

Trinity Church Welcomes You

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday, May 9, 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** *How Firm a Foundation* UMH #529 vs. 1-3

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!

What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2. “Fear not, I am with thee, O be not dismayed,
for I am thy God and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen and help thee, and cause thee to stand
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

3. “When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

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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 7: 22-31

²² Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. ²³ For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶ From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷ so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸ For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

²⁹ “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰ While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now

he commands all people everywhere to repent,³¹ because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

God’s Word for God’s People

PSALM *Psalm 66: 8-20* (read responsively)

⁸ Bless our God, you peoples; let the sound of praise be heard.

⁹ **Our God has kept us among the living and has not allowed our feet to slip.**

¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us; you have tried us just as silver is tried.

¹¹ **You brought us into the net; you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.**

¹² You let people ride over our heads; we went through fire and water, but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.

¹³ **I will enter your house with burnt offerings and will pay you my vows—**

¹⁴ those that I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.

¹⁵ **I will offer you burnt offerings of fatlings with the smoke of rams; I will give you oxen and goats.**

¹⁶ Come and listen, all you who believe, and I will tell you what God has done for me.

¹⁷ **I called out to God with my mouth, and praised the Lord with my tongue.**

¹⁸ If I had cherished evil in my heart, the Lord would not have heard me;

¹⁹ **but in truth God has heard me and has attended to the sound of my prayer.**

²⁰ Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, nor withheld unfailing love from me.

SECOND READING *1 Peter 3: 13-22*

¹³ Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵ but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you, ¹⁶ yet do it with gentleness and respect. Maintain a good conscience so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God’s will, than to suffer for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ

also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹ And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

God's Word for God's People

***GOSPEL READING**

John 14: 15-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷ This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

The Gospel of the Lord

SERMON

Rev. Hawkins

HYMN

Because He Lives

UMH #364

1. God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;
he came to love, heal, and forgive;
he lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain

Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;
because he lives, all fear is gone;
because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because he lives.

2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby,
and feel the pride and joy he gives;
but greater still the calm assurance,
this child can face uncertain days because he lives. [*Refrain*]

3. And then one day I'll cross the river;
I'll fight life's final war with pain;
and then as death gives way to victory,
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he reigns. [*Refrain*]

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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

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**

How Firm a Foundation UMH #529 vs. 4 & 5

4. “When through fiery trials thy pathways shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be thy supply;
the flame shall not hurt thee;

I only design thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

5. “The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

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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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