

# Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

9:00 a.m.

+ Indicates those times when all who are able may stand.  
**Bold indicates congregational response.**

Ringing of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *“Christ is Alive!”* Ritter

Call to Worship

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

**The Holy Story of the Risen Christ!**

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

**The Divine sign of God’s love and grace.**

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

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

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

**They remembered the symbol of human shame of the old rugged cross.**

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.

**God’s love had once again been revealed.**

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!

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

Gathering Prayer

Let us pray.

**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.**

First Reading of Scripture

John 20:1-18 NRSV

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

**Thanks be to God!**

+ Opening Hymn No. 288 *“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”*

Faith Quest Presentation

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Redeeming God, we recognize that your love for all creation is great and unmovable. All that we need on earth has been provided, and yet we struggle to share a portion of our blessings so that all might have enough. You have created an earth vast with land and sea. And yet, we embrace a narrative of scarcity. Believing that somehow there is not enough for everyone to be cared for. But the data proves otherwise. We know there is an overwhelming abundance of resources on the earth you created... Help us to choose a narrative of abundance over scarcity. Give us the strength to help make this world a better place by embracing your agape love of equality for all creation. Let your ancient story of love be our new, innovative, and transformative story of love. The kind of love that transforms hearts, O God, and leads us towards this new way of living. May this new life speak to the kind of prosperity that overflows with your love of peace and justice for all people, everywhere!**

Words of Grace

God of Grace and Glory, we are humbled by your faithfulness and love. Even if our fears spark terror and doubt, you never leave us. There is no other love greater than yours. You call upon all of creation to spread the Good News of your love and glorious light. Reminding us that your love is sweeter than the

honey in the honeycomb. Comforting us even in the bitterness of life as we embrace the loving assurance of forgiveness found in Jesus Christ, whose grace and mercy bless us still.

**We are forgiven, praise be to God. Amen!**

#### Giving from Our Hearts



*It is the generosity of the friends and members of this church which supports this ministry. Over 95% of our budget is directly supported through our offering. While the ministry at Zion is sustained by more than dollars and cents, the monetary giving is vital to the work we do. We give thanks for all who have supported Zion over the years. For those contributing financially: There is an offering plate just outside the sanctuary or you can donate online through the online giving button at [zionunion.org](http://zionunion.org).*

#### + Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

#### + Prayer of Dedication

**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.**

#### Second Reading of Scripture

Mark 16:1-8 NRSV

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church...

**Thanks be to God!**

#### Anthem

*“Antiphonal Easter Alleluia”*  
Chancel Choir, Zion Ringers & Joyful Noise

#### Sermon

#### Pastoral Prayer

#### The Prayer of Our Savior

**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.**

#### Hymn of Preparation No. 695 “As We Gather at Your Table”

#### An Affirmation of Faith: United Church of Christ Statement of Faith

**We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify: You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death. You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin. You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.**

**In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself. You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.**

**You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ’s baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.**

**You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.**

#### Holy Communion

#### Invitation

Mark, in his Gospel, wrote that Jesus said “the wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them.’ He blessed and broke the loaves, and fed the thousands. Believing that Jesus is with us, we come to his abundant feast, to meet the Risen Christ who promises to meet us here.

God be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to God.**

Let us praise God together.

**Let us give God thanks and praise.**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, Eternal God. We thank you for calling forth the creation, forming us in your image and calling us to be a blessing. We remember that God fed the people with manna in the wilderness, and Joseph and his brothers reconciled with a feast. Blessed are you and blessed is Jesus, the incarnation of your love. We remember that he preached your mercy, raised the dying restored the ill to lives of wholeness and service. On the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he fed the hungry crowds; and in an upper room, he gave us this meal as the sign of his abiding presence. In company with saints and sinners in every time and beyond time, we praise you with joy.

**Holy, Holy, Holy One, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God. Hosanna in the Highest! Amen.**

Remembrance

Invocation

**Eternal God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that Christ may be present as we share this meal. Bless this bread and cup and bless us, that we may share this abundant feast in the presence of Jesus. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread and the Pouring of the Cup

+ Sharing of the Elements

*The Lord's Table is open to all. Today, we will come forward, through the center aisle, where Rev Nicholas will place a piece of gluten free bread in your hand. Communion stewards next to the pastor will be holding trays containing both white grape juice, and red wine. You may return to your seat by the side aisle. Additionally, communion stewards will make their way through the sanctuary offering communion for those unable to come forward.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving following Communion

**Eternal God, we thank you for your presence in this holy feast. May we know the presence of Jesus among us. Take us from this table, raised and restored, ready not to be served but to serve, in the power of the Spirit. Amen.**

+ Closing Hymn No. 310

*"Thine is the Glory"*

+ Benediction

+ Postlude

*"Triumphantly Risen"*

Anderson

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Today's Liturgy for **Resurrection Sunday Year B** was written by The Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey, Pastor of Union Congregational United Church of Christ. <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-b-march-31/>  
The Communion Liturgy was written by Rev. Stephanie Perdew, PhD <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/a-prayer-for-holy-communion-based-on-the-gospel-of-mark/>

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#### **2024 Easter Contributions**

*The following have contributed gifts for an Easter lily or as a benevolent donation to the Little Free Pantry and the Union Food Pantry.*

#### **Easter Lilies given:**

In memory of loved ones by Linda Kroeter & family.

In memory of Elmer Holtgreve & in honor of Brandon & Lindsey Titter and Katelyn Meyer by Bernice Holtgreve.

In memory of Hugo & Lucille Viehland and my grandparents by Brenda Viehland.

In memory of loved ones by Kirk & Sallie Hancox.

In memory of Herbert Schowe by Margy Schowe & family.

In memory of Greg Stevens and Josh Camden our husbands, daddies and friends by Jean & Adam Stevens and Laurel, Amelia & Archer Camden.

In honor of our parents by Scott, Shanna & Sammi.

In honor of our children by Gary & Karen Stafford.

For love and peace in the world by Susan Merlino.

In honor of our grandchildren Abigail, Blake, Camden, Hannah & Natalie Dewert by Grandpa & Grandma Dewert.

In memory of Fletcher Simons by Colleen Simons & family.

In memory of our parents & in honor of our children & grandchildren by Skip & Pat Buehrle.

In memory of Elmer McGowan by Terri & Nora Becker.

**Little Free Pantry and Union Food Pantry donations:**

In memory of Greg Stevens and Josh Camden our husbands, daddies and friends by Jean & Adam Stevens and Laurel, Amelia & Archer Camden.

In memory of Elmer Holtgreve & in honor of Brandon & Lindsey Titter and Katelyn Meyer by Bernice Holtgreve.

In memory of Hugo & Lucille Viehland and my grandparents by Brenda Viehland.

In memory of loved ones by Kirk & Sallie Hancox.

In memory of Steve Hooper & family by Vicki Hooper.

In memory of loved ones by Joyce Mantels.

In memory of Arline Stahlman and Alan Freiermuth by Keith & Marilyn Stahlman.

In honor of Carl Rosenkoetter and Bill & Fern Dewert by Carl & Jane Ridder.

In memory of Arline Stahlman by Tim, Annette, Travis & Nick.

In memory of our parents and in honor of our children & grandchildren by Dave & Linda Hall.

In memory of Donna Staten by Ken Staten & family.

In memory of Donald & Evelyn Baker and Burnace & Amanda Hagedorn by Norm & Cheryl Hagedorn.

In honor of my daughters and their families – Paula & Mitch Forck and Kristin & Devin Lause by Jim Doehring.

In honor of our family by Alan & Sharon TenEyck.

In memory/honor of our parents & families by Brad & Louise Parker.

In honor & memory of past & present family by Armin & Norma Klemme.

In memory of loved ones by Gary & Karen Stafford.

In memory of loved ones by Carol & Ken Rohrbach.

In honor of loved ones by Dennis & Maxine Harrison.

In memory of our parents by William & Fern Dewert.

In memory of Don & Kurt Puls by Melva Puls.

In honor of my family by Delores Musket.

In honor of my family by Ronnie & Pam Griffin.

In honor of Zion's Care Team, cooks who prepare Help Thyself Meals and all who keep our church running smoothly by Hettie Becker.

In honor of family by Donna Bocklage.

In memory of Fletcher Simons by Colleen Simons & family.

**We commit ourselves...**

**to worship God**

**to form faithful followers of Jesus**

**and to care for our wider community.**

*We care as Christ cares.*



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Zion United Church of Christ, 115 S. Washington Ave., Union, MO 63084-1849

Home Page address is: [www.zionunion.org](http://www.zionunion.org)

Office Hours: Monday-Friday-8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (closed Tuesdays)

Church Office: (636/583-2814) fax (636/583-7949)

+ Easter Sunday +

March 31, 2024 9:00 a.m.

Zion United Church of Christ

Union, Missouri

Please take the Sunday News home with you for information and happenings during the week at Zion Church.

# SUNDAY NEWS

# MARCH 31, 2024

**Communion Sunday** - We practice Open Communion here at Zion UCC. Jesus didn't turn anyone away; neither will we. Everyone is invited to come and share in the receiving of the bread and the cup.

## Serving This Morning

Liturgist: Alysha Petry  
Ushers: Jeff, Denise & Connor Muller Greeter: John Crane  
Communion Stewards: Bill & Fern Dewert, Alan & Sharon TenEyck  
Sound System Tech: Jason Dewert Video Techs: Blake & Camden Dewert  
(Hearing devices are available if needed. Please ask an usher for one.)

**Usher Dismissal** - An usher will dismiss you by row at the conclusion of the service. They will begin at the front.

**Coffee/Fellowship Hour** will be in the lower commons each Sunday following the worship service.

**One Great Hour of Sharing Offering** - During March, we will be receiving the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering which helps when disasters strike globally. OGHS provides immediate relief when needed during disasters. Offering envelopes are in the March newsletter and are also available by the offering plate.

**Easter Offering** this year will be shared with Hope Ranch of Missouri. Hope Ranch located in Stanton, Missouri, was created for children traumatized by abuse and victimized through neglect. They provide an environment where they can learn healthy ways of living, appropriate ways of dealing with stress and new ways of thinking. For more information about Hope Ranch visit their website at [www.hoperanchmo.org](http://www.hoperanchmo.org). Easter offering envelopes are available by the offering plate for your gifts. Thank you!

**"These Days" for April-May-June** are now available in the literature rack at the top of the staircase.

## On Our List For Prayers

### **Health and Healing:**

Jim Doehring	Phyllis Olson	Carolyn Donoho	Virginia Maune
Frank Fazzari	Charlotte Ellison	Sondra Jackson	Kim Yenzen
Kevin Vorderbruegge	Norma Kern	Carol Bean	
Keith Stahlman	Darlene Farrell (sister of Charlotte Ellison)		
Roger McDaniel (brother-in-law of Larry & Betty Clark)	Chris Branch (niece of Gerry Hoelscher)		
Sharon Waldrop (friend of Jim Doehring)	Mitch Angell (friend of Charlotte Ellison)		
Tammy Wettling (friend of Charlotte Ellison)	Mike Matthews (friend of Carolyn George)		
Linda Barnhart (sister of Fern Dewert)	David Borgmann (brother of Fern Dewert)		
Shirley Brand (friend of Gerry Hoelscher)	Eric Heitman (nephew of Jim Doehring)		
Heather Gooch (great niece of Charlotte Ellison)	S (Karen Stafford's CASA buddy)		
Myrt Dunigan	Carol Mossoney (mother of Dan Mossoney)		
Bob Truel (husband of Shirley Truel)	Josh & Tricia Pardee-Jacka (friends of Charlotte Ellison)		
Cindy Roach (friend of Charlotte Ellison)	Liz Klemme (daughter/sister of Armin, Norma & Phil Klemme)		
Glenda Foster (friend of Charlotte Ellison)	Vanessa Dobsch (niece of Charlotte Ellison)		
Mary Dobsch (sister of Charlotte Ellison)	Aubrey Reed (granddaughter of Charlotte Ellison)		
Wayne Herring (father of Matt Herring)	Beverly Elliott (mother of Mike Elliott)		
Nancy McKenzie (sister of Vicki Hooper)	Bill Stolle (friend of Jim Doehring)		
The Henle family (family of Susan Merlino)	Shirley Thompson (mother-in-law of Connie Thompson)		
Nick Cain (grandson of Verlyn Yarbrough)	Randy Gortney (son-in-law of Hettie Becker)		
Mike Bailey (husband of Leslie Bailey & son-in-law of Sondra Jackson)			

### **Sympathy is Extended to:**

Shawn & Vanessa Pehle & family on the death of their husband & father, David, who died on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Church Family Undergoing Cancer Treatment:**

Brenda Viehland	Jake McNiell (member of Zion & son of Sarah Davenport)
Ronald Dobsch (nephew of Charlotte Ellison)	Morgan Jones (friend of Connie Thompson & Amy Eads)
Sarah Reed (daughter-in-law of Charlotte Ellison)	Cynthia Johnson (friend of Karen Stafford)
Kim Gallagher (friend of Chris & Dawn Robinson)	Trish Kennedy (friend of Charlotte Ellison)
Allen Coffman (friend of David & Shawn Pehle)	Marissa Schollenberger (friend of Tom & Gayle Williams)
Donna Eime (friend of Jim Doehring)	Aaron Dixon (nephew of Dan Mossoney)
Mike Meyer (friend of Mandy Frick)	Brenda (friend of Hettie Becker)
Leland Stahlman (brother of Keith Stahlman)	Bill Diestelkamp (cousin of Liz Short & friend of Mandy Frick)

### **Various Concerns:**

Prayer for our country and those actively serving: Aviation Structural Mechanic 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Hunter Grafrath (currently deployed) (son of Lindsay & Greg Traffas, grandson of Mike & Lynne Elliott)

## Adult Education Opportunities

**JOY Adult Class** – The JOY Adult Class meets in the lower commons classroom following worship. All are invited. There is **NO** class this morning.

**This Morning** - *The Discussion Class* meets in the conference room following the 9 a.m. worship service. All are welcome! There is **NO** class this morning.

### Christian Education/Faith Quest/Youth News

**Wednesdays** – The first two Wednesdays of each month all are invited to LOGOS where we will have an 'out of this world' experience! Join us from 5-7:30 p.m. for music, bible stories, games, crafts, & a family style meal. The meal is served at 6 p.m. with a \$5 donation to help cover the cost of the Zion LOGOS meals.

**Please Note** – There is **NO** Christian Education/Faith Quest this morning. Classes will resume next Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Camp Registration Is Open!** – Summer camp registration is open for all Camp MoVal Camps. Zion members receive a 60% discount thanks to camp scholarships. Contact the church office for your discount gift certificate. Register for camp at the Ultracamp website. Click the REGISTER TODAY button at [www.missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval](http://www.missourimidsouth.org/camp-moval) to be directed to Ultracamp.

**Children's Music Opportunity** – Our children's music group 'Joyful Noise' for grades K-6 rehearses on the last two Wednesdays of the month beginning at 6 p.m.

### Church Calendar – March 31, 2024 to April 7, 2024

<b>Today -</b>	<b>Easter Sunday</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour</b>
<b>Mon., Apr. 1 -</b>	Church Offices will be CLOSED
<b>Wed., Apr. 3 -</b>	12:00 noon Loops of Love 5:00-7:30 p.m. LOGOS 6:30 p.m. Zion Ringers rehearsal (chapel) 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsal (chapel)
<b>Thurs., Apr. 4 -</b>	8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Quilting Circle 6:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
<b>Fri., Apr. 5 -</b>	7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall in use
<b>Next Sun., Apr. 7 -</b>	<b>The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter/Communion</b> <b>9:00 a.m. Worship</b> <b>10:00 a.m. Christian Education/Fellowship Hour</b>

**Sun., Apr. 14** – Zion will be hosting a fundraising concert for Eco Tones Musicians on Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary. Free will donations will be accepted which will help pay for musicians for the concert. Following the concert there will be light refreshments of cookies served in the fellowship hall. If you would like to donate a small plate of cookies please bring them to the church office by Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help with the reception please contact Ann Hartley (636-346-5921).

**Suns., Apr. 21 & 28** – Zion's Green Team will be collecting used ink jet and toner cartridges on April 21 & 28. Bring your cartridges to our table and learn how and what to recycle. The Green Team will take the collected cartridges to Earthbound Recycling.

**Zion's Women's Retreat Planning Team** needs help collecting items for an upcycled craft. We are collecting used blue jeans and gallon ice cream buckets. The blue jean legs will be cut into one-inch strips for basket weaving. Drop off your jeans and ice cream buckets in the lower commons by April 21<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!

**Wednesdays** – The first two Wednesdays of each month all are invited to LOGOS where we will have an 'out of this world' experience! Join us from 5-7:30 p.m. for music, bible stories, games, crafts, & a family style meal. The meal is served at 6 p.m. with a \$5 donation to help cover the cost of the Zion LOGOS meals.

**Help Thyself** - The Help Thyself committee is always the happiest when we see the prepared meals and desserts disappear from the freezer in the Lower Commons freezer. Please continue to Help Thyself and continue to enjoy the prepared meals from the Zion's participating great cooks. Thank you so much to those cooks. Any suggestions are always welcome - pass them on to any of the committee members. Kathy Young (314-580-3105), Carol Rohrbach (636-583-3659), Ann Hartley (636-346-5921), Dorothy Mitana (636-239-1296), Jane Ridder (314-520-7090), or Maxine Harrison (636-583-2159)

**Little Food Pantry** – Thank you for the great support in keeping the Little Food Pantry going! A list of the most needed items is posted on the bulletin board in the lower commons. Monetary donations can also be given – contact the church office.