

**Ministry of Holy Communion (continued)**

**Receiving the Bread and the Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself for us. Help us to see the Risen Christ in all people. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Hymn #227

*Thine Is the Glory*

\*Benediction

\*Benediction Response

*The Lord Whom We Love*

—K. Kaiser

Postlude

*Crown Him With Many Crowns*

—arr. S. Mitchell-Wallace  
and J. Head

*Andante from Heroic Pieces*

—G. Telemann

*Anglaise, Minuet & Hornpipe*

—G. F. Handel

*Grant O Lord, that what we have heard with our ears and sung with our lips, we may believe in our hearts and practice in our lives. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen. ~Martin Luther*

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Following the *Benediction Response*, feel free to leave immediately or remain in the Sanctuary to listen to the *Postlude*.

**Ministry of Fellowship** A special welcome to all who are visiting this morning. We're glad to have you sharing in our celebration of worship. Please join us downstairs for refreshments and conversation.

**Thank you for serving today:**

- Deacons: Holly Haase and Charlene Legge
- Greeter: Brenda Semienko
- Ushers: Holly Haase and Mary Hanson
- Fellowship Hour: Greg Balligan, Bob and Bebe Goudey, Wendy Jones
- Music Director: Bernard Crane
- Handbell Choir Director: Cheryl Townsend
- Trumpeter: John Abrahamson

*We invite you to join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for worship, with Sunday School for children age three through ninth grade. Childcare is provided for little ones.*

***Sharing Christ ~ Changing Lives***

**Welcome Guests and Newer Folk**

Please fill out the beige cards found in the pew racks before you. This is a good way to let us know a little bit about you, and (if desired) to begin to receive information from us (weekly email, monthly newsletter). You may place the card in the offering plate or hand it to an usher or the Pastor, Gail Miller. We are glad you are here!

\*Please Rise



**The Union Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
The Reverend Gail L. Miller, Pastor**

**Easter Sunday  
April 1, 2018  
10:00 a.m.**

**Welcome!** We are glad you are worshipping with us today. Large print bulletins are available at the back of the Sanctuary or from an Usher. There is a comfortable rocker by the right side exit door for those who need a more comfortable seat. If your baby or children become restless during worship, feel free to walk with them in the back of the Sanctuary or use the rocker; or the nursery space for infants and toddlers is in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Feel free to approach an Usher or the Pastor with any questions.

**Holy Communion** will be celebrated today. The table is open to all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, no matter what their church background or denominational affiliation. Children are welcome to partake at the discretion of their parents. We celebrate the Lord's Supper with grape juice and gluten-free bread. The communion trays are passed first to the center of the pews and the elements are taken as the trays are passed back to the serving deacons. It is our custom to hold on to the elements until everyone has been served, then partake together. Please place empty cups in the holders on the backs of the pews.

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**Preparation**

*Resurrection means that the worst thing is never the last thing.* ~Frederick Beuchner

**Prelude** *Up From The Grave He Arose* —Lowry  
*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* —arr. S. Mitchell-Wallace and J. Head

**Handbell Processional**

**\*Call to Worship** Bonnie Marchesani

Leader: Christ is risen! } Repeat three times.

People: **He is risen indeed!**

Leader: Sing unto the Lord!

People: **For he has done marvelous things!**

Leader: Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth!

People: **For the Lord has comforted his people!**

Leader: Thanks be to God!

People: **For he has given us the victory!**

Leader: Alleluia!

People: **Alleluia!**

**\*Hymn #217** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

**\*Unison Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we confess to you all the ways in which we dismiss the resurrection news. Foolish and slow of heart to believe, we turn from you and retreat in fear. Come into our locked rooms and breathe into us your forgiving Spirit. Reawaken our trust and strengthen our hope, that we may be witnesses to your saving power. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray together saying,

**\*Our Lord's Prayer**

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.

\*Please Rise

**\*Assurance of Forgiveness**

In baptism you have received a spirit of adoption; you are God's beloved children. In the name of Christ our sins are forgiven. Rejoice, and welcome this freedom as a gift.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*The Gloria Patri, #623** (A song of praise Christians have sung together for 1900 years.)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:**

**As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.**

**\*The Passing of the Peace** (As a sign of reconciliation with God and each other, you are invited to share the peace.)

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

**Announcements**

**Time with the Children**

(Children remain in worship today. Crayons, activity/coloring pages, and books are in the back of the room.)

**Ministry of the Word**

Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 25:6-9 (p. 568, pew Bible)

Mark 16:1-8 (p. 829)

Anthem *Jesus Is Risen From The Dead* —L. Larson

Sermon *Are You Kidding?* The Reverend Gail L. Miller

*\*The Apostles' Creed* (blue insert)

**Ministry of Response**

Offering of Gifts and Prayer Requests

Offertory *Easter Bells* —arr. Michael Ryan

**\*The Doxology, #625** (A Christian song of praise from the 16<sup>th</sup> century.)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*Unison Prayer of Dedication**

**O God, on this day of love's victory assured, we offer these gifts of praise and thanksgiving. Bless them and use them to work your miracles of new life and to glorify our risen Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

Pastor: We shall not offer God...

All: ...that which costs us nothing. Amen.

**Offering of Prayers**

Song of Preparation (Insert) *In The Stillness* —E. Tompkins  
**In the stillness, Savior, draw me near. In the stillness, teach my heart to hear.  
Like a little child I come to Thee, and pray that in the stillness I may rest in  
Thee; and know that in the stillness You will speak to me.**

Pastoral Prayer, Lifting Names into God's Light, Silent Prayer

Prayer Response *Threefold Amen* Traditional

**Ministry of Holy Communion**

Hymn of Preparation #215 **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Invitation, Words of Institution, and Prayer of Consecration

\*Please Rise