

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF TREMONT

March 31st, 2024

Easter Sunday/ **Resurrection Sunday**

A Service of the Word



Easter Sunday Art

Tomb Buster

Stushie Art Church bulletin covers and other art by artist Stushie.

Unique crayon and digital worship art

(A Scottish pastor ministering in East Tennessee)

<https://stushieart.com/2023-2024>



March 31st, 2024
Easter Sunday/ Resurrection Sunday
A Service of the Word

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

“For I remember it is Easter morn, and life, love and peace are all new born.”
- Alice Freeman Palmer (1855-1902)-

Prelude – Adam Petrosino

***Call to Worship**

One: We gather in the presence of God’s love to celebrate the best love story ever told.

All: The Holy Story of the Risen Christ!

One: A story of the Risen Christ who came as a sacrificial lamb to heal a hurting world.

All: The Divine sign of God’s love and grace.

One: The story of three women who rose early to care for Jesus’ body in the tomb.

All: An act to honor God’s loving presence sent to be among us.

One: These women arrived and saw an empty tomb; they were shocked and afraid.

All: They remembered the symbol of human shame of the old rugged cross.

One: But the story did not end with the crucified Jesus. An Angel of God appeared in the empty tomb,
and their terror transformed into amazement.

All: God’s love had once again been revealed.

One: The journey of the three women continued; they were asked to go out and spread the Good
News of God’s love, peace, and justice found in the Risen Christ!

All: Today, we receive this Good News; Christ is Risen. He is Risen as He said!

***Gathering Prayer**

**Resurrecting God,
Strengthen in us
the will to go out,
sharing your Good News
of God’s redeeming love.
Guide us in telling**

the story of your endless love
through our words and deeds.
Remind us of your presence.
Fill our hearts
with your ways of love
that bring about peace
and justice for all.
With your loving embrace,
protect us in the face of terror
and hateful actions.
Bring us your hope
found in the excitement
of eternal life and saving love
exemplified in Jesus,
the Risen Christ!
Amen.

*Gathering Hymn: NCH 233 - "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

CANDLE LITURGY

Easter Sunday

Proclamation

(All candles are lit)

All: Alleluia, Christ is risen; Christ is risen indeed!

A Reading of the Word

First Reading: Isaiah 25: 6-9

This reading from Hebrew Scripture tells of the prophet Isaiah's vision of the great heavenly banquet table, where all people will gather for a feast with rich foods and well-aged wines. On that day, death will be swallowed up forever, and there will be no more grief and sorrow, for God is their salvation.

25 6 On this mountain,
YHWH Omnipotent will prepare for all peoples
a banquet of rich food,
a banquet of fine wines,
food rich and succulent,
and fine, aged wines.

7 On this mountain God will remove
the mourning veil covering all peoples,

the shroud covering all nations,
8 destroying all death forever. God will wipe away
the tears from every cheek,
and will take away the shame
of God's people on earth, wherever they live.
YHWH has spoken.

9 On that Day it will be said,
"This is our God,
this is the One for whose liberation we waited,
YHWH is the One in whom we had hoped!
We rejoice exultantly in our deliverance,

Psalm Response: Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

As with Palm Sunday, the psalm reading is from Psalm 118, overlapping a bit with last week's reading with verses 1-2 and 14-24. This different selection covers how God is the people's salvation, and the psalmist's declaration that they shall not die but live. Though the people have suffered punishment, they have survived because of God. The gates of the temple, the gates of righteousness are opened, and the people who were rejected by the world are the foundation of God's covenant. God is the people's salvation, and they will rejoice.

118 1 I thank you, God, for your goodness!
Your love is everlasting!

2 Let Israel say it:
"Your love is everlasting!"

14 God is my strength and my song;
God has become my salvation!

15 Raise shouts of joy and victory
in the tents of the upright:
God's right hand is doing mighty acts!

16 God's right hand is winning;
God's right hand is doing mighty acts!

17 No, I will not die—
I will live to proclaim the deeds of God;

18 though God has disciplined me often,
I am not abandoned to Death.

19 open the gates of justice for me,
let me come in and thank you, God!

20 This is the gate of God,
and only the upright can enter!

21 thank you for hearing me,
for saving me.

22 it was the stone which the builders rejected
that became the keystone;

**23 this is God's doing,
and it is wonderful to see.**

**24 This is the day God has made—
let us celebrate with joy!**

Second Reading : Acts 10: 34-43

This selection from Acts 10 contains Peter's bold revelation from both a vision he beheld from God earlier in chapter 10, vs. 9-16, and in his encounter with the Roman centurion Cornelius in vs. 17-33. In the vision, God gave Peter food to eat that was both from clean and unclean animals, with the lesson that whatever God declared holy, others must not call profane. In Peter's conversation with Cornelius, a Gentile, Peter understood that Cornelius's own encounter with the Holy Spirit was valid and true. There was no need for Cornelius to become Jewish, he knew God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. God shows no partiality between Jewish and Gentile, for Jesus is Lord of all. Peter and the other disciples were witnesses of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, and called to testify in his name. Peter confirmed that everyone who believes in Jesus may be forgiven of their sins through Christ's name.

10 34 So Peter said to them, "I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality—
35 rather, that any person of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. 36 This is the message God has sent to the people of Israel, the Good News of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ, who is Savior of all.

37 "You yourselves know what took place throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee with the baptism John proclaimed. 38 You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how Jesus went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the Devil, because God was with him. 39 We are eyewitnesses to all that Jesus did in the countryside and in Jerusalem. Finally, Jesus was killed and hung on a tree, 40 only to be raised by God on the third day. God allowed him to be seen, 41 not by everyone, but only by the witnesses who had been chosen beforehand by God—that is, by us, who ate and drank with Christ after the resurrection from the dead. 42 And Christ commissioned us to preach to the people and to bear witness that this is the one set apart by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 To Christ Jesus all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes has forgiveness of sins through this Name."

***Gospel Reading: Mark 16: 1-8**

Mark's account of the resurrection, according to scholars, is the earliest, and it's also the shortest. Because it is so brief, and ends with no sighting of Jesus, there are later additional endings in most of our Bibles. In Mark's account, the sun had already risen but it was early, and Mary Magdalene and another Mary went to the tomb, wondering who might be up to roll the stone back from the tomb so they could anoint Jesus' body. However, when they arrived, they found the stone had already been

rolled back. They entered the tomb and discovered a young person dressed in white, who told them, "Do not be amazed." Jesus wasn't there; he had been raised. The two women were told to go and tell the disciples and Peter that Jesus would go ahead of them to Galilee, but they fled from the tomb and said nothing to anyone out of fear. The rest of the story is left to us, to know that at some point, their fear left them, and they did go and tell the others. We might ask ourselves the question—are we acting out of fear, or out of hope? If we are afraid, when will we overcome our fear—or when will we act despite our fear?

16 1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought perfumed oils so that they could anoint Jesus. 2 Very early, just after sunrise on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.

3 They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" 4 When they looked, they found that the huge stone had been rolled back.

5 On entering the tomb, they saw a young person sitting at the right, dressed in a white robe. They were very frightened, 6 but the youth reassured them: "Do not be amazed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the One who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 Now go and tell the disciples and Peter, 'Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee, where you will see him just as he told you.'"

8 They made their way out and fled from the tomb bewildered and trembling; but they said nothing to anyone, because they were so afraid.

Choir Hymn: NCH 238 - "Now the Green Blade Rises"

Author: John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.
Tune: NOËL NOUVELET
Harmonizer: Martin F. Shaw
Source: French noel, 15th century
© 1928 Oxford University Press
Choir: Bob Bucklew, Keith Konet, & Barbara Rossington
Accompanist: Adam Petrosino

Reflection – "Taking Easter Slowly" - Rev. Scott Rosenstein

WE RESPOND

*** Prayer of Response**

**Loving Savior,
we give you
all praise and honor and glory.
We remember today
that every day is an Easter day.
Every day is a Resurrection day.
Every day is a day**

of new life and new hope.
Help us to live
as resurrected people.
Help us to let go of fear,
and to live into your love.
We give you
all thanks and praise.
Amen.

***Hymn of Response: NCH 245 - "The Day of Resurrection"**

Invitation to Share Our Tithes and Offerings

One: Loving God, the abundance of your generosity is exemplified in the dawning of the sun.

All: Thank you for the joy and hope of new mercies found in the morning sun.

One: Even in moments when we are showered by the rain, remind us that your love never fails.

All: Rain down your abundant love and redeeming grace upon us.

One: Let us give our offerings with generosity and joy

All: to the One who has faithfully and generously given to us love, grace, and mercy.

The Offertory – *Adam Petrosino*

***Presentation of Offerings – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, you heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Blessing of the Gifts**

Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. 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.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*using "debts" and "debtors"*)

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.

GOING FORTH

***Parting Hymn: NCH 253 - "Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One"**

***Commissioning**

One: On this morning, we welcome God's good news for our lives,
All: and go out to share it with everyone we meet.

One: Tomorrow morning, we will go with Jesus to serve the world,
All: to bring healing to those who are broken, hope for those who are despairing.

One: On every morning to come, we will join the Spirit in living the gospel,
**ALL: to welcome all who have been abandoned by others,
to speak out for all whose voices are silenced by fears.**

***Benediction**

Loving and Gracious God, we are grateful for your Good News of loving abundance for all creation. Now, let us go out like the women who experienced an empty tomb. Going out with Christ's light shining deeply in our hearts. Living aloud the words of the classic hymn:

"Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
All through the night, I'm gonna let it shine.
Won't let anyone blow it out, I'm gonna let it shine.
Even when terror and doubt appear,
I'm gonna let it shine. Let it shine. Let it shine!"

Go in Peace and Love. Let the people of God say: Amen.

Postlude - *Adam Petrosino* (please be seated for the Postlude)

* * * * *

Credits

- (1) The Call to Worship, Gathering Prayer, Invitation to Share our Tithes and Offerings, Blessing of the Gifts, and the Benediction are adapted from *Terror and Amazement: Service Prayers for Resurrection Sunday Year B*, written by The Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey, Pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ. Permission given to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All rights reserved.
- (2) The Lenten Candle Liturgy is adapted from *Lenten Candle Liturgy Easter Sunday*, posted May 27, 2015, on the blog *Process & Faith*. <https://processandfaith.org/lenten-candle-liturgy>
- (3) The Prayer of Response is adapted from *Worship Resources for March 31st 2024, Easter Sunday*, written by the Rev Mindi Welton-Thomas, and posted March 21st, 2024, on her blog, *Rev-o-lution*. <http://rev-o-lution.org/>.
- (4) The Commissioning is adapted from *Liturgy and Communion for March 31st, 2024, Day of Resurrection-B*, written by Thom M. Shuman, and posted March 24th, 2024, on the blog, *Lectionary Liturgies*. [http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion Sunday](http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/palm/passion%20Sunday).
- (6) Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from ONE License #A-736636. All rights reserved

Ministers, All of Us
Scott Rosenstein, Pastor
Adam Petrosino, Music Director and Pianist
Keith Konet, Council President
Beverly Wurm, Administrative Assistant



NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

God is Still Speaking...

No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you will find a spiritual home in this United Church of Christ congregation. WELCOME!

Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont is committed to reaching out to all people with the saving "Good News" of God's Love. To do this, we strive to attain a covenant relationship with people of all races, colors, ethnic origins, ages, sexual orientations and gender identity. We are also committed to grace-filled inclusivity in our worship, programs, membership, mission and social activities. We very strongly believe in outreach and community involvement, as well as ecumenical spiritual involvement within the surrounding community. We are committed to listening to history while joining with the future.

Tithes and Offerings - Checks and Money Orders can be made payable to: "Zion United Church of Christ" and placed in the offering basket or mailed to:

**Zion United Church of Christ
c/o Keith Konet
1039 Bridlewood Drive
Copley, OH 44321**

Questions: Contact Keith Konet at 330.604.6939

Adam D. Petrosino, Our Music Director/Pianist

We are so pleased to welcome Adam, and his partner, Kiel, to our community of faith here at Zion United Church of Christ of Tremont. We're grateful to you sharing your presence, faith, and your musical gifts with us. Adam can be reached by e-mail at A.D.Petrosino@gmail.com and by phone at 234-205-9397.

Administrative Assistant, Beverly Wurm

Beverly is keeping some limited Office Hours at church (2700 W. 14th)/home. The days and hours are:

Winter Schedule:

Tuesday– 9am – 1pm

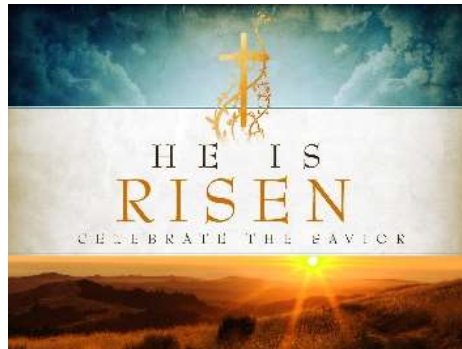
Wednesday – 10am-2 pm

Thursday – 9am – 1pm

Beverly can be reached at: zionchurchtremont@gmail.com or by phone at: 216-273-7561 (church) or 216-310-6810 (mobile)



Sunday, March 31st, 2024 – Easter Sunday –Festival Celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ – and our new resurrected life in the realm of God - 11:00 A.M. - Service of the Word –worship in-person.



Thank You to All who Shared Easter flowers with us today.

Easter Brunch precedes worship today at 10 A.M. - thank you to all who brought dishes to share – All worship participants are welcome join us for brunch!

To Patti Augustine and the family of Deborah Shields – With Deepest Sympathy:

Patti and Family, the members and friends of Zion United Church of Christ, Cleveland offer our heartfelt sympathy and condolences to you following the death of your loved one and family member, Deborah. We are so sorry for your loss. In this difficult and challenging time, please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers – and that we keep you close to our hearts.

Please Remember in Prayer

- The Universal Church, its members and mission,
- The nation and all in authority, the leaders of our nation - federal, state, and local.
- For democracy and our democratic institutions and norms in the United States.
- The welfare of the world and the concerns of the local community.
- The interrelationship of Gospel values and civic engagement.
- Ministries of the United Church of Christ and of Zion Church.
- The leaders of our church: local, regional, and national, including The Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. We also pray for our Living Water Association UCC, Association General Minister, The Rev. Nayiri Karjian, and Association Faith in Action Minister, The Rev. Michael Howard.
- The ministers and missionaries of the world.
- Those who are refugees and immigrants.
- For racial and religious justice and reconciliation in the United States and around the world.

- Mother Earth and the global reflection on climate disruption.
- For peace, justice, and freedom throughout the world and – and for an end to violence and bloodshed particularly for the peoples of Ukraine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Yemen, Israel and Gaza.
- The people of Haiti.
- According to data from the Gun Violence Archive a total of 106 mass shooting incidents occurred in the US in 2024 as of March 27th..

Mass shooting incidents in the past 10 years in the US:

2023 – 656 (*While mass shooting incidents increased slightly since 2022, 2023 has shown an 8-10% overall DECREASE in deaths and injuries from gun violence. Some cities saw 20%+ decreases.*)

2022 - 646

2021 - 689

2020 - 610

2019 - 414

2018 - 335

2017 - 247

2016 - 383

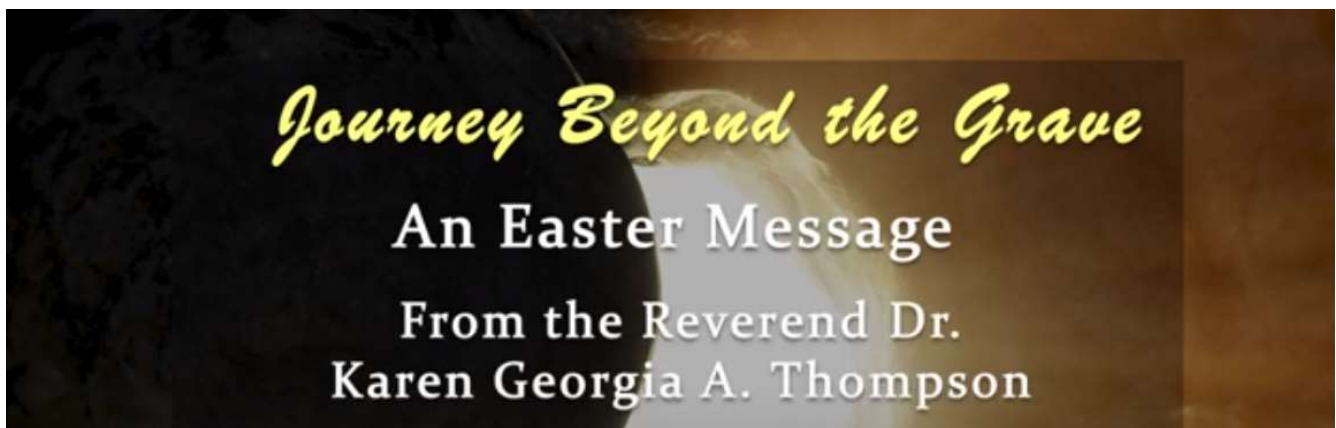
2015 - 332

2014 - 272

While we pray for the families and friends of those whose lives have been taken in violent acts – and we pray for those injured in body, mind, soul, and spirit—and for their neighborhoods and communities across the United States – We know that our words and prayers are not enough. We must repent for our collective inaction and commit to tirelessly working toward meaningful gun violence prevention.

- For those affected by the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic and the various variant surges: for all those who are infected and/or sick, and those who are grieving, for all who are affected, all around the world, for essential workers and frontline workers...we pray for their comfort, for safety, for health, and for wholeness.
- The residents and management of the San Sofia Apartments who share a campus with us.
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments.
- Those living in assisted living or in a nursing home
- Those who are homebound and those who are caregivers
- Those who suffer or are in any trouble, and the departed.
- Those on our church prayer list:
 - Patti Augustine and family including Noah, Kate, Lucy, and Max along with Patti's brother Dave.
 - Robert O Bucklew (*Bob Bucklew's Dad*) is residing in Senior Living. Robert recently celebrated his 91st Birthday.
 - The family, loved ones, and friends of Betty Funk.
 - Marian Heffernan (*neighbor to Scott and Bob*)
 - Ken Kauffman & friends: Nim Bryant, Isadora Almaro, Joe & Janelle Reardon, and Nancy Moore's neighbor - also Ivory, Ken's downstairs neighbor.
 - Maddie (the young daughter of Scott's friend) prayers for her, her parents, Rachel and Ron, and her younger brother.

- Keith Konet and family (including granddaughter, Jocelyn Paulette, and her parents, Kevin & Jacqui - and for Keith's brother -in-law Bob Naugle.
- The family, loved ones, and friends of Elaine Lukacs.
- Patricia Matheny Kellogg and family (*including prayers for her Cousin Paul Kevin McCray*). Also Patricia's friend, Sue Renovitz.
- Our Music Director & Pianist, Adam Petrosino, and his partner, Kiel.
- Our Pastor Scott Rosenstein
- Barbara Rossington and Barb's cousin, Robert
- Debbie Webb
- Beverly Wurm and family



Watch: In Easter message, General Minister & President takes us on a 'Journey Beyond the Grave'

by Renee DeLuca | published on Mar 26, 2024

An Easter video reflection from the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, takes the church on a journey beyond the grave with memories of where we were just four short years ago during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the recording, Thompson reminds us that we were left alone and contemplating death during Holy Week in 2020.

"We want to remember the celebrations, and yet we are reminded not to pass too quickly from celebration to celebration and miss the incredibly important moments in between," she said. "We would like to rush from 'Hosanna' to 'He is risen,' but life is rarely that straightforward, predictable, or easy."

Thompson reflected on the pain of the journey Jesus faced, being tortured and wrongly accused. She pointed to conflicts that continue worldwide — in Gaza, Ukraine, and Haiti, in particular.

"For some," she said, "the hope of the empty tomb seems very distant."

But, she added, we are a people of resurrection. "On Easter, we will gather at the empty tomb and

experience again the large stone which was rolled away. We will marvel with the women who were the first to know that Jesus was alive and had triumphed over death. We will remember and give thanks for the stones that have been removed from the tombs of our lives.”

Still, Thompson said we cannot forget those for whom that kind of hope is far away. “May our witness be stronger than the forces which hold others back from flourishing,” she shared, praying that the power of the Holy Spirit will bring an abundance of hope for all.

Watch the full video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bAbqqKkSIC4>