

# *Trinity Church Welcomes You*

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Saturday, April 25, 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

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

UMH #334

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
there are sweet expressions on each face,  
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

### *Refrain*

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;  
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived  
when we shall leave this place.

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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: 42-47*

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

God's Word for God's People

## PSALM

*Psalms 23*

(read responsively)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup> You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## SECOND READING

*1 Peter 2: 19-25*

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

God's Word for God's People

**\*GOSPEL READING***John 10: 1-10*

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

The Gospel of the Lord

**SERMON**

Pastor Priscilla

**HYMN**

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

UMH #138

1. The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.  
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;  
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me;  
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me;  
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.
5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thy unction grace bestoweth;  
and oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;  
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

## **\*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**

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.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**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, accept now these gifts we bring, signs of our faith, acts of our trust. 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**

*Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

UMH #381

1. Savior, like a shepherd lead us,  
much we need thy tender care;  
in thy pleasant pastures feed us,  
for our use thy folds prepare.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Thou hast bought us, thine we are.

2. We are thine, thou dost befriend us,  
be the guardian of our way;  
keep thy flock, from sin defend us,  
seek us when we go astray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Hear, O hear us when we pray.  
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus!  
Hear, O hear us when we pray.

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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.