

BREATHE IN  
PEACE  
BREATHE OUT  
LOVE



*Trinity United Church of Christ*

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**Trinity United Church of Christ**

**April 7, 2024**

**8AM and 10:30AM Worship**

*Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!*

*If this is your first time with us, or if you have come to this sacred space your entire life, we are glad to be on this journey of faith with you. To enhance your worship experience, we have large print bulletins and hearing support devices available.*

*Please ask an usher or greeter for assistance.*

*Enter to worship today but stick around to see what God is doing in this place!*

*Congregational responses in **bold print**. \* Denotes standing as you are able.*

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**WELCOME/TIME OF SHARING**

No matter who you are or where you are in life's journey,  
You are welcome here!

**PRELUDE – “Here I Am to Worship” - Keveren**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

As we join in worship this day, we might feel  
like the disciples, overwhelmed by grief.

After all, the state of the world is so uncertain now.

**But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, “Peace be with you.”**

We might feel like Thomas, looking for physical signs that the unbelievable could be true.

After all, nothing like this has ever happened before.

**But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, “Here are the marks on my body.”**

Can we really believe that Jesus is here again?

**Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on us. Christ's peace is with us.**

**We don't need to be afraid.**

Our resurrected Christ calls us to worship, and we receive the peace of Christ.

**Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!**

**\*HYMN #240 “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**Resurrected Christ, you have taught us how the unbelievable can be possible.  
When there is so much to fear in the world, we can find peace in your presence.  
As we worship, breathe your Spirit on us, that we may carry it with us.  
Help us comfort our neighbors. Help us serve a world of need.  
We pray this with thanksgiving for your work among us. Amen.**

**\*SUNG RESPONSE #237 "I Come to the Garden Alone"**

*I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses;  
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,  
The Son of God discloses.  
And he walks with me, and he talks with me,  
And he tells me I am his own,  
And the joy we share as we tarry there, none other has ever known.*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

(Psalm 51:10-12)

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with a willing spirit. Amen.**

**SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**ANTHEM**

**"I Will Arise and Go to Jesus"**

*A. C. Lovelace*

**Senior Choir**

**A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART**

## SCRIPTURES

### Psalm 133

<sup>1</sup>How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

<sup>2</sup>It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

<sup>3</sup>It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

### John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with

them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

<sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## SERMON

*"The Breath of Peace!"*

**HYMN #237 "I Come to the Garden Alone"**

(Remain Seated)

## PRAYER/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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power and the Glory, forever. Amen.**

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH #887 *A New Creed***

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus,**

**crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

**\*CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS**

**Jesus has empowered us with the Holy Spirit.**

**We have life because of his presence with us.**

**Let us join in God's abundance,  
giving what we can to offer peace to a hurting world.**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #236 "Halleluja" (2X's)**

***Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle, halleluja.***

***Halle, halle, halleluja. Halleluja, halleluja.***

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**God of the Resurrection, help us use these gifts to  
offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where  
there is chaos and love where there is fear.**

**We can do incredible things because your  
Spirit lives within us. Amen**

**\*HYMN #253 “Yours is The Glory”**

**\*FINAL BLESSING**

**Beloved, go in peace, and go be peace!  
Receive the Holy Spirit deep in your being,  
and share your new life in Christ with the world! Amen!**

**\*POSTLUDE**

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**Today’s Worship Elements have been adapted from the following resource:**

*The New Century Hymnal.* The Pilgrim Press. Cleveland. 1995.

**Peace Be With You: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter** were written by Rev. Jacob Nault, Pastor of Union-Congregational Church in Waupun, WI. He also works alongside the UCC’s Disabilities Ministries Board to provide music, liturgy, and other resources on issues of disability justice.

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**Today’s Worship Participants**

|  |         |                       |
|--|---------|-----------------------|
| Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young  |         | Pastor                |
| Jim Orner  | 8:00am  | Lay Liturgists        |
| Scot Wehler  | 10:30am |                       |
| Sara Shank   |         | Organist              |
| John McKay   |         | Senior Choir Director |
| Mark Luckenbaugh   | 8:00am  | Percussion            |
| Jane Malone  | 8:00am  | Ushers                |
| Roberta Weiant, Jane Malone  | 10:30am |                       |
| M. Jane Alleman, Janet Sheely  | 10:30am | Greeters              |
| Buck Harvey  | 10:30am | Acolyte               |
| Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes, Russell Bailey,                                 |         | Tech Team             |
| Russell Bailey, Carl Barrick, Stacey Rushwald, George Steckert, Garrison Redding, Terry Krietz |         |                       |

## Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

St. 1 transl., *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708

St. 2–5 transl., *The New Century Hymnal*, 1994

1. Je-sus Christ is risen to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Our tri-um-phant ho-ly day, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Who did once up-on the cross, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Suf-fer to re-deem our loss, Al-le-lu-ia!
  
2. To the tomb the wom-en bring, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Spic-es rich, an of-fer-ing, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Ask-ing where might Je-sus be, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Sav-ior come to set us free, Al-le-lu-ia!
  
3. There the an-gel clothed in white, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Tells the news with great de-light, Al-le-lu-ia!  
This the news the an-gel gives, Al-le-lu-ia!  
That the Sov-ereign glo-rious lives, Al-le-lu-ia!
  
4. “Has-ten now to Gal-i-lee,” Al-le-lu-ia!  
“Tell the oth-ers what you see!” Al-le-lu-ia!  
With ex-cite-ment trem-bling, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Off they run, good news to bring, Al-le-lu-ia!
  
5. Christ ap-pears in full ar-ray, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Sing with joy this Pas-chal day, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Christ now from the dead is raised, Al-le-lu-ia!  
Ho-ly Trin-i-ty be praised, Al-le-lu-ia!

Matt. 28:1–10; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–10

C. Austin Miles, 1912

1. I come to the gar-den a-lone,  
while the dew is still on the ros-es;  
And the voice I hear, fall-ing on my ear,  
the Son of God dis-clos-es.

*Refrain:*

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,  
and he tells me I am his own,  
And the joy we share as we tar-ry there,  
none oth-er has ev-er known.

2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice  
is so sweet the birds hush their sing-ing;  
And the mel-o-dy that he gave to me  
with-in my heart is ring-ing.

*Refrain:*

3. I'd stay in the gar-den with him,  
though the night a-round me be fall-ing;  
But he bids me go; through the voice of woe  
his voice to me is call-ing.

*Refrain:*

John 20:14–18

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A toi la gloire, ô Ressuscité!  
 (Yours is the Glory, Resurrected One!)

Edmond L. Budry, 1904  
 Transl. *The New Century Hymnal*, 1993

1. A toi la gloi-re, ô Res-sus-ci-té!  
 A toi la vic-toi-re, pour l'é-ter-ni-té!  
 Bril-lant de lu-mière, l'ange est de-scen-du,  
 il rou-le la pier-re du tom-beau vain-cu.  
 A toi la gloi-re, ô Res-sus-ci-té!  
 A toi la vic-toi-re, pour l'é-ter-ni-té!
  
1. Yours is the glo-ry, Res-ur-rect-ed One!  
 End-less is the vic-tory you o'er death have won.  
 An-gels clothed in ra-diance rolled the stone a-way;  
 con-quer-ed is the grave in which your bod-y lay.  
 Yours is the glo-ry, Res-ur-rect-ed One!  
 End-less is the vic-tory you o'er death have won.
  
2. See, it is Je-sus, Je-sus has ap-peared;  
 do not doubt at all for noth-ing you will fear.  
 Let the church with glad-ness hymns of tri-umph sing;  
 tell it with-out ceas-ing: Death has lost its sting.  
 Yours is the glo-ry, Res-ur-rect-ed One!  
 End-less is the vic-tory you o'er death have won.
  
3. Am I still fright-ened? One whom I a-dore,  
 Je-sus, lives a-gain, gives peace for-ev-er-more.  
 Je-sus is my vic-tory, life and strength and Head;  
 Je-sus is my glo-ry, noth-ing shall I dread.  
 Yours is the glo-ry, Res-ur-rect-ed One!  
 End-less is the vic-tory you o'er death have won.

Matt. 28:1–10; John 20:19–29; 1 Cor. 15:54–55

Trinity United Church of Christ  
Gettysburg, PA

April 7, 2024  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter



Sermon

Psalm 133  
John 20:19-31

Rev. Dr. Frederick A. Young

Pastor

Last Sunday, the empty tomb cast light on the most joyous celebration in the Christian year. What a tough act to follow! What can possibly be said in response to the text our entire faith is based upon; “Because He lives, we live also!” Psalm 133 and John’s Gospel both offer a path forward from the garden. Jesus’ resurrection leads to a rising for our entire Christian community. *We need to live together in unity!* Such unity is the very air we breathe.

I am reminded of an inside joke that our Tech Team Leader, Georgia Hollabaugh and I share. When things go wrong with our technology on Sunday morning, I like to say to her, “*Just breathe!*” Occasionally, if I am extremely stressed for any reason, Georgia will return the advice, and calmly tell me, “*Just breathe!*”

Night has fallen and despite Mary Magdalin’s testimony, the disciples are still huddled together in fear. Awe and wonder can often be frightening. In their uncertainty, Jesus appears to them offering peace and reminds them to breathe as

he breathes the Holy Spirit over the gathered telling them to take it in... to breathe in and join God in creating a new world filled with resurrection hope.

Today's reading from the fourth Gospel is John's version of the Pentecost story. Theologian, Bruce Epperly claims the peace Christ conveyed to the disciples is life altering:

*Peace is the recognition that God is with us in all seasons of life and will provide a way to the future when we see no way ahead. Peace widens our perspective and takes us beyond self-preservation and fear to compassion for others and love.*

In that secluded upper room, Jesus gave his frightened friends more than one gift. He supplied them with the peace of understanding and the breath that supports such knowledge. Peace is just a moment away and our inhaling and exhaling can be in sync with the breath of God energizing and guiding us. You have heard me say on numerous occasions that we are created from star dust. Elements that linger in the air and soil and recycle in our birth. I would like to think the same is true for the breath of Divinity. Perhaps the air we breathe contains lingering elements of the breath of Jesus.

## **May we share this Breath and Peace with each other... (Sharing the Peace)**

If we are breathing in Christ today, then why is it so hard to live peacefully? We are breathing in the same Spirit Jesus shared with his earliest followers. We continue to be given the same Divine gifts of peace and understanding. The ancient psalmist, generations before Christ's birth, reminded the Israelites of God's gifts of anointing and the morning dew. Oil poured out onto someone was a sign of blessing and hospitality. Such oil was often strongly perfumed signaling to anyone within smelling that an extravagant moment of blessing was taking place. God chose this anointing to be the sign that the prophets would perform to designate God's chosen one, the king of Israel. Likewise, dew was associated with blessing and restoration. It was something God gave in the mysterious early morning hours before sunrise, like manna in the wilderness.

Living the way Jesus and the early disciples lived was a radical witness and challenge to the social mores of the day. Worldly possessions only got in the way of sharing God's love. "Things" were for merely meeting needs and need trumped greed. Thousands of years later, we struggle to share this hospitality,

peace and light with each other. When will this new brave world come into being?

How do we live in the unity Psalm 133 depicts, the peace Christ offers?

Let's go to the legacy of the United Church of Christ found earlier in the Gospel of John; *"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, <sup>21</sup>that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me."* I have spent my entire ministry seeking this key, *"That They May All be One"*. Even our beloved United Church of Christ is built upon the concept that we can agree to disagree, yet remain in covenant with one another.

Thomas is not the focus for me this time around. Yes, we all know his doubts, but when he saw Christ, he fully believed. It is legend that Thomas went to India to spread the Good News. But, no let's not concentrate on Thomas. Instead, may our focus highlight that questioning is essential to our faith. Jesus gives us breathing space in times of anger, questioning, and doubt. What do we

do when we wake up, and the ground is without dew? We breathe deeply, knowing that it will return when needed.

Although none of you would want me to perform CPR on you if your life depended on it, I was once certified in both CPR and the AED. Trust me, just let me stand on the sideline and pray, instead. But every Easter I think about the steps for saving a life when the stone is rolled away from the tomb. When training, instructors may tell their students to sing the famous Bee Gee's song, "*Staying Alive!*" because it has the proper beats to do chest compressions. You are all singing it in your head, now, so we might as well join together...

*Ah, ah, ah, ah, stayin' alive, stayin' alive*  
*Ah, ah, ah, ah, stayin' alive!*

Was Jesus brought back to life, or did he simply move on to life's next phase? Jesus, like us, is simply staying alive! Breathe on us breath of God, fill us with life anew! Today, through our worship, singing, praying and listening, may we discover that Easter means our worst moments and our worst days do not

define us. With every breath we have an opportunity to experience a resurrection of new life. May we inhale such peace and exhale such love. Amen.