**March 31, 2024 Easter/Resurrection Sunday**

**Announcements**

 **Prelude – Handbell Choir** *Ode to Joy* Beethoven

 **Solemn Declaration**

 **Call to Worship**Pastor: We gather in the presence of God’s love to celebrate the best love story

 ever told.
**All: The Holy Story of the Risen Christ!**Pastor: A story of the Risen Christ who came as a sacrificial lamb to heal a hurting

 world.
**All: The Divine sign of God’s love and grace.**Pastor: The story of three women who rose early to care for Jesus’ body in the tomb.
**All: An act to honor God’s loving presence sent to be among us.**Pastor: These women arrived and saw an empty tomb; they were shocked and

 afraid.
**All: They remembered the symbol of human shame of the old rugged cross.**Pastor: But the story did not end with the crucified Jesus. An Angel of God appeared

 in the empty tomb, and their terror transformed into amazement.
**All: God’s love had once again been revealed.**Pastor: The journey of the three women continued; they were asked to go out and

 spread the Good News of God’s love, peace, and justice found in the Risen

 Christ!
**All: Today, we receive this Good News; Christ is Risen. He is Risen as He said!**

**\*Invocation (Pastor)**Resurrecting God, Strengthen in us the will to go out, sharing your Good News of God’s redeeming love. Guide us in telling the story of your endless love through our words and deeds. Remind us of your presence. Fill our hearts with your ways of love that bring about peace and justice for all. With your loving embrace, protect us in the face of terror and hateful actions. Bring us your hope found in the excitement of eternal life and saving love exemplified in Jesus, the Risen Christ! Amen.

**\*Hymn #233** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

**Prayer for Transformation and New Life (Unison)
Redeeming God, We recognize that your love for all creation is great and unmovable. All that we need on earth has been provided, and yet we struggle to share a portion of our blessings so that all might have enough. You have created an earth vast with land and sea. And yet, we embrace a narrative of scarcity. Believing that somehow there is not enough for everyone to be cared for. But the data proves otherwise. We know there is an overwhelming abundance of resources on the earth you created. Help us to choose a narrative of abundance over scarcity. Give us the strength to help make this world a better place by embracing your agape love of equality for all creation. Let your ancient story of love be our new, innovative, and transformative story of love. The kind of love that transforms hearts, O God, and leads us towards this new way of living. May this new life speak to the kind of prosperity that overflows with your love of peace and justice for all people, everywhere!**

**Words of Grace (Pastor)**God of Grace and Glory, We are humbled by your faithfulness and love. Even if our fears spark terror and doubt, you never leave us. There is no other love greater than yours. You call upon all of creation to spread the Good News of your love and glorious light. Reminding us that your love is sweeter than the honey in the honeycomb. Comforting us even in the bitterness of life as we embrace the loving assurance of forgiveness found in Jesus Christ, whose grace and mercy bless us still.

**\*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**

 **Anthem:** *In Christ Alone* Getty, Townend, Craig, Koch

arr. Harlen

 **Scripture:  ﻿Isaiah 25: 6-9 (Joan Miller);**

 **I Corinthians 15: 1-11(Joan);**

 **Mark 16: 1-8**

**Response of Praise** *Thy Word*

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

**Sermon:  “The New Day”**

**\*Hymn #242** *The Strife Is O’er*

**\*Statement of Belief** (written by the Confirmation Class – 2024)

**“We are children of God, our Creator, who loves us and provides for us. He loves and forgives us. We believe in Jesus Christ who is our Savior and Teacher.  He died for our sins. We believe that the Holy Spirit guides us to be loving and caring.  The Holy Spirit is always present. We believe in sharing our kindness by putting sparkle into other people’s lives.”**

**Invitation to Generosity (Call to Offering)**

Pastor: Loving God, the abundance of your generosity is exemplified in the dawning

 of the sun.

**All: Thank you for the joy and hope of new mercies found in the morning sun.**Pastor: Even in moments when we are showered by the rain, remind us that your

 love never fails.
**All: Rain down your abundant love and redeeming grace upon us.**Pastor: Let us give our offerings with generosity and joy to the One who has faithfully

 and generously given to us love, grace, and mercy.

**Offertory – Trombone Duet by Jim and Brian Miller** arr. Jim Miller

*Old Hundredth/Beautiful Savior Medley*

 **\*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 for your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation.**

**\*Communion Hymn #237** *I Come to the Garden Alone*

   **+The Sacrament of Holy Communion+**

**Invitation**

Pastor: Are you hungry and thirsty?  Christ has invited us all to join in this meal.

            The Spirit calls us to take our place among family in the presence of God.

**All: Like droplets of rain, we converge into the stream of living water that is**

 **the love of Christ.**

**Words of Institution**

Pastor:  On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread, after giving thanks to you, broke

 it and gave it to his friends, saying, “This is my body which is for you; do this

        remembering me.”

**All:  This is how we remember Your love, remember Your power, we live in Your**

 **grace.**

Pastor:  After supper, Jesus took the cup and said, “This cup is the new covenant,

 my life poured out for you; whenever you drink it, do this remembering me.”

**All: This is how we remember Your love, remember Your power.  We live**

**in Your grace.**

**Seraphic Hymn # 795 Holy, Holy, Holy**

 **The 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 of Consecration**

Pastor: Come now, Holy Spirit of God as you were present, brooding over creation at

             the beginning, be present now.

**All:  Transform these elements into the bread of life and the cup of salvation.**

Pastor:  As you were sent by Jesus to accompany us on our journey of faith, be

            present now.

**All:  Transform all of us who share this meal into one Body of Christ.**

Pastor:   The Body of Christ – The Bread of heaven.

              The Blood of Christ – The Cup of salvation.

              The gifts of God for the People of God: Come, for all things are ready!

**Distribution of the Elements**

**Congregation partakes of the Bread and of the Cup.**

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)**

**Almighty God, we give You thanks for the gift of our Savior’s presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal.  Unite us with all who are fed by Christ’s body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer.  Amen.**

**\*Hymn #253** *Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!*

**\*Benediction (Pastor)**Loving and Gracious God, we are grateful for your Good News of loving abundance for all creation. Now, let us go out like the three women who experienced an empty tomb. Going out with Christ’s light shining deeply in our hearts. Living aloud the words of the classic hymn,
“This little of mine. I’m gonna let it shine. Everywhere I go, I’m gonna let it shine. All through the night, I’m gonna let it shine. Won’t let anyone blow it out, I’m gonna let it shine. Even when terror and doubt appear, I’m gonna let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine! Go in Peace & Love. Let the people of God say,

**All: “Amen.”**

**Postlude**

Acknowledgments - Terror and Amazement: Service Prayers for Resurrection Sunday Year B was written by The Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey, Pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ.

**Communion Note:** Please note that everyone who believes in Christ and desires peace with their neighbor is welcome to participate in Holy Communion. That is, we practice an open Communion Table.

The dark cups contain wine and the light cups contain grape juice.  The bread in the special wrapping is gluten free.  Please select the one you like and hold the tray to serve your neighbor.  You may continue to pass the serving along your row in the pew. It is our practice to hold the bread and then the cup until all have received, at which time everyone is invited to commune together. Thanks for your thoughtful participation.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 31, 2024**

**Easter Flowers presented by the congregation (See insert)**

**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, Jana Eschbach, 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

**Wednesday, April 3 –** Wednesday Crew

 Quilters

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

 Bell Choir, 6:30 p.m.

 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 p.m.

**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.