,314.00 (YTD)

Expenses \$4,176.41 (YTD)

Balance \$12,071.64

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$30,000.00

Income \$940.00 (weekly)

Income \$7,330.00 (YTD)

Project of the Year

Sanctuary Air Conditioning

Cost \$46,400

Income \$75.00(weekly)

Income \$45,717.00(YTD)

Balance to raise \$683.00

E-Giving @ St. Paul **3 Different Ways to Give**

Online – Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org

Give+ App – Search “Give Plus Church” in your App store and find St. Paul to Get Started!

Text – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048

St. Paul New “Text to Give” #(# changed as of 10/9/19)

How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25 (minimum amount is \$5.00))

- For general fund giving: Send 25 space gl (hit send)
- For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
- For project of the year giving: Send 25 space poy (hit send)

Once a text amount is sent:

Registration Link- Sent via text the first time a donation is made.

- Thank you! Please visit (link) to register.

Donation Confirm- Sent via text each time a donation is made.

- Thank you for donating \$ (amount)! Text repeat to make this recurring or refund to cancel this donation.

APRIL 12, 2020
EASTER SUNDAY



The resurrection of Jesus changes everything.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 28:1-10	Christ's resurrection
Monday	Acts 10:34-43	Peter speaks of faith in Jesus
Tuesday	John 20:1-18	The resurrection of Jesus
Wednesday	Jeremiah 31:1-6	Israel will return to God
Thursday	Colossians 3:1-4	New life in Christ
Friday	Isaiah 25:6-9	The Lord has saved us
Saturday	Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24	The Lord is always merciful
Sunday	John 20:19-31	Thomas sees and believes

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“So they [Mary Magdalene and the other Mary] left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.” **Matthew 28:8-9 (NRSV)**

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, help us to live each day knowing and trusting that Jesus' resurrection changes everything we experience around us. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, just as our Lord Jesus Christ ate with Peter and the other disciples after he rose from the dead, be with us now in this meal. Amen. (Acts 10:41)

A Blessing to Give:

May the risen Lord Jesus Christ be your strength and the power of your salvation now and always.
(Psalm 118:14)



APRIL 12, 2020

HYMN OF THE WEEK

Jesus Christ is Risen
Today



WEEKLY MILESTONES



Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What happens during an earthquake? Have you experienced one? If so, tell about it.
- Tell or think about a time in your life when something happened that “shook” you up.
- How do you think Jesus’ resurrection shakes up the way God cares for us and all people?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Matthew 28:1-10.

Mary Magdalene and “the other Mary” go to the empty tomb. The second Mary is likely Jesus’ mother (see Matthew 13:55 and 27:56 where Jesus’ mother is described as the mother of James and Joseph). It is surprising that this second Mary is not named as the mother of Jesus. It appears that the emphasis is not on her biological relationship to Jesus but Mary as a follower of Jesus. She is now a disciple. Jesus’ resurrection changes and shakes up everything, including our relationships to others. This is something suggested by the earthquake and the angel of the Lord that descends and whose appearance is like lightning (28:2-3). The resurrection of Jesus connects heaven and earth in a way that shakes up everything for the followers of Jesus and for all of creation itself. How does Jesus’ resurrection change everything? How does it change you?

Pray: Risen Lord Jesus, come into my life this day that I may be changed to live for you.
Amen.

SERVICE



Natural disasters occur regularly around the world. The aftermath of floods, earthquakes, and hurricanes or typhoons change people’s lives drastically. There are many organizations that provide help for these victims. Have you ever helped during a recovery? How might you support this work?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

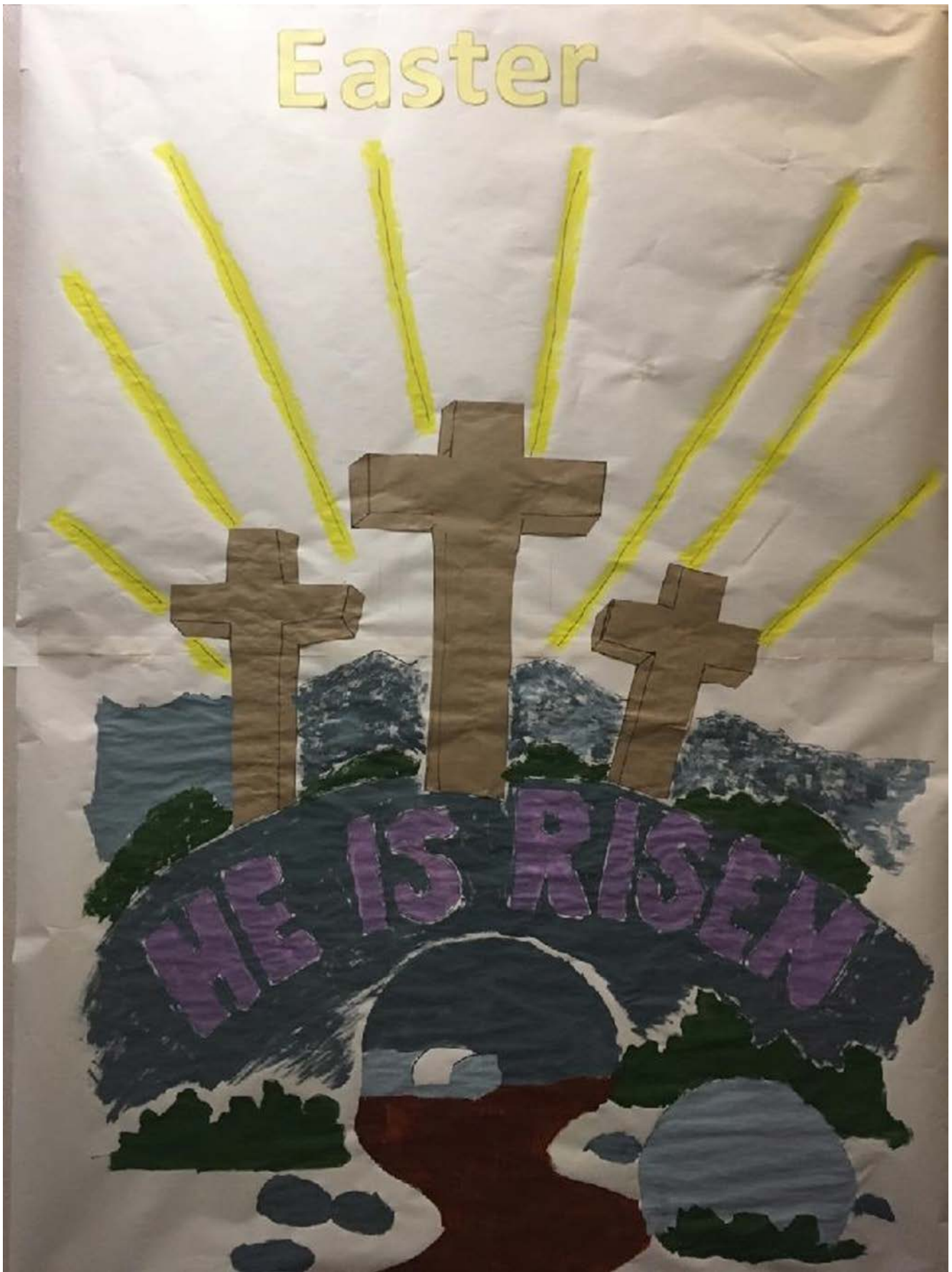


Write the numbers one through ten on separate pieces of small paper. Fold each number and place them in ten different colored plastic eggs along with a sweet treat. Hide the eggs and have a hunt. After they are found, open each egg and take the contents out. Ask who has number one and then read Matthew 28:1. Continue the numbers in order as verses 2-10 from Matthew 28 are read. When finished say together: **Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!** (say three times, each time getting louder)



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

Easter



Mural by 6th, 7th & 8th grade class
Teachers: Neal Voress, Michelle Voress, Emily Willrath