

John 20:1-18 NLT

Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed— for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead. Then they went home. Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her. "Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him." She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?" She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him." "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher"). "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message.

WELCOME TO ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH

United Church of Christ

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Good Morning! Happy Easter!

Welcome to Zion's Reformed Church. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!

Ushers this month are Dan Douthett, Vanessa Saylor, Liam Adams and Ann Fowler.

Serving Communion are Chris Stockner, Teri Swartzbeck, Bill Henry, Karen Galus, Sandy Harter and Vikki Young.

The lilies in the sanctuary are donated by friends and members of the congregation and listed on the insert.

There is no Church Happening today. Children are invited to stay for the entire service.

There is no coffee hour today.

Large Print Bulletins, seat cushions and copies of the sermon are available in the back of the sanctuary. Coloring books and crayons are available for children.

Acts 10:34-43 NLT

Then Peter replied, "I see very clearly that God shows no favoritism. In every nation he accepts those who fear him and do what is right. This is the message of Good News for the people of Israel—that there is peace with God through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee, after John began preaching his message of baptism. And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. "And we apostles are witnesses of all he did throughout Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a cross, but God raised him to life on the third day. Then God allowed him to appear, not to the general public, but to us whom God had chosen in advance to be his witnesses. We were those who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. And he ordered us to preach everywhere and to testify that Jesus is the one appointed by God to be the judge of all—the living and the dead. He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in him will have their sins forgiven through his name."

ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Rev. Glenn Sadler

Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries

*Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able.

March 31, 2024 EASTER SUNDAY 10:30
 HOLY COMMUNION

*Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are celebrated
so the present can be lived abundantly.*

Meditation: "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance." -John 20:1

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Gianna Tofani, Lector

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for worship as we are gathered in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE ENTRANCE OF LIGHT Kaleb Deeter, Acolyte

THE PRELUDE "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" Jeff Bennett

CHORAL INTROIT "Christ is Risen, Sing Alleluia!" Joel Raney

Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us drink wine together on our knees;

Let us drink wine together on our knees:

Refrain.....

Let us praise God together on our knees;

Let us praise God together on our knees:

*UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious and Loving God, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ in our midst. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, to serve your people, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 245 "The Day of Resurrection"

*THE BENEDICTION

*TAKING CHRIST'S LIGHT OUT INTO THE WORLD

*THE POSTLUDE "Hallelujah" G. F. Handel

*A LITANY OF EASTER JOY

Gianna Tofani

Leader: God shows his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us.

People: **Since, therefore we are now justified by His blood....how much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.**

Leader: For if we have been united with Christ in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with Christ in a resurrection like this.

People: **The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.**

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*OPENING HYMN NO. 233 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of transformation, where we have been fearful and doubting, bring new life. Where we have been unforgiving, bring new life. Where we have hardened our hearts against another, bring new life. Where we have sown discord and hurt others, bring new life. Where we have been greedy or selfish, bring new life. Where we have been misguided and confused, bring new life. O Lord, forgive our many sins and bring new life to your people. May our lives truly proclaim Jesus a Savior, the one who sets us free to live forever. Amen.

*A MOMENT OF SILENT CONFESSION AND PRAYER

*THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS AND LOVE

~before you sit down, please greet someone near you~

WORD FOR THE FAMILY

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND 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.

CHOIR ANTHEM "Rejoice, Sing an Alleluia!" J. M. Martin
Ruth Herrick, Soprano Obligato

SCRIPTURE LESSON Acts 10: 34-43 NLT (page 7)
John 20: 1-18 NLT (back of bulletin)

SERMON "Alive!"

OUR OFFERING TO GOD

Offertory "Easter Fanfares" Robert Lau
*The Doxology #780
*The Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN NO. 242 "The Strife is O'er"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

(please remain seated during the sharing of the bread and cup)
During the distribution of the cup, we will sing:

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let us break bread together on our knees;

Let us break bread together on our knees: (con't)