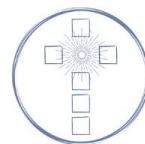




RESURRECTION STORIES:
Unlock Yours
The Season of Easter



Serve & Enrich
**Zion United Church
of Christ**

The 5th Sunday of Easter: Healed
Scout Sunday

Prelude

Streams in the Desert

Gathering—The unexpected can sap us of our life passion and energy. For example a sudden illness can change the course of our lives forever, asking us to adapt in ways we never imagined. Limitations open our eyes to other possibilities. Today, we will look for a different perspective on how we deal with any life-altering situation.

Easter Centering Song: “Because He Lives,” 447

**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.**

**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.**

Prayer— Loving God, send your Spirit among us now. Bind us to you in love this day, that we may worship in unity and friendship. Bind us to you in love this hour, that we may be strengthened to bring abundant love to your world. In love and gratitude, we pray.~

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.

Bell Choir

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Welcome and Recognition of Scouts: Raise your hand if you are part of Pack 1776...Troop 1776...if you have ever participated in scouts either as a scout or a

leader...if you're related to someone who has participated in scouts...if your life has been enriched because of scouts...

What Scouting Means to Our Scouts

Devin Meredith, Beniah Kemp

Exploring God's Word for All Ages

An Ancient Story of Resurrection

Story of Resurrection based on John 21:1-8

Zane Sparks, Pastor Sarah

Reader: The disciples returned to the Sea of Galilee, a place where they had spent much time in ministry with Jesus, when he appeared to them again by the shore.

Pastor: When we struggle or face an uncertain future, we sometimes seek familiar places, geographies of the heart, places that offer us a sense of being well.

Reader: Simon Peter said to the disciples gathered with him: "I'm going fishing." The disciples eagerly joined him in the boat, but they fished all night and caught nothing.

Pastor: Even when our lives have been altered and our paths have changed, setbacks can tempt us to try to go back to the way things were before.

Reader: Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not recognize him. Jesus said, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" The disciples said, "No."

Pastor: Regardless of how futile our old ways were, we try them again, finding false comfort in the familiar, yet not truly finding the healing we seek.

Reader: Jesus told the disciples to cast their net on the other side of the boat. They followed his direction and caught so many fish they were unable to haul in the net.

Pastor: We can become so overwhelmed with struggles that we forget to let go of our frustrations in order to seek new ways of being, new paths to peace.

Reader: Amid the flopping fish, the disciple whom Jesus loved recognized him, saying, "It is the Lord." Peter put clothes on and jumped into the sea—eager to rush to Jesus.

Pastor: When we embrace new ways of being in the midst of life-changing circumstances, we often are filled with hope.

Reader: The other disciples, seeing that they were not far from land, used the boat to drag the bulging nets ashore.

Pastor: When faced with permanent obstacles, rather than repeat what once worked, we can shift our perspective to other ways of well-being.

Reader: This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.

Pastor: Thanks be to the Living Word.

****Hymn**

Surely the Presence, 131

Scout Oath and Promise

We Hear God's Word—*Genesis 32:24-32 (NRSV)*

Noah Zellman

²⁴Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. ²⁵When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' ²⁷So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' ²⁸Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed.' ²⁹Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. ³⁰So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' ³¹The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip. ³²Therefore to this day the Israelites do not eat the thigh muscle that is on the hip socket, because he struck Jacob on the hip socket at the thigh muscle.

Meditation

Healed

Hymn

There Is a Redeemer, 117

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—Connected in love, let us share our love offerings with Christ's church and God's world.~

Opportunities to Live Resurrected

April Benevolence—God’s Bounty and the Meijer Simply Give Program

****Offering Song:** “I Love to Tell the Story” (pew card)

**The Savior of our stories
has brought his peace to you;
now go and tell the story,
for others need it too.
To ev'ry one who's hurting
ring out the gospel call;**

**proclaim that Christ is risen
and grants his peace to all.**

**I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.**

We Give Thanks—Loving God, bless these gifts with love. Transform lives with our ministries, that your people everywhere might know your grace, abide in your love, and connect with Christ, the vine of life. Amen.~

Hymn

All Creatures of Our God and King, 23

Benediction—Whatever binds you, whatever locks you up, whatever chronic pains or limitations keep you from living life to the fullest, whatever keeps you from changing perspective and fishing on the other side of the boat can be wiped clean with a healing salve...for we believe our stories can be rewritten each and every day. We know it isn't this easy or quick, but let this be a vision of your life resurrected.

And now, may you go into the world, experiencing and bestowing healing in all the ways you discover you can, for yourself, for others, for the world. And may the God who created you to be whole, the Christ who showed you the power of a change in perspective, and the Spirit who is transforming your life even now, be with you now and evermore. **Amen.**

Postlude

Allegretto