

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Easter
Holy Communion
April 1, 2018
8:15am 10:30am**

Welcome to Trinity United Church of Christ. We seek to offer a warm greeting to our visitors, whether you are visiting the area or seeking a church family. To assist you as you worship, we have large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices available. Please see an usher for assistance. We would be happy for you to sign the guest book in the gathering area while you are with us this morning. Whoever you are, wherever you are in life's journey, we are glad that you have come, and pray that you will be blessed by your worship experience. Come and see what God is doing!

**denotes the congregation standing as you are able; congregational responses in bold print*

PRELUDE – “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” – R. Hobby

CHOIR PRELUDE

“Christ Is Risen, Alleluia”

By Sally K. Albrecht and Jay Althouse

Senior Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We come here on this Easter Sunday morning to celebrate Christ's resurrection,
to anticipate the eternal life that will join us with those who have gone before,

**to embrace the hope of eternal life,
to know that God's promises are fulfilled,
and to celebrate all the dimensions of our earthly life.**

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

With thanksgiving, praise, and joy,

we worship you, marvelous God.

How amazing is all your creation!

How glorious is this day of new life!

Come among us now, we pray,

to raise us up from our fears and our doubts and our confusion.

We want to believe.

We want to trust.

We want to dare.

We want to live.

**Touch us today with a spirit of hope,
that our discipleship may honor the Risen One.**

***GATHERING HYMN – “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”**

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died, our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

TIME OF CONFESSION

Doubters, believers, disciples, searchers: come to the One who makes all things new.

**The gates of righteousness are open to us, and a welcome awaits
all who truly enter the presence of God seeking forgiveness.**

The God whom we have often rejected, both by our words and by our deeds, offers acceptance and healing.

Risen Lord, we confess that we are prone to forget the power of your resurrection.

**One day we are alive with hope and confidence, and the next day
we are overburdened with the difficulties and tragedies of life.**

One day we are aware of your presence with us, and the next day we feel very much alone.

**One day we are able to ward off the temptations that threaten to pull us down,
and the next day we struggle with both ethics and faith.**

**Forgive us, we pray, for living the old way of life,
and transform us by the power of your resurrection.**

And now let us confess in silence those fears that keep us from loving as Christ has loved us.

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S MERCY

Kyrie, Kyrie, Kyrie eleison

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

We have been buried with Christ in baptism,
then raised with him through faith in the power of God,
who raised him from the dead.

When we were dead in trespasses,
God made us alive together with him when he forgave us all our sin.

Thank God for this magnificent gift of love.

***Response # 236 "Halleluja" (sing twice)**
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, Halleluja.
Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halleluja, hallelujah.

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Christ, who loves us.

We are sure that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

A TIME OF SHARING

THE GIVING OF OURSELVES AND OUR OFFERINGS

"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation," said Paul to the church at Corinth;

"everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new."

Let us express that new life by presenting our tithes and offerings.

To our visitors - - the finances of the church are the responsibility of our church members.

As our guests, we ask visitors to simply pass the offering plate to the person sitting next to you in the pew.

Please sign the Registration Booklet at the end of each pew, then pass it to the next person. Thank you!

Offertory – "Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day" – *R. Lau*

*** Doxology # 782**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Accept these tithes and offerings, we pray, as an expression of the new life we have through Jesus Christ; through his resurrection we have been renewed and restored to a life of love and commitment.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

"Christ is Risen! Christ Is Alive"

By Lloyd Larson and Brian Wren

Senior Choir

Wayne Hollabaugh, Trumpet

THE WORD OF GOD

Isaiah 25:6-9 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18

HYMN # 241 – "Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"

QUIET PREPARATION

SERMON

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Dear Friends in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.

This feast is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, God of majesty and glory for calling forth creation and raising us from dust by the breath of your being. We bless you for the beauty and bounty of the earth and for the vision of the day when sharing by all will mean scarcity for none. We remember the covenant you made with your people, Israel, and we give you thanks for all our ancestors in faith. We rejoice that you call us to reconciliation with you and all people everywhere, and that you remain faithful to your covenant even when we are faithless. We rejoice that you call the entire human family to this feast of sacrifice and victory. We come in remembrance and celebration of the gift of Jesus Christ, whom you sent, in the fullness of time, to be the Good News. Born of your servant, Mary, Christ lived among us to reveal the mystery of your Word, to suffer and die on the cross for us, to be raised from death on the third day, and then to live in glory. We bless you, gracious God, for the presence of your Holy Spirit in the Church.

With your sons and daughters of faith in all places and times, we praise you with joy, singing:

Holy, Holy, Holy,

Lord God of Sabaoth,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the Feast of Passover.

Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying,

"This is my Body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying,

"This cup is the new covenant in my Blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

Christ's death, O God, we proclaim.

Christ's resurrection we declare.

Christ's coming we await.

Glory be to You, O God.

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, recalling Christ's suffering and death,
rejoicing in Christ resurrection, and awaiting Christ's return in victory.

We ask you to send your Holy Spirit on this bread and wine, and on us.

Strengthen your universal Church that it may be your instrument at work in the world.

Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

**Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may
know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives forever. Amen.**

RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT

*SACRAMENTAL BLESSING

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**Eternal God, we thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's Body
and Blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the
streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure, that whether we are gathered
or scattered, we may be the Servant Church of the Risen Christ, now and forever. Amen.**

* HYMN # 253 – "Yours Is The Glory"

* COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

Go forth praising the God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
for by great mercy God has given us a new birth into a living hope
through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,
and an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.

Choral "Amen"

By Jacob Handl (1550-1591)

Senior Choir

POSTLUDE – "Alleluias" – *R. Lau*