

St. Paul United Church of Christ

OAK HARBOR, OHIO

April 4, 2021

The Celebration of Easter

8 & 10:15 am

Rev. Dan Sather, Interim Pastor

Rev. Scott Cunningham, Associate Pastor

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

PRELUDE Bonnie Daniels (Piano) & Sue Tomor (Organ)

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY FOR WORSHIP

*GATHERING WORDS:

One: This day is like every other day.

All: Alarm clocks beeped. Covers were removed. Coffee was brewed. Weary bodies came to life.

One: And yet this day, is like no other day—

All: For the sun rose, and we knew it was a miracle. The tomb was empty, and they knew it was love.

One: So again, and again we say—

All: The longest night is over. Death has lost its sting. Jesus is among us. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

One: Again, and again the Son rises! Again, and again, we rejoice!

All: Alleluia! Christ is Risen, indeed! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" No. 367

*INVITATION TO CONFESS OUR SINS

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Almighty and eternal God, we thank you that you have not left us alone in our sin and despair. Loving us, you have brought us good news and set before us the way of life. Yet we confess that we have failed to see the way. In stubborn pride we have spurned your mercy and your help. In selfishness we have turned away from those who need us. We have allowed ourselves to be crushed by troubles, as though Christ had not been raised at all. Forgive our faithlessness, and grant that we may know new life and hope, in the spirit of the resurrection. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*PRAISE RESPONSE "Gloria Patri"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

SHARING OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS – MORNING PRAYERS

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Jesus Shall Reign" (verse 4) No. 375

Let every creature rise and bring his grateful honors to our King. Angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud 'Amen.'

HEARING AND SHARING GOD'S WORD

ANTHEM: (*10:15 a.m.*)

SCRIPTURE: Mark 16:1-8 (10:15 a.m.)

SERMON: "Again & Again, the Sun Rises"

HYMN: (*see insert*) "Come, ye Faithful Raise the Strain"

See insert for "The Service of Holy Communion" (10:15am)

See insert for "The Service of Release" (10:15am)

SENDING FORTH TO PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

*PARTING SONG: (*see insert*) "In the Bulb There is a Flower"

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*unison*)

Holy God, you shower us with gifts so abundant, we cannot measure them all. You give us life itself and the power to befriend our companions in this world. Bless the gifts we bring to a world in need of the good news of Easter morning. This we pray in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier one God, now and forever. Amen.

*BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE Bonnie Daniels (Piano) & Sue Tomor (Organ)

(During the Postlude, please remain seated until you are dismissed by an usher. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.)

**Indicates that worshippers are invited to stand, if able*

367 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Matthew 28:6

Chords: C, G/B, C, F/A, F, E/C, C, C^{sus}, D, Dm7, G7, D, C, F/A, C/G, G, G7, C

1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King. Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done. Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led. Al - le - lu - ia!

Chords: F/A, C, F, E/C, Dm7, G7, D, C, C/G, G, C^{sus}, D, Dm7, G7, D, C, F/A, C/G, G, G7, C

Sons of men and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head. Al - le - lu - ia!

Chords: G, Am7, Am6, G/B, G, F, C/E, Dm7, Dm6, C, G, G^{sus}, A, B, D^{7sus}, D7, G, C, E, D, D7, G

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, He all doth save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Him rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Him, like Him we rise. Al - le - lu - ia!

Chords: G, F, C, C, E/A, F, E/C, C, G7, C, F, D, E, F, G, G, G7, C

Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al - le - lu - ia!

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13 TEXT: Charles Wesley
 MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; Last stanza setting and Choral ending by Don Hart
 14
 15
 16 BASTER HYMN
 7.7.7.7. with Alleluias

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SERVICE OF RELEASE, 10:15am

GREETING:

Our church family is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, moving away to new places, new experiences, and new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of ending and beginnings. Today we share the time of farewell with our interim pastor who will leave us, and in time, will begin a new ministry within the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ.

ENDING AN AUTHORIZED MINISTRY:

Leader: In January of 2020, this local congregation invited Rev. Daniel Sather to serve as our interim pastor.
 Dan: I thank St. Paul, its members... I carry with me all that I have learned here.
 People:
We receive your thankfulness, offer forgiveness, and accept that you now leave to minister elsewhere. We express our gratitude for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and your faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.
 Dan: I forgive you and accept your gratitude, trusting that our time together and our parting are pleasing to God.

VOWS OF RELEASE:

Leader: Do you, the members, and friends of St. Paul UCC release Daniel Sather from the duties of our intentional interim?
People: We do, with the help of God.
 Leader: Do you offer your encouragement for his continued ministry wherever the Holy Spirit leads him and where he can continue to use his gifts for ministry?
People: We do with the help of God.

Leader: Do you, Daniel Sather, release this local church from turning to you and depending on you?

Dan: I do, with the help of God.

Leader: Do you offer your encouragement for his ministry as it unfolds in new ways?

Dan: I do, with the help of God.

Leader: As a witness to the ending of Pastor Dan's ministry, I would invite the Council to come forward.

Keith Green: On behalf of the congregation, we are grateful for the guidance and leadership of Rev. Daniel Sather over these 16 months. As your ministry comes to its end, we offer you our prayers, our blessings, and our gratitude and wish you many more years of joy and appreciation for the work you have done for St. Paul United Church of Christ.

Church Council: *We are grateful for the ministry of Pastor Daniel Sather, for the Northwest Ohio Association of which we are a part and for the support of staff and leaders of the Heartland Conference. Thanks be to God who gives us the courage, the strength, and the imagination to be the congregation we are called to be.*

Dan: Jesus said to Peter, *'upon this Rock I will build my church'* and he blessed him with the Holy Spirit. For a short time, I have served as your pastor, shepherd, and friend. As I have willingly and joyfully served this congregation, it is with deep honor and humble gratitude that I return my keys to the officers of the church. Although my work is done, the work of this congregation is far from finished and in time, these keys will once again be entrusted to another pastor and servant leader who will lead you into a new future and carry on the work we've begun together.

PRAYER: *(unison)*

God, whose everlasting love for all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time we were together in your name saw our laughter and tears, our hopes, and disappointments. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move us in new directions, until that time when we are completely one with you and with each other. This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION (10:15am)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

L: God be with you.

P: And also, with you.

L: Lift your hearts.

P: We lift them to God.

L: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

L: We give you thanks...we praise you with joy. Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAKING THE BREAD & POURING THE CUP

THE LORD'S PRAYER

SHARING THE GIFTS

PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL *(Unison)*

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

The Easter lilies gracing the altar
and chancel are dedicated to the
Glory of God and placed...

In loving memory of Eugene Banky –
from Barbara Banky, Tammy Meek & Family and Todd Banky & Family

In memory of my husband, Bill – Beverly Beck

In loving memory of Lois Rae & Scott Harder – Victor Harder

In memory of family members who are no longer with us – Marsha Hill

In loving memory of Vernon, Edythe, and Robert Hemminger, Sharon and Bob
Boldt and Paul Krauss – from the girls and families

He is Risen! Alleluia! - Kimm and Larry Krehmke

In loving memory of Paul and Marion Laderach. We love you and miss you.
- Dale & Laura

In memory of John & Ada Peters – Dennis & Patricia Peters

In memory of all who have gone before us with love and respect
– Sandy Shearon

In memory of my parents, Doris and Roland Josephson – Becky Tong

In honor of our granddaughter Sophia Zunk's confirmation and first
communion. We pray that this beginning of her lifelong walk with God,
guides her throughout her life and continues to grow stronger – Patrick &
Kathleen Winters

Jesus Shall Reign 375

He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. Psalm 72:8

The musical score is written in 2/2 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -
2. To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less
3. Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue Dwell on His
4. Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring His grate - ful

ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom spread from
prais - es crown His head. His name like sweet per -
love with sweet - est song, And in - fant voic - es
hon - ors to our King; An - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, Till moons shall wax and wane no more.
fume shall rise With ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.
songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud "A - men!"

The score includes 16 measures of music, with measure numbers 1 through 16 indicated below the piano line.

TEXT: Isaac Watts; based on Psalm 72
MUSIC: John Hatton

DUKE STREET
L.M.

169

His Resurrection

JOHN OF DAMASCUS, 8th century
Tr. JOHN MASON NEALE, 1859

7. 6. 7. 6. D.

ST. KEVIN
ARTHUR SULLIVAN, 1872*Jubilantly*

1. Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
2. 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ hath burst His pris - on,

God hath brought His peo - ple forth In - to joy from sad - ness,
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath ris - en;

Now re - joice, Je - ru - sa - lem, And with true af - fec - tion
All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing

Wel - come in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
From His light, to whom we give Laud and praise un - dy - ing. A - MEN.

433

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
Natalie Sleeth, 1985

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