

The Service of Light

One: Jesus, the Christ of God, is our light. God's light like a new fire is to be shared.

All: Thanks be to God for light and warmth.

(The Bible is placed on top of the lectern.)

One: We will read Scriptures to provide a panoramic view of the Light of God. We will tell stories of how our church shares light and warmth in our community that extends itself around the world.

One: We remember God's true light in mysterious and miraculous ways.

All: God led the way out of the wilderness so the people might be free of fear and captivity.

One: God led us to the place where we could trust God's direction and one another.

*Prayer of Confession

We can't believe, Oh God, that you come to us today in the mystery and person of the Resurrected Christ! Surely there are more talented people, more prayerful people, more intelligent people, more faithful people than we are. But today, O God, we remember that you come to us all. You come to the strong and the ill, the rich and the poor, the proud and the humble. You appear. You come again to remind us of what we have forgotten. Forgive us, O God, for not believing in ourselves. Appear to us now so that we might be resurrected with your love. Amen.

(The flowers are placed on the altar.)

*Assurance of Pardon

*Hymn: "Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks" p.359

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

The Choir Selection: "On the Third Day"
"We Bow Down" Pethel

Homily/Reflection

*Affirmation of Faith

One: We believe in God, maker and sustainer of earth, sea and sky, and midwife of every life that emerges from the womb of the earth.

All: We believe in Jesus Christ. Born of the womb of Mary, he was the first of our kind to live fully the destiny for which we were all created.

One: Healing the broken and serving the poor, liberating the burdened and reconciling heaven and earth, his every action unmasked the evil that waits to enslave us all.

All: Hell, wounded at its heart and filled with bitterness and rage, struck back in fury unrestrained.

One: Jesus was condemned by the religious and crucified by the state. He died forsaken, a man of sorrows. No pain in our hearts or in our planet is unfamiliar to him for he was cast into the jaws of death.

All: Redeeming even death, God raised Jesus from the grave and with wounded hands he embraces us.

One: Jesus ascended into heaven to be everywhere present and there is now nothing beyond the reach of his healing touch.

All: We believe in the Holy Spirit, who raises us from the waters of death, breathes new life into us and declares us to be God's beloved.

One: And we believe Christ came that all may have life.

All: Violence and hatred have done their worst but Christ's reign of peace will conquer. All who trust in Christ, though they die, shall be lifted to life in all its fullness. The grip of suffering will be forever broken, and death shall have no dominion. Amen.

The Pastoral Prayer

Invitation to Bring our Gifts

The Offertory

*The 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.**

*The Offering Prayer

Sacrament of Holy Communion

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia.

One: All are welcome at the table where this joyful feast is celebrated. We welcome the spirit of those who celebrate

Jesus' resurrection all around the world, even as we celebrate together here.

All: We welcome all kindred in Christ. Alleluia.

One: Let there be peace among us as we share the bread and the cup.

All: Amen.

One: This bread is a gift from heaven brought to us to light our path and to warm us on life's journey. This bread represents both brokenness and the promise of wholeness to come. This bread, Jesus said, is his broken body and he invites us to remember him in his life, ministry, and passion. In so doing we remember one another and Jesus' reconciling love and light meant for sharing.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: This is the cup which also fortifies us with God's light and warmth. The cup represents the blessings for life's journey that God gives. This cup, Jesus said, is the new covenant in my blood. Drink it and remember him in his life, mission, and life-giving ministry. In so doing we remember our own life and mission. Let us share our lives in the reconciling love and peace God gives.

All: Amen.

*The Lord's Prayer (sung in unison) #631

(The Consistory will serve the communion. Please take and hold the elements until all are served. We will partake together at the direction of the Pastor.)

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Closing Hymn: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" p.367

*Blessing/Benediction

One: Glory to God for the Easter Light and Love of Jesus. May that Light and Love from God bring you wholeness and joy. Go forth walking from the darkness into the illumined path set before you, knowing that God is with you.

All: Amen and Amen.

*Postlude



Lighting a New Fire: Great Vigil of Easter was written by the Rev. Rosemary McCombs Maxey, a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and is retired clergy and a member of Fellowship Congregational United Church of Christ, Tulsa, Oklahoma. *Affirmation of Faith* written by Nathan Nettleton, 1999 From **Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources** <http://laughingbird.net/Seasonal.html>

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TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are in memory of Dolly Kichline's mother, Marie Bonner's Birthday from Dolly, Chad and Samuel.

TODAY'S LITURGIST is Mark Weaver.

TODAY'S GREETERS are members of Consistory.

TODAY'S ACOLYTE is a member of the Confirmation Class.

RESTROOMS ARE AVAILABLE on the main floor of the Church and downstairs.

Bulletin MAGNIFIER SHEETS can be found on the sound system.

Mask Wearing - Consistory has agreed that individuals can make their own decision as to the wearing of masks during church services. If you find yourself testing positive for COVID, **please contact the church office** so we can alert others who may have been in contact with you during time spent at church. Thank you.

Join us after Worship for a **Continental Breakfast** in the lower social hall. **Egg Hunt** will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the lower social hall.

GriefShare – is meeting from 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays until May 30, 2023 in our downstairs social room. There is a cost of \$15.00 for the workbook but scholarship money is available. The lessons are taught through interesting videos and can help us all as we grow in Christ. Please register with Pastor Lori at momandpastortoo@yahoo.com or call/text to 610-393-3522. You may join in at any time. This group is open to all!

Supper Club will be Friday, April 14, 6:00 p.m. at Ruffino's Italian Kitchen & Pizzeria, 5840 Chestnut St, Zionsville. **Please RSVP by TODAY** to Linda or Mark Weaver. The next **Sunday Brunchers** will be after Worship on Sunday, April 23 at the Merc (Cash Only). **Lunch Bunch** will meet at 12 noon on Friday, April 28 at the Perkins Restaurant on Lehigh Street in Emmaus. These events are open to everyone wishing to join us for good food and conversation.

Don't miss **Next Sunday, April 16 at 10:15 a.m.!** This is **Holy Humor Sunday** plus we are inviting you to **dress down and be casual** in your attire on that day. Holy Humor Sunday has roots in history a long time ago. For centuries, the days after Easter were observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" with gatherings of storytelling, joke swapping, picnics and parties to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. It begins with the idea that God played the ultimate practical joke on the devil by

raising Jesus from the dead. Easter was "God's supreme joke played on death." So come to worship, dress down/casual, get a FREE Kazoo and bring your sense of humor as we celebrate the miracle of the Resurrection.

New Member Classes will be held on Sunday, April 30, 9:00-10:00 a.m. during the Sunday School hour and the same time on Sunday, May 7, 2023. We will receive new members on Sunday, May 14 during the 10:15 a.m. Worship Service – The Festival of the Christian Home. Please speak with Pastor Lori (610-393-3522 call or text) ahead of these dates so we can make sure the table is big enough to gather around. We will meet in the Upper Social Room. There is no obligation to join upon completion of the classes. You can certainly just join the classes to learn or refresh your understanding of the United Church of Christ OR meet some of our new people.

The **last day** for **Sunday School** will be June 4. The children will be singing in Worship that day. Please plan to be here to support them. Classes will resume in September. And there is always room for more teachers and more helpers!

Our **Celebration at Dillingersville** will be June 25, 2023! Join us for the Annual Dillingersville Worship Celebration combined Worship Service with the UCCs, the Lutherans, and the Mennonites. Sunday, June 25, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at the School House under the big tent.

Week of April 9 – April 15, 2023:

Pastor Lori will have office hours on Wednesday from 10am-3pm.

Other times by appointment

Church Secretary Hours: Monday-Thursday 10am-3pm

(please call before coming)

Sexton: Richard Shoemaker (with Thanks to his wife, Brenda)

Scouts – Monday @ 6pm

Property – Monday @ 7pm

GriefShare – Tuesday @ 1pm

FUN Group – Tuesday @ 7pm

Cub Scouts – Tuesday @ 7pm

Finance – Wednesday @ 7pm

Choir – Thursday @ 7:30pm

Supper Club – Friday @ 6pm – Ruffino’s Italian Kitchen

Spring Fling – Saturday @ 5pm – Lower Social Hall

Next Sunday – 9:00am Sunday School and Confirmation
9:45am Third Sunday Treats
10:15am Holy Humor Sunday Worship,
Loose offering goes to our Pastor’s
Discretionary Fund

Total Offerings from April 2, 2023:

General Offerings: \$2,105.00

Mission: \$60.00

One Great Hour of Sharing: \$94.00

Communion: \$60.00

Window to the Future: \$235.00

Building Repair Fund: \$60.00

Parking Lot Maintenance: \$10.00

Cemetery: \$90.00

Attendance: 64