

*Zion United Church of Christ*  
*Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> --- 8:00 AM*  
(\*Please stand if comfortably able)



**God  
is love,**

**AND WHOEVER  
ABIDES IN LOVE  
ABIDES IN GOD,  
AND GOD  
ABIDES IN HIM.**

**1 JOHN 4:16, ESV**

# *Welcome*

*Prelude*

Roberta Swaim

*Acolyte*

Brody Zotz

*Ringing of Bell*

Usher

*Liturgist*

Laverne Laux

## *\*Passing of the Peace*

*\*Opening Music* --- "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" --- #43 --- VS 1-2

### *\*Call to Worship*

We worship the God who inhabits our world and indwells our lives.

**We need not look up to find God,**

we need only to look around:

**within ourselves, beyond ourselves, into the eyes of another.**

We need not listen for a distant thunder to find God,

we need only listen:

**to the music of life, the words of children,**

**the questions of the curious, the rhythm of a heartbeat.**

We worship the God who inhabits our world

**And who indwells our lives.**

### *\*Opening Prayer*

#### *Children's Time*

#### *Prayer of Confession*

Merciful One, you know when we are afraid to love; you know when we are too cowardly to show mercy. Remind us again that perfect love casts out such fears. Surround us and strengthen us with your perfect love, even in the face of our imperfections. Imbue us with a love so strong, with such growth toward perfection, that we may cast aside our pride and embrace the power of love. Amen.

#### *Assurance of Pardon*

*Worship Hymn* --- "Lord, I Want To Be a Christian" --- #454

*Holy Scriptures*

First Epistle Reading

Acts 8:26-40

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

\*Gospel Reading

John 15:1-8

Second Epistle Reading

1 John 4:7-21

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

*Sermon*

"The Heart of The Game"

Rev. Stephen Stark

*Prayers for the World*

*Service of Holy Communion*

(Red Wine or White Grape Juice)

(Communion liturgy located in hymnal on page 5, option A.)

*Hymn of Preparation* --- "Jesus, the Joy of Loving Hearts" --- #329 --- VS 1-3

*Invitation*

Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on that same day sat at the table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

**This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, youth and children, come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and gather about Christ's table.**

*Communion Prayer*

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

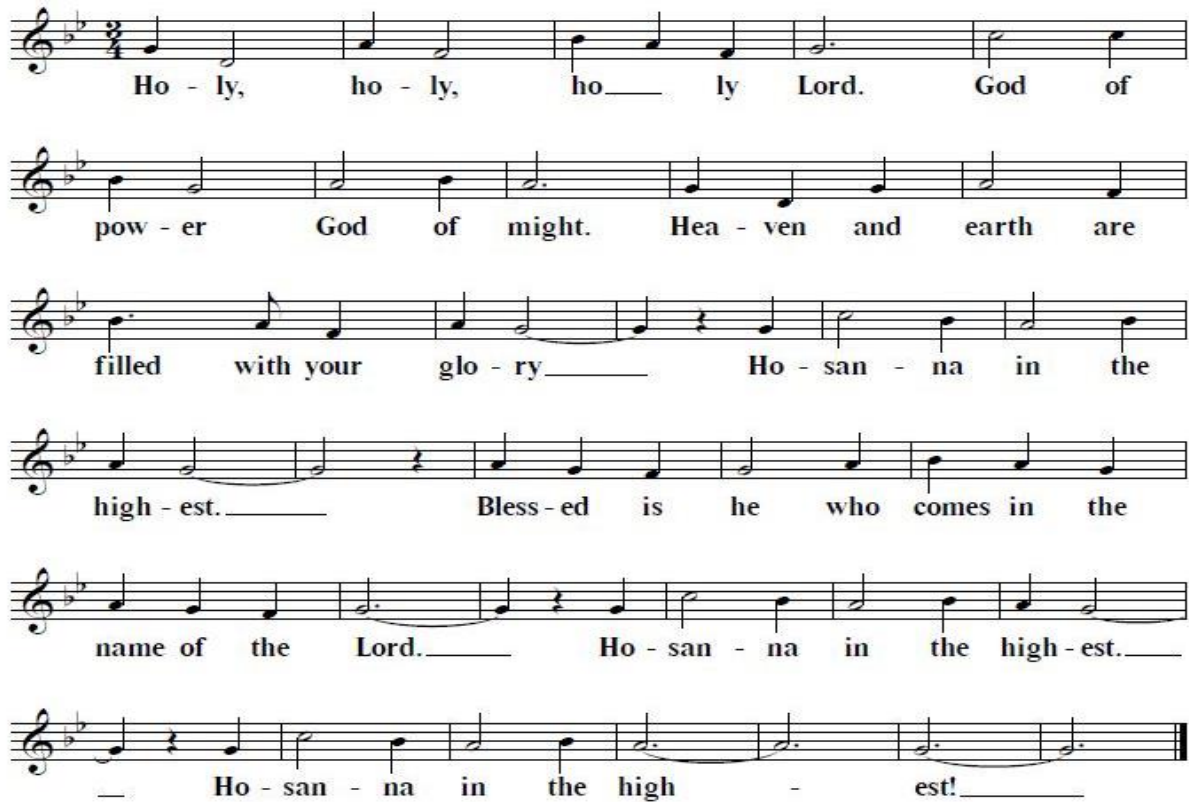
Lift up your hearts.

**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!

## Mystery of Faith



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

## Words of Institution

Strengthen your universal church that it may be the champion of peace and justice in all the world. Restore the earth with your grace that is able to make all things new.

**Be present with us as we share this meal, and throughout all our lives, that we may know you as the Holy One, who with Christ and the Holy Spirit, lives for ever. Amen.**

## 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.**

## Sharing the Elements

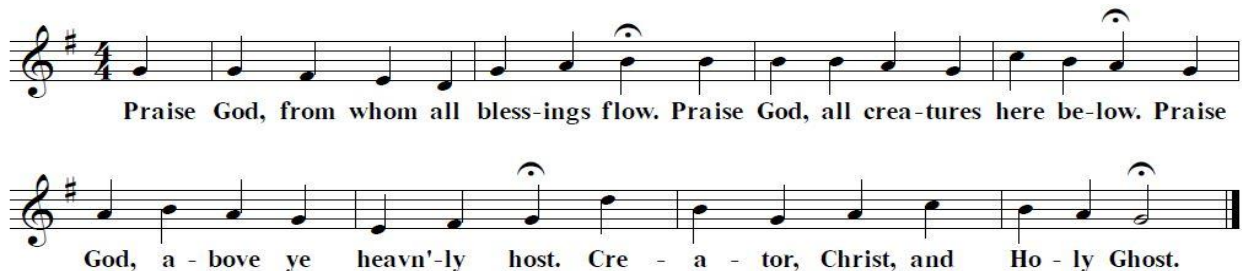
### Prayer of Thanksgiving

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.

### Announcements for the Good of the Community

### Invitation to Giving

#### \*Offering



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God, above ye heavn'-ly host. Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost.

#### \*Prayer of Dedication

Compassionate God may these gifts be blessed by your light that cultivates love for all creation. As our gardener, O God, sprinkle water on our dry branches of despair to bring us hope. Shine your light of peace on our weariness to bring us justice for all. With Christ as our vine, save us from all that seek to bring us harm. May these fruitful gifts be a blessing in your garden of love. Amen.



*\*Closing Music*

EASTER

312

# Christ Is Alive!

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the  
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the  
this and ev - ery age; till earth and sky and

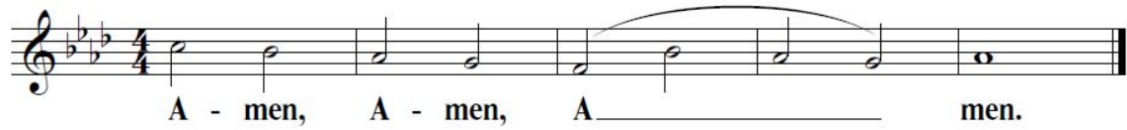
prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.  
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.  
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

WORDS: Brian Wren (1936- )  
MUSIC: Thomas Williams' *Psalmody Evangelica*, 1789  
Words © 1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO  
L.M.

*\*Benediction*

*\*Threefold Amen*



*\*Postlude Music*



*Today, We Pray for...*

**Dorothy Bridgeforth, June Mitchell, Bill Malina, Jody & Larry Cox,  
Rebecca Catlin, Jim & Judy Korte, and Logan & Zoey Vallee**

**Columbia St. Paul UCC (Rev. Jonathan Bangera), Pastor of Visitation & Youth (Julie Kies), and  
New Baden Zion UCC (Rev. Stephen Stark)**

*Announcements...*

- **Thank you to our Yard Sale volunteers!**
- **Community Dinner volunteers needed!**
- **Kindercottage Trivia Night reminder. Details on bulletin board near Fellowship Hall.**

*Upcoming Events...*

- May 8<sup>th</sup> - Community Dinner @ 5pm
- May 16<sup>th</sup> - ONA Mtg @ 6:30pm
- May 18<sup>th</sup> – Kindercottage Trivia Night @ St. Paul UCC in Belleville, 6pm – 10pm
- May 19<sup>th</sup> - Confirmation @ 10:30am service
- May 20<sup>th</sup> - Council @ 7pm
- May 22<sup>nd</sup> - BCE Mtg @ 7pm
- May 27<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day; Office Closed

*May 5<sup>th</sup> Service Volunteers*

- Liturgists: Julie Edwards & Bev Adams
- Techs: Vicki Walthes & Scott Billhartz
- Acolytes: Lucy Mottola & Adrian Grathwohl



Scan the QR Code with your phone to be taken to Vanco for online giving options.

**Service Credits**

**Prayer of Confession** - Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012, © 2011 Abingdon Press. Posted on the Worship Elements page of the Ministry Matters website.

**Opening Prayer** - Brief Prayers for Busy People. Bruce D Prewer, ISBN 978-1-62880-090-6, Australian Church Resources, [bruceprewer.com/DocB/BEASTER5.htm](http://bruceprewer.com/DocB/BEASTER5.htm)

**Call to Worship** - posted on the Presbyterian Church USA website. [https://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/peacemaking/pdf/mlk-resources.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/peacemaking/pdf/mlk-resources.pdf)

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**Zion United Church of Christ**

**414 W. Hanover St, New Baden, IL 62265; (618) 588-4135**

**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**