

Trinity Church Welcomes You

Third Sunday of Easter

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Pastor Priscilla Hukki

*Indicates standing as you are able.

Bold indicates “in unison”.

PRELUDE

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Responsive)

Easter people, Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Christ *is* risen indeed! Yet we, like Thomas, may find questions bubbling up: How do we know? What’s the proof? Is Resurrection real?

Within our questioning, Christ appears.

We may find ourselves like the other disciples, witnesses of Christ’s resurrection who struggle to understand the doubt of others.

Within our certainty, Christ appears.

Whether you come to worship full of certainty or doubt, you are welcome here, for we are all participants in the story of God’s salvific work in the world, a story still unfolding all around us.

We gather to worship, believing that in certainty and doubt, the resurrected Christ dwells among us! Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, September 2025.

***OPENING HYMN**

Come, Share the Lord

TFWS #2269

1. We gather here in Jesus’ name,

his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;

for through the loving Son the Father makes us one:

Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

2. No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs;
finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

3. He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the Lord who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the one we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come, take the bread; come, drink the wine; come, share the Lord.

4. We are now a family of which the Lord is head;
though unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

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OPENING PRAYER

God of the risen Jesus, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to redeem us by sending your Son, Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us. A Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. Amen.

Written by Rev. Vinod Wesley and posted on the Worship Ways (United Church of Christ) website at <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-2a-april-16/>.

FIRST READING

Acts 2: 14a, 36-41

^{14a} Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: ³⁶ “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

³⁷ Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” ³⁸ Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” ⁴⁰ And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” ⁴¹ So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

God’s Word for God’s People

PSALM*Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19*

(read responsively)

¹ I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,

² **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**

³ The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

⁴ **Then I called upon the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**

¹² How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?

¹³ **I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁴ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God’s people.

¹⁵ **Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**

¹⁶ O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.

¹⁷ **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸ I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God’s people,

¹⁹ **in the courts of the LORD’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING*1 Peter 1: 17-23*

¹⁷ If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in fear during the time of your exile. ¹⁸ You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. ²⁰ He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. ²¹ Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God.

²² Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. ²³ You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

God’s Word for God’s People

GOSPEL READINGLuke 24: 13-35*

¹³ Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking

and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them,¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad.¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?”¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place.²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning,²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.”²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared!²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?”²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on.²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them.³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them.³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?”³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together.³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!”³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The Gospel of the Lord

SERMON

Pastor Priscilla

1. Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.

Let the moon embrace the blessing; let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumor: Christ is risen, God is here!

2. Christ has risen for the people whom he died to love and save;
Christ has risen for the women bringing flowers to grace his grave.

Christ has risen for disciples huddled in an upstairs room.

He whose word inspired creation can't be silenced by the tomb.

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***APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

Christ the Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God's mercy is deeper than the depths of the sea, and God's grace is wider than the whole of the earth. Trusting in that mercy and that grace, let us make our confession, before God and each other, first in silent prayer.

Holy God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer the truth of our lives:

The fear that stifles us,

The prejudice that impedes us,

The ignorance that hinders us,

**The doubt that plagues us.
Help us, we pray, that we will
Find courage in unlikely places,
Move to those places where love is needed,
And have faith that you are with us.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God! **Alleluia!**
Amen.

Adapted from Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, 'Hold Fast to What Is Good.' Used with permission. Posted at <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/prayer-of-confession>.

OFFERING

We appreciate your support of the work of the church through your tithes and offerings. Please place all offerings in the plate by the entrance to the sanctuary or you may use the QR code found on the back of the bulletin.

***OFFERING** *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH #95
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.

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Compassionate and faithful God, you meet us behind locked doors and in the doubts we dare not speak aloud. Like Thomas, we long to see, to touch, to know—and yet, by your grace, you call us blessed for believing without seeing. Accept now these gifts we bring, signs of our faith, acts of our trust. Use them to reach others still searching for hope, healing, and connection. Let our giving testify to your Resurrection power and shape us into a community where wounds are not hidden but held with love. In Christ, who breathes peace upon us, we pray. Amen.

(John 20:19-31)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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 COMMUNION

The table is set for you. If you are hungry, tired, weary, or worn, or joyful or full, or care free, there is space for you here. Come, the bread of life and the cup of blessing await you. The body and blood of Christ given for you. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord, you look upon us in love and refresh our souls through the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out, witnesses of your grace, to tell the story of Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior. Amen.

***HYMN**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

UMH #454

1. Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me,
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Refrain

Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

2. Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear. [*Refrain*]

3. Open my mouth and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share. [*Refrain*]

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BENEDICTION

May God bless you with open hearts to recognize the resurrected Christ in our midst and with the courage to reach out and touch the wounds of our neighbors. May God +Father, Son & Holy Spirit fill you with peace, hold you in love, send you out with joy. Amen.

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