

*Zion United Church of Christ*  
*March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024*  
*Easter Sunday*  
*Rev Stephen Stark*  
(\*Please stand if comfortably able)



Welcome & \*Passing of the Peace

\*Opening Music

EASTER

294

Christ Arose!

1 Low in the grave he lay— Je - sus my Sav - ior, wait - ing the com - ing day—  
2 Vain - ly they watch his bed— Je - sus my Sav - ior, vain - ly they seal the dead—  
3 Death can - not keep his prey— Je - sus my Sav - ior, he tore the bars a - way—

*Refrain*

Je - sus my Lord!  
Je - sus my Lord! Up from the grave he a - rose, with a  
Je - sus my Lord! he a - rose,

might - y tri - umph o'er his foes; he a - rose a vic - tor from the  
he a - rose!

dark do - main, and he lives for - ev - er with his saints to reign. He a -

rose!  
He a - rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!  
He a - rose! He a - rose!

*\*Call to Worship*

The tomb is dark, but empty  
**The one you are looking for has overcome the darkness**  
The stone has been rolled away  
**The one you are looking for has overcome death**  
The burial clothes are put aside  
**The one you are looking for is alive!**  
Christ is Risen!  
**Christ is Risen Indeed!**  
Let us worship our Risen Savior!

*\*Opening Prayer*

*Children's Time*

*Worship Hymn --- "This Is the Day" --- #84*

*Prayer of Confession*

Gracious and Patient God, we come before you with so many things which weigh us down. We would like an "easy" faith, one that doesn't cause us to look within ourselves, to identify those many ways in which we have forsaken you. But faith is never easy. It requires our very souls.

Forgive us, God, for all those things which we have neglected to do that would have helped someone else to be closer to you. Heal our hearts from the wounds which have been inflicted upon us by the anger and misunderstandings which occur in relationships. Prepare our lives to be of service to you. In silence, we wait. We long for your presence and your healing touch. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness*

*Holy Scriptures*

Psalm Reading  
Epistle Reading

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:1-11

Listen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.  
**Glory to you, O Christ.**

\*Gospel Reading

Mark 16:1-8

Here ends the reading of the word.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Sermon*

**"Looking for Jesus"**

**Rev. Stephen Stark**

# Worship Hymn

## In Christ Alone

(as published by Capitol CMG Publishing)

Words and Music by  
Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

### VERSE

$\text{♩} = 60$   $A\flat$   $E\flat$   $A\flat$   $B\flat$   $E\flat/G$   $A\flat$   $E\flat/G$   $Fm7$   $A\flat/B\flat$

1. In Christ a - lone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my
2. In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of God in help - less
3. There in the ground His bod - y lay, Light of the world by dark - ness
4. No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in

4  $E\flat$   $A\flat$   $E\flat$   $A\flat$   $B\flat$   $E\flat/G$   $A\flat$   $E\flat/G$   $Fm7$   $A\flat/B\flat$

song; This Cor - ner - stone, this sol - id Ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and  
babe! This gift of love and right - eous - ness, scorned by the ones He came to  
slain; Then, burst - ing forth in glo - rious Day, up from the grave He rose a -  
me; From life's first cry to fi - nal breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti -

8  $E\flat$   $E\flat/G$   $A\flat$   $E\flat/G$   $B\flat$   $B\flat$   $E\flat/G$   $A\flat$   $Cm7$

storm. What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when striv - ings  
save. Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of God was sat - is -  
gain! And as He stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has lost its grip on  
ny. No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ev - er pluck me from His

12  $B\flat$   $B\flat$   $A\flat$   $E\flat$   $A\flat$   $B\flat$   $E\flat/G$   $A\flat$   $E\flat/G$   $Fm7$   $A\flat/B\flat$   $E\flat$

cease. My Com - fort - er, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.  
fied. For ev - 'ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.  
me; For I am His and He is mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.  
hand; Till He re - turns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

CCLI Song # 3350395

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## *UCC Statement of Faith*

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,  
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,  
and to your deeds we testify:**

**You call the worlds into being,  
create persons in your own image,  
and set before each one the ways of life and death.**

**You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.**

**You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,  
you have come to us  
and shared our common lot,  
conquering sin and death  
and reconciling the world to yourself.**

**You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit,  
creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,  
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church  
to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,  
to be your servants in the service of others,  
to proclaim the gospel to all the world  
and resist the powers of evil,  
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,  
to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you  
forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,  
courage in the struggle for justice and peace,  
your presence in trial and rejoicing,  
and eternal life in your realm which has no end.**

**Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.  
Amen.**

## *Prayers for the World*

### *The 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, for ever. Amen.**

Service of Holy Communion  
(Red Wine or White Grape Juice)

Hymn of Preparation

Come, Share the Lord



1 We gath-er here in Je - sus' name, his love is burn-ing in our  
2 He joins us here, he breaks the bread, the Lord who pours the cup is  
3 We'll gath-er soon where an - gels sing; we'll see the glo - ry of our



hearts like liv - ing flame; for through his lov - ing Son the Fa - ther  
ris - en from the dead; the one we love the most is now our  
Lord and com-ing King; now we an - tic - i - pate the feast for



makes us one: come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.  
gra-cious host: come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.  
which we wait: come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.



(1) No one is a stran-ger here, & ev - ery - one be - longs;  
(2) We are now a fam - i - ly of which the Lord is head;



*to verses 2 and 3*



find - ing our for - give-ness here, we in turn for-give all wrongs.  
though un - seen he meets us here in the break - ing of the bread.





## *Communion Prayer*

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.**

## *Sanctus*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord. God of  
pow - er God of might. Hea - ven and earth are  
filled with your glo - ry Ho - san - na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est!

## *Memorial Acclamation*

Christ has died, Christ is ris-en, Christ will come a - gain;  
Christ has died, Christ is ris-en Christ will come a - gain!

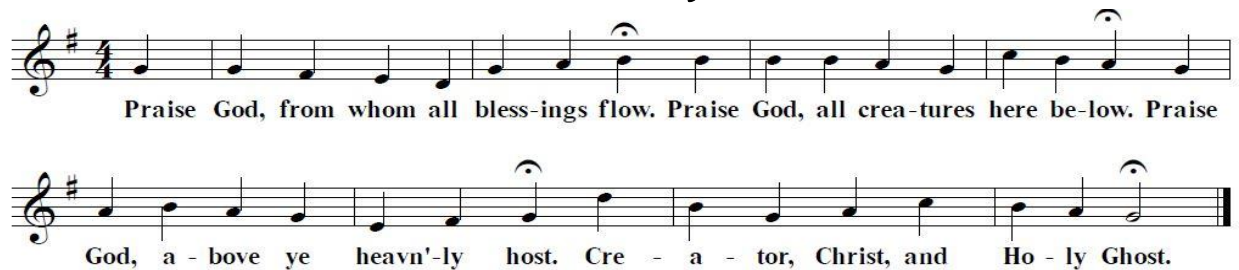
## Sharing of Elements

### Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west, from 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.

### Announcements for the Good of the Community

#### \*Offering



Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow. Praise God, all crea-tures here be-low. Praise  
God, a - bove ye heavn'-ly host. Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost.

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

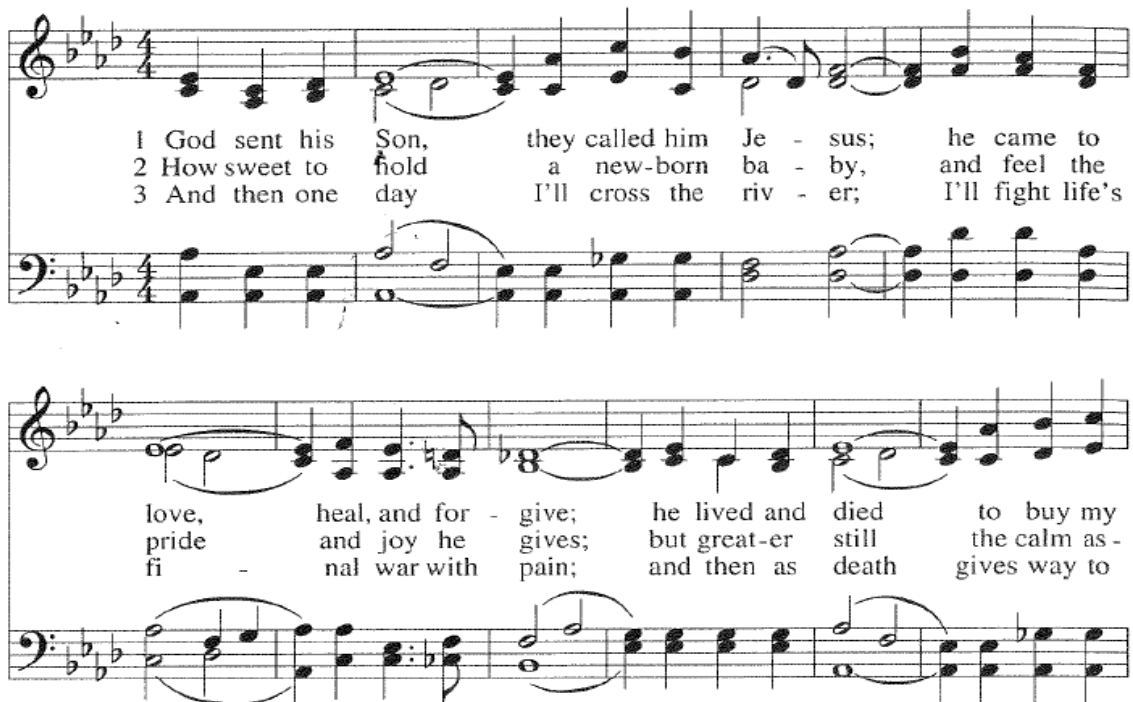
May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful for your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation. Amen.

#### \*Closing Music

TRUST & ASSURANCE

447

### Because He Lives



1 God sent his Son, they called him Je - sus; he came to  
2 How sweet to hold a new-born ba - by, and feel the  
3 And then one day I'll cross the riv - er; I'll fight life's  
love, heal, and for - give; he lived and died to buy my  
pride, and joy he gives; but great-er still the calm as -  
fi - nal war with pain; and then as death gives way to



par - don, an emp - ty grave is there to prove my Sav - ior lives.  
 sur - ance: this child can face un - cer - tain days be - cause he lives.  
 vic - tory, I'll see the lights of glo - ry and I'll know he lives.

*Refrain*

Be - cause he lives I can face to - mor - row; be - cause he lives

all fear is gone; be - cause I know he holds the fu - ture,

and life is worth the liv - ing just be - cause he lives.

WORDS: Gloria Gaither (1942- ) and William J. Gaither (1936- )

MUSIC: William J. Gaither (1936- )

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RESURRECTION

Irregular

*\*Benediction*

*\*Postlude Music*

## *Easter Memorial Flowers*

### *Given In Honor of...*

- Her children, grandchildren, and sons-in-law by Julie Edwards
- Her children, Leanne, John, & Tricia by Pat Groennert
- Her daughter Brooke by Leanne McDonald
- Her mom Pat Groennert by Leanne McDonald
- Carol Brann by Leanne McDonald
- Franklin Walthes and Hailey Kolweier by Gary & Vicki Walthes
- Gary & Nicole Walthes by Gary & Vicki Walthes
- Paul Sterrett by the Zion family
- Our organist Joni Kloeckner by the Zion family
- Our organist Roberta Swaim by the Zion family
- The Stark and Aker family by the Zion family

### *Given In Memory of...*

- Emil & Delora Malina, James & Peggy Malina, Lillian Davis, and Richard Montague by the Billhartz family
- Parents and brother of Bowman family by Elmer & Linda Bowman
- Parents and brother of Hartman family by Elmer & Linda Bowman
- Jim Brown by Karen Brown
- Parents and sister by Julie Edwards
- Frederick Groennert by Pat Groennert
- Her husband Everet Hodges by Pat Hodges
- Her mother Marge Walthes by Pat Hodges
- Clara Ballard by Leanne McDonald
- Frederick Groennert and Tom & Rosemary McDonald by Leanne, Steve, & Brooke McDonald
- Frances & Charles Thorpe, Sue Nichols, and Frederick Groennert by Claire & Cody Reynolds
- Albert & Helen Gaul, and Bob & Delores Edwards by the Sommers family
- Norman Mitchell by the Sommers Family
- Parents Dr. Charles & Frances Thorpe and grandparents Fred & Clara Groennert by Charissa Thorpe
- Geoffrey Walthes by the Walthes Family

*Pray for...Those Who Cannot Be Here with Us*

Sharol Guerin, Dorothy Bridgeforth, June Mitchell, Bill Malina, Jody & Larry Cox, and  
Janice Kolmer

*Pray for...Those with Health Concerns*

Rebecca Catlin, Jim & Judy Korte, Logan & Zoey Vallee, and Paul Sterrett

*Pray for...Ministers and Ministries*

Brighton St. John's UCC, Rev. John Pawloski

*Announcements...*

- Pickup Easter Flowers after second service
- Meal & Mingle – April 21<sup>st</sup>. Sign-up sheet in gathering space.

*April 7<sup>th</sup> Service Volunteers*

- Liturgists: Linda Bowman & Kathy Sinkey
- Techs: Vicki Walthes & Bev Adams
- Acolytes: Mallory Sommers & Jonah Stark

*Upcoming Events...*

- Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Worship Team @ 12pm
- Apr. 15<sup>th</sup> – Council @ 7pm
- Apr. 18<sup>th</sup> – ONA Mtg @ 6:30pm
- Apr. 21<sup>st</sup> – Meal & Mingle, 1pm @ Urban Farmhouse
- Apr. 27<sup>th</sup> – Church Yard Sale

Online Giving QR Code  
(Scan with your phone  
to be taken to Vanco)



*Thank you to the following for assisting  
with services today:*

<i>Musician</i>	Roberta Swaim
<i>Acolytes</i>	Brody Zotz & Seth Stark
<i>Liturgists</i>	Charissa Thorpe & Molly Stark

**Service Credits**

**Call to Worship** - Rev. Mindi, *Rev-o-lution* blog, <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.

**Confession** - Nancy C. Townley, *Ministry Matters*

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/2507/worship-connection-easter-2021>.

**Liturgy adapted** - *Terror and Amazement*: Service Prayers for Resurrection Sunday Year B, Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey, Pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ. UCC Worship Ways, **Easter-B-March-31**

**Easter Prayer** - Monthly Prayers page of the Christian Aid website.  
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/>

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**Zion United Church of Christ**

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Church Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30am – 5:00pm

Website: [www.zionuccnb.net](http://www.zionuccnb.net)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/nbzucc](http://www.facebook.com/nbzucc)

YouTube: Zion UCC New Baden, IL

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Stark



### *The Flowering of the Cross*

The flowering of the cross has been traced back to the 6th century. It is an especially striking and beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from Jesus's death. Traditionally before the Easter Sunday service, the cross is covered with flowers and the top draped in white. The entire cross is covered with flowers and is placed at the front of the church to symbolize the new life in our risen Lord to all the worshippers present on Easter Sunday morning. The contrast between the starkly bare cross that worshippers have seen for 40 days and the living flower cross of Easter Sunday dramatically and visually represents the new life that we are celebrating in Christ's rising.

This year, as you come to Easter Sunday Service, pause by the cross and add some flowers to it. You can place flowers from the bucket provided by the Altar Guild. Everyone young and old are encouraged to participate.