

April 16, 2017 – 10:00 am  
EASTER SUNDAY  
ST. JOHN UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

Our mission is to worship and serve God  
in our church, community, and the world.



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Please respond with words in **bold print**.

\*Please stand if comfortably able

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## WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BELLS CALL US INTO SILENT REVERENCE.

THE CANDLES ARE LIT TO LIGHT OUR WAY INTO WORSHIP.

PRELUDE:                    “Easter Alleluia Medley”       Gary Lanier  
                                  Flute – Stacie Pickens, Piano – Sharon Banjavcic

\*RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP: Based on Psalm 118

One:       Day has dawned and shadows are left behind.  
              The stone is rolled away and hope is reborn.

**MANY: This is the day that our God has made.  
          We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

One:       God opens to us the gates of righteousness.  
              We enter to give thanks to our God.

**MANY: We give thanks, for our God is good.  
          God’s steadfast love endures forever.**

One:       Set your mind on things that are above.  
              Look up and welcome Christ’s appearing.

**MANY: We have been raised with Christ.  
          Glory is being revealed to us on this holy day.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: NCH # 233

                                  “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

\*CALL TO CONFESSION:

\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION: Let us pray

**O God, the message of Easter has come again before we were ready to receive it. The Palm Sunday parade demanded very little of us. We could join in the hosannas. But the betrayal and denial, the suffering and shame, the agony and death, have left us fearful and shaken. We have become enemies of Jesus without intending to be disloyal. We have left him in the tomb lest he upset our daily lives. The Jesus of long ago seems more comfortable to us than the Christ who is risen today in our midst. We confess our reluctance**

**to let Christ claim us and change us. O God, we need forgiveness.**

\*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

\*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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Sing the Resurrection Song!" Lloyd Larson

TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL:

SECOND TESTAMENT READING: Acts 10:34-43 Lay Liturgist

EPISTLE READING: Colossians 3:1-4 Lay Liturgist

\*GOSPEL READING: John 20:1-18 Pastor Rosemary

\*GOSPEL RESPONSE: **NCH #236 "Halle,Halle"**

**Halle, halle, halle-lu-ja.**

**Halle, halle, halle-lu-ja.**

**Halle, halle, halle-lu-ja. Halleluja, halle-lu-ja.**

SERMON: "Did We Miss the Easter Pageant?" Pastor Rosemary

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: **NCH #230**

**"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL:

*You are invited to pray each week for a specific family or individual from our Congregation, in addition to those on our prayer list. Today we lift up in prayer these families. Prayers for healing:*

PRAYER RESPONSE: #769

**Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God;  
Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.**

## OFFERING OF GIFTS, TITHES AND SELVES

OFFERTORY: "Because He Lives" Gaither/Hustad  
Piano – Nancy Eisenhauer, Organ – Sharon Banjavcic

\*DOXOLOGY: # 780

**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.**

\*THE LORD'S PRAYER:

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your 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.**

\*HOLY COMMUNION: NCH Page 16 Selection A

Jesus said; I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**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.**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

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

Eternal God, who has created the heavens . . . . .

With all the prophets, martyrs, and saints, and all the company of heaven, we glorify you:

**SANCTUS: NCH #790**

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,  
the whole universe speaks of your glory,  
O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the  
name of our God! Hosanna in the highest.**

(Be seated)

We remember that . . . . .

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

**Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!**

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of you Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

Alleluia! Fear not, I am the first and the last and the living one.

**I died, and behold I am alive for evermore. Alleluia!**

Sharing the elements.

\*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:

**Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN: NCH #245 “The Day of Resurrection”**

**\*BENEDICTION:** The blessing of God Almighty: the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sanctifier, be with you all.

**Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: NCH #236 “Halle,Halle”**

**Halle, halle, halle-lu-ja.**

**Halle, halle, halle-lu-ja.**

**Halle, halle, halle-lu-ja. Halleluja, halle-lu-ja.**

**POSTLUDE: “Christ The Lord Is Risen Today” Henry Balcombe**

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***Ministers – All members of the church  
Participants in worship today:***

**Pastor** – Pastor Rosemary Captain

**Organist** – Sharon Banjavcic

**Liturgist** – Sue Williams

**Ushers** – Jim Eisenhauer, Sue Williams, Barb Whitaker,  
Urban Baum

***Activities of the church:***

**Tuesday** – Boy Scouts

**Wednesday** – Evening Circle meeting at O'Charley's 6 p.m.

**Saturday** - Fellowship hall rented to Becky 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Sunday** – Pastor Rosemary's ordination service at St. Paul in  
Lebanon 3 p.m.

**Sunday** – ALUMINUM RECYCLING & Newsletter articles are  
due