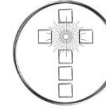




EASTER SUNDAY



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

Our Mission: United by Christ's loving embrace, a welcoming light in an unsure world, we serve and enrich the community and provide a safe gathering space for fellowship, spiritual growth, and self-exploration.

Our Vision: Transforming and caring for our community through Christ's love.

Pastor: Sarah Frische-Mouri Hannigan

Organist: Martha Main

Bell Choir Director: Vivian Thomas

Office Manager: Michael Brown

Custodians: Anita and Greg Law

Scripture Reader: Vivian Thomas

Tech Steward: Michael Brown



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April 5, 2026 – Easter Sunday: Where Do We Go from Here?

Prayers, Welcome, and Announcements

Prelude *with an Easter Poem by Paula Prange*

Given for You

Emerging from the Dark Wood

The Easter Story

John 20:1-13 (NRSVUE)

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ² So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³ So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴ Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷ as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus’ head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. ⁸ Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹ (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) ¹⁰ Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

¹¹ Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³ They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

One: We don't know where to find Jesus.

Many: The days have been dark. The news has been sad.

One: We don't know what to do with our grief.

Many: The cross has claimed his life. The tomb has shrouded our hope.

One: We don't know where to turn for comfort.

Many: Who has stolen him from us? Why are we alone at the tomb?

One: We don't know where to look for answers.

Many: Tears and sorrow blind us in our grief. We don't know where to find Jesus.~

John 20:14-18 (NRSVUE)

¹⁴ At this, [Mary] turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

¹⁷ Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

***Hymn**

In the Garden, 300

Prayer—God of mystery and might, on a dawn shrouded in grief and pain, you surprise us with the light of your wondrous love. We come to the tomb expecting death, but find life instead. Take us back to that moment, when fear was healed by hope and death was banished by life.~

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.

Exploring Together

Alleluia, Praise God

Choir

Alleluia, Christ Is Risen

Scripture

Colossians 3:1-4 (NRSVUE)

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

Reflection

Where Do We Go from Here?

Hymn

Christ Is Alive! 312

We Gather at the Table

Set Your Place at the Table—*For those worshipping with us at home, please use whatever you have on hand to represent the bread and the cup. For those worshipping with us in-person, communion cups are available on the table in the back of the sanctuary, along with goldfish crackers for children.*

Our Invitation

We Confess our Brokenness—Holy One, we are tired and a little terrified. We do not understand the confusing world around us. It is easier to live in the darkness than to walk toward the light. Forgive us. Open our eyes to see your presence among us. Open our hearts to perceive the risen Christ walking toward us. Fill our hearts with amazement, wonder, and hope. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.~

Assurance of Grace—Siblings in Christ, we are witnesses to the resurrection story. As witnesses, may we find hope in Christ and be assured of God's grace, forgiveness, and steadfast love. Amen.~

Special Music

Worthy is the Lamb, Karie Main

The Words of Institution—We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, and on the eve of death, Jesus gathered the disciples for the feast of Passover. Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks..., broke it, and give it to the disciples, saying: "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this,

as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” Therefore we proclaim the mystery of our faith.’

Blessing Our Meal—God, there are times we feel like an empty cup or broken like this bread. As this cup and this bread fill us, may they be a tangible reminder of what you can do in empty places. Let this meal give us strength to lay ourselves before you so that you can be at work in the hollow places in us. Pour out your Spirit that we might be fed and filled with your overflowing grace and your abundant life. Amen.

We Share the Bread and the Cup

We Give Thanks—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.’

We Respond to God’s Word with Our Giving

Invitation—In Christ we have found the fullness of life. It is a gift to celebrate. In gratitude we bring our gifts before God that God might use them through our ministry that others, too, might come to know the light and life Christ shares.

April Benevolence

Global Ministries

Ministry Moment

Young Adult Group Matthew Study, Kaylee Gephart-Kile

***Doxology**

We Give Thanks—With gratitude and joy, O God, we offer to use these humble gifts, knowing you can bring life through them. Work through this church that we might serve and enrich your people and share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn with Bell Choir

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today, 288

Benediction (responsive)

One: From darkness and death, we find light and life.

Many: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

One: From doubt and despair, we find faith and hope.

Many: Christ is with us now! Shout for joy!

One: From dead ends and overgrown paths, we find new beginnings and clear vistas.

Many: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!~

~Scifres, Mary; Beu, B.J.. Abingdon Worship Annual 2026 (p. 82). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition. `UCC Book of Worship. Reprinted with permission.

PRAYERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS

- With gratitude to God, we share that Diane Fenter has moved to Westminster Village North. We lift up Diane during this transition and pray that this is a wonderful fit.

THIS WEEK AT ZION

- **Sunday, 9:15 am** – Choir Practice
- **Sunday, 9:30 am** – Bell Choir Practice
- **Sunday, 10 am** – Easter Worship
- **Tuesday, 1 pm** – Matthew Study Group (Paula’s)
- **Tuesday, 6:30 pm** – Young Adult Matthew Study Group (Zoom)
- **Wednesday, 5:30 pm** – Worship Team (Zoom)
- **Thursday, 7 pm** – Matthew Study Group (Zoom)
- **Saturday, 5 pm** – Council (Zion Room)
- **Sunday, 3 pm** – Southeast Association Meeting (Faith UCC)

SERVE

- **RILEY CHEER GUILD**—The Riley Cheer Guild and the kids at Riley could use your help! They are running low on Hot Wheels and are out of Play-Doh sets, which include a few containers of Play-Doh and some tools. Donations can be dropped off anytime in the sanctuary at our Riley service station. Just look for the big “Riley” sign and tubs.
- **BLOOD DRIVE**— Our next Red Cross Blood Drive is Thursday, April 23, from 12-6pm in the Zion United Community Center Gym. Make a difference in our community and beyond and help ensure blood is on the shelves before it is needed for trauma victims, transplant recipients and those being treated for cancer and sickle cell disease. You’ll find the link to register at www.zionuccindy.net/blooddrive.
- **APRIL BENEVOLENCE: Global Ministries**—Global Ministries is a joint partnership between the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Together we accompany and serve with over 250 global partners in about 90 countries. Sharing God’s love, we work for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

ENRICH

- **MATTHEW SMALL GROUPS**—Thank you to everyone who has been able to participate in our Matthew Small Groups during Lent. Both the Young Adult Group

and All Church Zoom Group had wonderful conversation as we read through this Gospel. The Young Adult Group will finish their discussion on Tuesday, April 7, at 6:30 pm on Zoom. The All Church Zoom Group added two more sessions. They'll meet April 9 and 23 at 7 pm. An in-person group will be offered on Tuesdays in April from 1-2:30 pm, starting on April 7, at Paula's house. If you haven't yet joined one of the small groups, this is a great opportunity.

- **1st FELLOWSHIP**—In order to allow time for families to gather for their Easter celebrations, the Care Team will not be hosting a 1st Fellowship Hour after worship today. Join us on Sunday, May 3, after worship, for donuts and conversation.
- **3rd SUNDAY LUNCH**—We're heading to The Depot on April 19 to gather at the table. Our reservation is for 11:45 am. RSVP to Becky Osher if you plan to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **THANK YOU!** A big thank you to everyone who has helped make our Holy Week and Easter celebrations so enriching and meaningful. We are grateful to our Worship Team, choirs and directors, readers, tech stewards, greeters, other volunteers, and those who were able to worship with us, either in-person and online. Thank you.
- **EASTER FLOWERS**—Thank you to everyone who purchased Easter flowers to help decorate the sanctuary! What a beautiful gift. Please remember to take your flowers home with you after worship today.
- **TREASURE TRUNK AND BAKE SALE**—Save the date! Our next Treasure Trunk Sale is Saturday, May 2, from 8-2 pm. See Becky Osher to reserve your spot today. You'll receive 2 parking lot space for \$15 to sell garage sale, antique, and other items. If you'd like to donate items for the church to sell, a donation box will be available soon. Items will be sold by offer. The Fundraising Team is also having a bake sale and will feature their mini bread loaves. Pull tabs will be available if you'd like to donate bake goods.
- Pastor Sarah will be off on Monday, April 6. If there is a pastoral care emergency, please contact someone on council.