**Zion’s and Trinity Reformed UCC - Joint Worship**

**April 7, 2024 Second Sunday of Easter**

**Announcements**

**Prelude** *Fairest Lord Jesus (with Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring)*

Piano/Organ Duet arr. D Linda McKechnie

**Solemn Declaration**

**Call to Worship**Pastor Austin: As we join in worship this day, we might feel like the disciples,

overwhelmed by grief. After all, the state of the world is so uncertain now.  
**Many: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, “Peace be with you.”**Pastor John: We might feel like Thomas, looking for physical signs that the

unbelievable could be true. After all, nothing like this has ever happened

before.  
**Many: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, “Here are the marks on**

**my body.”**Pastor Austin: Can we really believe that Jesus is here again?  
**Many: Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on us. Christ’s peace is with us. We don’t**

**need to be afraid.**Pastor John: Our resurrected Christ calls us to worship, and we receive the peace of

Christ.  
**Many: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!**

**\*Invocation (Pastor Austin)**Resurrected Christ, you have taught us how the unbelievable can be possible. When there is so much to fear in the world, we can find peace in your presence. As we worship, breathe your Spirit on us, that we may carry it with us. Help us comfort our neighbors. Help us serve a world of need. We pray this with thanksgiving for your work among us. Amen.

**\*Hymn #301** *Crown with Your Richest Crowns*

**Unison Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Led by Pastor Austin)  
God, we confess that we too might be like Thomas. As we are overwhelmed by the world’s grief, it’s natural for us to be cynical. It’s hard to believe that hope is possible when hope is hard to find. But when we stop believing in hope, we also stop believing liberation can be possible. When we stop working to tear down injustice and discrimination, we stop others from experiencing the peace we have found in you. Forgive our unbelief, calm our fears, and help us be instruments of your peace. Amen.**

**Words of Grace**Pastor Austin: Beloved, Jesus comes to us with grace, telling us we can believe.

Because we believe, we can also be empowered to do the work of

justice. Yes, the world is heavy. No, the work will never be done. But

because we know Christ’s peace, we can share it with others.  
**People: We believe in the grace and peace of Christ. We are forgiven. Alleluia!**

**\*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 (by Pastor John)**

**Scripture:  Psalm 133 (page 712, congregation reads indentation,**

**Reader Sharon Moser sung Response “R”);**

**1 John 1: 1-2: 2;**

**John 20: 19-31**

**Response of Praise** *Thy Word*

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

**Sermon: “That Our Joy May Be Complete” by Rev. John Folk**

\***Hymn #230** *Come, You Faithful Raise the Strain*

**Prayer by Pastor Austin and Our 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 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 (Pastor Austin)**Jesus has empowered us with the Holy Spirit. We have life because of his presence with us. Let us join in God’s abundance, giving what we can to offer peace to a hurting world**.**

**Offertory** *Lamb of God Most Holy*Nikolaus Decius,

arr. by David Cherwein

**\*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 Dedication (Unison)**

**God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. Amen.**

**\*Communion Hymn #336** *Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face*

**+The Sacrament of Holy Communion+**

**Invitation**

Pastor Austin: Jesus said: “I am the bread of life . . . you who believe in me shall

never thirst.”

**People: In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this**

**table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.**

**Communion Prayer**

Pastor Austin:  God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor Austin:  Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to God.**

Pastor Austin:  Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Pastor Austin:  Holy God, our loving Creator . . . we offer ourselves to you as we unite

our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere.

**All: “Seraphic Hymn” - #795 "Holy, Holy, Holy"**

Pastor Austin:  Merciful God . . . and we say boldly what we believe:

**All: Christ has died.  Christ is risen.  Christ will come again.**

Pastor Austin:  Come, Holy Spirit, come . . . for whom Christ died.

**All: Amen.**

**Breaking Bread (Pastor John) And Pouring Wine (Pastor Austin)**

**Sharing the Elements**

Pastor Austin: The gifts of God for the people of God.  Come, for all things are now

ready.

(Please hold each element until all have received and we commune together.)

\***Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.  Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  Amen.**

**\*Hymn #257** *Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!*

**\*Benediction**

Pastor Austin: And now, may the LORD bless you and keep you, may the LORD

make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.  May the

LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you Shalom, peace.

Pastor John: Beloved, go in peace, and go be peace! Receive the Holy Spirit deep in

your being, and share your new life in Christ with the world! Amen!

**Postlude** “March - Alexander Guilmant”

Acknowledgments - Peace Be With You: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter were written by Rev. Jacob Nault, Pastor of Union-Congregational Church in Waupun, WI. He also works alongside the UCC’s Disabilities Ministries Board to provide music, liturgy, and other resources on issues of disability justice.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – April 7, 2024**

**Altar Flowers are presented by Dusty and Julie Rhoads in memory of loved ones.**

**Prayer List:** The grieving family of Charles Kulp, The grieving family of Mark Miller, 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, Jane Detwiler, 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, Dave and Pat Stout, Sandy Strunk, Dottie Taylor, Dotty Washburn, Patti Whisler, Barbara Ziegler

**Monday, April 8 – Consistory Meeting, 7:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, April 10 –** Wednesday Crew

Quilters

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

Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

**Looking Ahead**

**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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