

BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 4, 2021

EASTER

10:45 AM

We welcome our friends and visitors to this Service of Worship.

May this be a time of blessing for you. We encourage our visitors to include their name, address, and phone number in the Guest Book at the top of the steps and come again. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to become part of the community of faith and mission here at Bethany.

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**PRELUDE: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" ...Handbell Choir
...arr. B.B. Kinyon**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Christ is Risen!

All: He is Risen Indeed!

Pastor: Praise God, who brings life out of death and hope out of despair.

All: Praise God, who has raised Jesus from the dead.

Pastor: Praise God, who gathers up the fragments left by human destruction and creates new possibilities.

All: Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

OPENING HYMN: #288 Christ the Lord is Risen Today

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of birth, God of joy, God of life, we come to You as a people hungry for good news. We are caught in despair over our sin, and the sorrowful state of our world. We preoccupy ourselves with pleasures, and overlook the joy You offer us. Forgive us, Gracious God, and open our eyes and our hearts to the power of Your word, the Word of salvation and new life in Christ.
Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #261 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross vs.4

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life my all.

PASSING OF THE PEACE (*with waves and prayer hands*)

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: #291 Alleluia (refrain)

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord, Alleluia alleluia! Give praise to his name!

READING OF SCRIPTURE

I Corinthians 15: 12-22

John 20: 1-18

L: This is the Good News!

P: Thanks be to God!

SERMON: "Believing Easter"

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY: "Thine is the Glory" ...Handel, arr. Smith
Piano/Organ Duet

OFFERING RESPONSE: #34 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost"

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

God of love, we offer our gifts of time, spiritual gifts and financial gifts as a sign of our love for You and the world. We ask Your blessing on the gifts where You meet us in our suffering, and raise us up, so that all may come to know of Your abiding love. In Jesus name. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER - 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 and ever. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: Come Ye Faithful Raise the Strain

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God's abiding love and hope give us new life.

All: May God's unmerited grace and mercy give us healing and wholeness.

Pastor: May God's restorative justice bring to us all, perfect peace.

All: Christ is risen! He is Risen Indeed!

CHORAL BENEDICTION: #305 "He Is Lord"

"He is Lord, he is Lord! He is risen from the dead and he is Lord! Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord!"

POSTLUDE: "Lift High the Cross" ...Nicholson

Our worship ends, our service begins!



FLOWERS: Barbara Backenstoe and Family

BULLETINS: Wishing our Bethany Family and Friends a Blessed Easter by Margy and Dan Sabetti

GREETERS: Margy and Dan Sabetti

USHERS: Consistory Members

LAY READER: Jean Fennell

AUDIO & VIDEO RECORDINGS If you or anyone you know would like to receive the link to the audio recording of the worship service, please let Bill Rumble know at wrumble@ptd.net. A copy of the bulletin is included with the audio link.

If you have an Instagram account, you can follow us

@BethanyUCCBethlehem. We also invite you to tag the church in your posts and use the hashtag #BethanyUCCBethlehem to share posts and photos on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter! Thank you, Bill, for making sure we are able to see and hear the services.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

1 Corinthians 15:12-22 (NRSV)

The Resurrection of the Dead

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead?

¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if

the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. ²¹ For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; ²² for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.

John 20: 1-18 NRSV

The Resurrection of Jesus

²⁰ Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.



For our special music this Easter Sunday morning we offer many thanks to our Handbell Choir and to Rebecca Kesselring on piano. We also thank our Brass Quartet for their joyful hymn accompaniments ... Lisa Williams and Meghann Wright on Trumpet, Tim Rumble and Todd Fennell on Trombone. We thank Kaitlin Nguyen for being a substitute Handbell Ringer today and on Palm Sunday.

THIS WEEK AT BETHANY

TODAY SUNDAY, APRIL 4 – EASTER SUNDAY

930AM Adult Bible Study DVD “The Death and Resurrection of the Messiah” in Fellowship Hall

10:45AM Celebrate the Risen Lord with Festive Music in our beautifully decorated sanctuary.

MONDAY, APRIL 5 – Church Office Closed

THURSDAY, APRIL 8 – Consistory

7PM Snyder Chapel

NEXT SUNDAY APRIL 11

9:30AM Adult Bible Study DVD – TBA

10:45 AM Worship

Today is your last chance....

The deadline for donating to Alzheimer’s Disease Research has been extended thru Easter Sunday April 4th. Please prayerfully consider giving generously to this worthy cause. We currently have received \$1077.68 which will be doubled! What a wonderful start, how much more will we raise?

Mark your calendars for Saturday April 24th as we again host a breakfast in Fellowship Hall. On the menu will be the Rumble’s world-famous scrambled eggs with delicious link sausage. There will also be juice, coffee and tea. Tickets will be \$7 for Adults and \$5 for Children 5 and under. There will be two seating’s: 9 and 10. Tickets are available see Bev Rumble. If you are unable to attend donations toward expenses are appreciated.

Don’t forget to sign up in the Narthex to participate in Spring Cleaning Bethany. There are many projects with multiple skill sets needed.

Thank you to all those who purchased flowers or made a monetary donation. Please take your plant after the service. The Worship Committee will assist you when you pick up your flowers. They will make sure you get exactly what you ordered.

FLOWERS IN HONOR OF:

- Our friends Bev & Bill Rumble by Rebecca & Len Kesselring
- Our friends Sue & Tom Wright by Rebecca & Len Kesselring
- Len Kesselring my husband with love from his wife, Rebecca
- The members of Bethany UCC who faithfully support the church through tithing & attendance by Len & Rebecca Kesselring
- This great country America! May it always shine as a beacon of religious freedom in a world of chaos & uncertainty by Len & Rebecca Kesselring
- Our mother, Ina Denninger with love and thanks from the Brunner and Wright families
- All of Bethany's musicians who are doing their best to keep the beautiful music alive during this past year. Thank you for everything Meghann Wright
- Our grandchildren by Margy & Dan Sabetti
- Our children and grandchildren by Gail & Dan Correll
- Loved ones by Wendy & John Glassic
- My children, their spouses and my grandson by Debbie Brown
- My Parents, siblings, their spouses and children by Debbie Brown
- The two and four legged friends I've been blessed with in my life by Debbie Brown

FLOWERS IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

- Our departed loved ones by Wendy & John Glassic
- Family Members in Heaven by Pastor Todd & Jean Fennell
- Stanley & Julia Laser by Margy & Dan Sabetti
- Dan & Elinor Sabetti by Margy & Dan Sabetti
- Tom & Kate Sahaydak by Margy & Dan Sabetti
- Tom Stout, Bonnie Stout and Catherine Knipe by the Stouts and Ortweins
- David Kresge by Deborah Young
- Kayden by Deborah Young
- My parents Jean & Loren Lee by Gail & David Correll & Family
- Loved ones by Judy & George Morgan
- Dorothy & Richard Miller by Matthew & Susanne Miller
- Mary & Edward Bonawitz by Matthew & Susanne Miller
- My Parents Harold & Charlotte Hottle by Joan Hottle
- My Brother Harold J. Hottle by Joan Hottle
- My husband/father Robert Hoffert by Geraldine & Thomas Hoffert
- Daughter/sister, Linda Hoffert by Geraldine & Thomas Hoffert
- Wayne Kenneth Hollabaugh, love of my life by Linda Hollabaugh
- Richard "Rich" Hollabaugh, light of my life by Linda Hollabaugh
- Thomas & Helen Fritz by John Albaugh & Lisa, Minh, Jenna, Kaitlin & Erin Nguyen
- Elvin & Mabel Bennyhoff by John Albaugh & Lisa, Minh, Jenna, Kaitlin & Erin Nguyen
- Les & Joanne Albaugh by John Albaugh & Lisa, Minh, Jenna, Kaitlin & Erin Nguyen
- Catherine & Herbert Yost by the Rumble Family
- Carolyn & Bell Rumble Sr. by the Rumble Family

- Leonard & Bobbie Kesselring Sr. by Len & Rebecca Kesselring
- Edward & DeMaris Stanley by Len & Rebecca Kesselring

MONETARY DONATIONS:

- In loving memory of Husband, Father and “Pappy” Harry W. Denninger by his wife Ina, and the Brunner & Wright families
- Parents, Harry J. and Laura Denninger and Jacob H. and Ella Miller by Ina Miller Denninger
- By Linda Hollabaugh
- By Geraldine & Thomas Hoffert



288 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

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!

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!

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!

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!

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.
 MUSIC: Lynn Davidsen, 1708

EASTER II
 7.7.7.7.7

JOHN OF DAMASCUS, 8th century
Tr. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1879

7. 6. 7. 6. D.

ST. KEVIN

ARTHUR SULLIVAN, 1879

Jubilantly

1. Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness:
2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst His pris - on,

God hath brought His peo - ple forth In - to joy from sad - ness.
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath ris - en;

Now re - joice, Je - ru - sa - lem, And with true af - fec - tion
All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing

Wel - come in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
From His light, to whom we give Laud and praise un - dy - ing. A - MEN.



Thanks
FOR WORSHIPING
WITH US