**Sunday, April 14, 2024 — Easter III**

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship**One: Let us fill our hearts and minds with hope as we hear the Words of Jesus Christ.
**All: “Peace be with you.”**One: When peace and justice seem uncertain, let us hear anew the Words of Jesus Christ.
**All: “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?”**One: Let us be comforted by the presence of Christ, whose love, and light dwells within us.
**All: Let our lives be witnesses of these things.**One: Help us to be instruments of Christ’s peace to all in need of God’s healing love.

**\*Invocation: (Pastor)**Risen Christ, create in us a clean heart so that we can meditate in your peace; abide in your mercy; be filled with your justice; and be made new by your love. In your name, we pray. Amen.

**\*Hymn #43** *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Unison)
Loving God, in your infinite wisdom, we are glad that you make all things new. Where there is hate, show your love. Where there is war, bring your peace. Where there is despair, bring your hope. Where there is fear, bring your understanding. Where there is scarcity, bring your abundance. Where there is systemic oppression, bring equal justice for all. By your perfect grace and mercy, make us new. May it be so. Amen.**

**Words of Grace (Pastor)**Loving God, thank you for the assurance of your grace. You grant us all your peace. Help us to trust in your peace, especially in times of conflict. Believing you will bring peace in our hearts, and to all the earth. Guiding us, so that all may come to know Jesus Christ, who is our Prince of Peace. In his name, we pray. Amen.

**\*Gloria #759**

 *Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three-in-One;*

*as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,*

*world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**\*Peace of Christ**

**Youth Message**

**Scripture:   Acts 3: 12-19 (Susie Hayden);**

 **1 John 3: 1-7 (Susie);**

 **Luke 24: 36b-48**

**Response of Praise** *Thy Word*

 *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.*

**Sermon: “Christ Among Us” by Pastor Kris**

**\*Hymn #247** *My Shepherd Is the Living God*

**\*Statement of Faith #885**

**Pastoral Prayer and Our Lord’s Prayer (Unison)**

**“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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen”**

**Prayer Response #769**

*Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;*

 *Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.*

**Invitation to Generosity**One: All are invited to give joyously to the church that bears witness to Christ’s love.
**All: Let us give with a joyful heart.**One: God’s loving generous love has given us every good and gracious gift.
**All: We offer our gratitude for God’s abundant blessings in our lives.**One: Now, let us be a blessing to others in the ways that God has faithfully and generously blessed us.

**Offertory**

**Offering Response #780**         *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, you heavenly host:*

*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication (Unison)
Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful witnesses to your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation.**

**\*Hymn #475** *God’s Eye Is on the Sparrow*

**\*Benediction (Pastor)**Living God, we are witnesses to your love and light. Your peace is seen in the dawning of each new day. Your equal justice bears witness in the interconnected universe that you have created. Faithful God, help us to feel the warmth of your loving light in the cooler moments of life. As we leave this worship service, let us go back into the world renewed as instruments of your loving peace and justice for all. May it be so. Amen.

**Postlude**

Acknowledgments - Witnesses of These Things: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter was written by The Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey, Pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – April 14, 2024**

**Altar Flowers are presented by Susan Henricks in memory of loved ones.**

**Prayer List:** The grieving family of Charles Kulp, The grieving family of Mark Miller, The grieving family of Dave Stout, The people of Israel, Gaza, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria, The victims of the tornadoes and natural disasters, Richard Adinolfi, Alvin Behm, Marsha Biehl, Joe Brogley, Ed Brous, Irene Burkhardt, Joan Clouser, Laurie and Peter Eaton, Linda Egolf, Doris Evenstad, Ruth Hardaker, Betty Hawthorne, Adam Hayden, Chip Hoover, Kathy Hughes, Dorcas Kieffer, Jim Kirkhoff, Betty Leister, Robert Mackie, Eleanor Mauger, Daryll McCormick, Calvin Miller, Dan and Lois Oister, Phyllis, Holly Rhoads, Dave Richards, Bill Ross, Christian Ross, Kenneth Shellenberger II, Karen, Paul, and Scott Steffey, Lee Steiner, Bob Stengel, Pat Stout, Dottie Taylor, Dotty Washburn, Patti Whisler, Barbara Ziegler

**Wednesday, April 17 –** Wednesday Crew

 Quilters

 CCLU Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

 Pizza and Ping Pong, 5:30 p.m.

 Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m.

 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

**Emmanuel's Attic Sale**

Over the last two years, volunteers have been cleaning out and sorting the contents of Emmanuel’s Attic (along with other spaces), relocating the items that are useful and historic to other areas within the building. What is left has been set up in the Fellowship Hall for sale to the public. Proceeds realized from the sale of these items will benefit the ministries of Emmanuel. Sale dates/times are Saturday’s April 13 and 27, May 4 and 11; from 8AM to 12PM. You will find tables filled with Household Items, Electronics, Fabric, Office Supplies, Christmas, and Toys (vintage and newer), with Furniture around the perimeter of the room. Everything is priced to sell! Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 150 N. Hanover Street, Pottstown. Please park and enter in the back of the building.

**Friday, April 19 – Pottstown NAACP and Rickett Centers Blood Drive**

 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the Ricketts Center, 658 Beech Street

Sign up at web address: redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS

For more info, contact sandybauers10@gmail.com

We welcome – and need – all. But we also are making a special appeal to Black and African-American donors to give blood to help Sickle Cell patients, who need blood from someone who is a close genetic match.

**Saturday, April 20 – May newsletter deadline**

**Announcement -** We are looking for volunteers to help stream our Sunday morning services online.  We will need camera operators and computer operators.  It is our plan to create a schedule that rotates through the month.  If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Brian Miller at 484-941-4842 or bmiller121611@gmail.com.

**Save your Redner’s Receipts!** Please, place your Redner’s Save-A-Tape receipts in the box in the lobby of the Sunday School building. We need the entire register tape in order to get credit. Redner’s will donate 1% of sales to our church.

**Get on Board with Market Cards! Support Your Church!**

Members and friends may purchase a Giant and/or Redner’s Gift card to use for groceries or gas. Denominations of cards come in $25, $50, or $100. There is no charge to you but our church receives 5% of the grocery card purchased. Gift cards to Redner’s or Giant are available Sundays in the Sunday School building or during the week through the church office.

***CareBag List for Pottstown Infusion Center***

Here is a suggested list of donations:

—Knit hat

---Neck Noodle

—Hand lotion/chap stick

—mouth wash

—Prayer shawl/ lap blanket

—diamond painted angel keychain

—a CareNote (or similar) booklet

—word puzzle book

—notepad and pencil