

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pam Barrett	Ann Irwin	Kathi Parker	Lucille Thompson
Randy Boyer	Mary Meilcarek-Clark	Roberta Polk	
Johnny & Joy Holder	Mary Neitzke	Harriett Silvey	

ROUTINE FACILITY USAGE:

<u>Sundays:</u> 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	<u>Tuesdays (con't)</u> 6:30 pm Cub Scouts	<u>Thursdays</u> 5:00 pm Soccer Practice 7:30 pm N A
<u>Mondays</u> 6:00 pm Choir Practice	<u>Wednesdays</u> 10:00 am FUEL 11:00 am Ann's Closet (1st & 3rd) 5:30 pm Soccer Practice	<u>Fridays</u> 6:30 pm Sea Scouts
<u>Tuesdays</u> 10:00 am Morning Bible Study 5:00 pm Soccer Practice	6:00 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm N A	<u>Saturdays</u> 6:00 pm N A



Growing disciples of Christ for the transformation of our community.



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Pastor: Rev. Corrie Alexander-Willette



OPPORTUNITIES TO LIVE IN OUR FAITH Liturgist

PRELUDE *The Love of Easter Medley* Chancel Choir

GREETING:

L: On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

P: On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

L: On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

P: But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

L: The good news is dancing!

P: The good news is on the loose!

L: The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

P: Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

L: Let us worship our good-news Christ.

*HYMN *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* UMH 302

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Please see insert

*GLORIA PATRI UMH 70

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy One, all over the world, people are gathering to hear the same story. All over the world, people are gathering to hear how death lost its sting. All over the world, people are gathering together, praying for a glimpse of you. So like our neighbors all over the world, we pray, be here. Speak to us today. Soften the calloused parts of our hearts until we can sense your Holy Spirit in our midst once more. With eagerness and hope, we run to the tomb. We sing alleluia. We bow our heads. We listen for you. Amen.

HYMN *The Day of Resurrection* UMH 303
All Sing, Congregation Sits

*SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 28:1-10
Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God

SERMON Rev. Corrie Alexander-Willette

OFFERTORY *Easter People, Raise Your Voices* UMH 304
All sing, lead by Choir

*DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Please see insert

INVITATION TO THE TABLE Please see insert

CONFESSION & PARDON Please see insert

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

GIVING THE BREAD & CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving Christ, thank you for the bread that nourishes our bodies. Thank you for the cup that quenches our thirst. Thank you for this community, which reminds us who we are. Thank you for this Table that brings us together. Thank you for the music that lifts our spirits. Thank you for the promise that at this Table, and every table, you will be there. May this holy meal nourish us to go out into the world speaking of your good, good news. With joy and hope we pray, amen.

*HYMN *Because He Lives* UMH 364
Choir starts then congregation joins

*SENDING FORTH

As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms. The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking. For if you won't, then who will? Thanks be to God for this good, good news. Amen.

*POSTLUDE *Amen and Amen* Chancel Choir

Arrangements: Prelude by Kris Crunk; Final Hymn & Postlude by Dennis Allen
Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org
***Please stand as you're able in body or spirit**

CONFESSION & PARDON

L: Friends, on Easter Sunday we remember that the world did its worst to God. The world battered and bruised, betrayed and abandoned, crucified and buried our living God. And despite it all, Jesus still chose to return.

Jesus rose again and immediately went to work spreading God's love to the very people who had hurt him. So hear me when I say, there is nothing you can do that could keep God's love at bay. With that good news mind, let us go to God in prayer, trusting that Jesus Christ loves, claims, and seeks us. Friends, let us pray:

P: Gracious God, we want to be Easter people. We want to shout your good news from the rooftop. We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you. We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid," but we are afraid. And we don't know where to look. And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.

So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people. We are best intentions and best laid plans. We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias." We are on our way, but we are not there yet. Show us

how to embody your good news in this world. Show us how to be your Easter people. With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.

L: Family of faith, even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias," we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could keep God's love at bay. So join me in this good news declaration:

P: Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed. This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God. Amen.



AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

It sounds like welcome and feels like home. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

I have seen it alive in the world.

And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with Nonviolence. I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him. I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world. Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Risen Christ, good-news God, and ever-present Spirit, today is a day we've been waiting for. We've been waiting for the holy mystery of this morning. We've been waiting for the good news of an empty grave. We've been waiting for the sound of alleluias.

Today is a day we've been waiting for, and now that we're here, all we can say is thank you. Thank you for showing the world what could be. Thank you for loving us with abandon. Thank you for facing death and returning with mercy. Thank you for the empty tomb. Thank you for morning birdsong. And thank you for meeting us here, as you always do.

Today we celebrate the good news that you are alive in the world. The grave couldn't hold you. Death couldn't keep you. The empire couldn't confine you.

Instead, you are here and everywhere. You are risen. You are on the move in the world. Your love meets us in this room and calls us out into the world. And that is good, good news.

So on this Easter Sunday, this holiest of days, we ask for your help noticing you in our midst.

When our feet walk beside wildflowers, may we think of you. When the stars light up the sky, may we see you. When we break bread with our neighbors, may we feel you. When a stranger acts with kindness and love, may we recognize you. We know that you are out in the world, God, and we don't want to miss a minute of it.

And while we pray these prayers with gratitude and joy, we also pray for those who still find themselves at the foot of the cross. We pray for those stuck in the pain of Good Friday. We pray for....

Holy One, so many days feel like Good Friday, but the promise of Easter is that Good Friday does not have the last word. So may we live like that is true. May we speak this hope to our neighbors. May we look for you in our midst. And may we always remember: alleluias came after the grave.

As Easter people, we pray this in the name of the Risen Christ. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus. The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran, afraid yet filled with joy. They sought after him. They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ. And in their seeking, the text tells us: "Suddenly, Jesus met them" (Matthew 28:9).

Jesus met the women in their seeking. Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief. Jesus met them when they felt lost. Jesus met them and provided hope.

Friends, if like the women you are seeking Christ, if you have known grief or fear, if you have ever felt lost, or if you are in need of some hope, then come to this Table. All are welcome here.

For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking, I am confident that Jesus meets us here, saying, "Do not be afraid."

