

ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 11TH, 2021 ☛ 11A.M.

SUNDAY BULLETIN



A Service of Testimony and Song in Celebration of the Resurrection with the members of the Council of Conference Ministers and national setting of the United Church of Christ

WELCOME to *your* faith community! We are happy to worship with you today and pray that your spirit will be blessed by our time together in the presence of God. If this is your first time at Zion, welcome! If you have been with us for some time, welcome!

We worship this Second Sunday of Easter, known by many as Low Sunday because it is the Sunday after Easter where the height of celebration just occurred. For many this Sunday is a return to business as usual. The pageantry and busyness of Holy Week and Easter Sunday have come and gone. But Easter is not over! We are in the season of Easter and as Christians we are called to live Easter out all year long through love, compassion, hope, faith, and good works. Certainly, we can understand the need for rest and recuperation after a busy season but that doesn't mean our enthusiasm and hope need to diminish. In fact, it is just the opposite, as the work of Easter just begins! The theme for the week is Thomas and his need to see something real before his belief can kick in. If we are honest with ourselves, we probably would have said the same thing. That is why this service is about testimonies of the resurrection power evidenced in our very own lives. We all find it easier to believe when we can see something. So, this service is about a time of "showing and telling" about the gospel at work in God's people's lives, today. We show the difference it makes in how we live each day. We show a motivating hope that keeps joy at work in the community of faith. What stories of transformation can you tell? What examples of hope clinging in difficult situations can you show? What can people see that shows that faith is alive in this people of God? We are alive and hands on in our faith – even with physical distancing! God is our God, working and moving in our lives – even with social distancing! What Thomas cried for was something real, not just empty words. Thomas's question is the world's question: "What do you have to show us about your faith? How can we see the risen Christ through you?" Unless I see. Is anything too wonderful for our God? Come, let us worship the God who is with us!

WE GATHER

Words of Welcome

Pastor Katie

Greetings from UCC National and The Council for Conference Ministers
Rev Elizabeth Dilley, Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Team Leader

Call to Community (Opening Litany)
Rev Elena Larsen, Minister for Volunteer Engagement, UCC national

Based on John 20

One: Peace be with you.

All: The land drips with violence, people rage with contempt, even the air spins a path of destruction. How can we claim peace in a time like this?!

One: Peace be with you.

All: Receive the Holy Spirit.

One: We are too afraid of this power, too enchanted by it, too disturbed by it.
Is not this gift too powerful to be entrusted to humankind?

All: Receive the Holy Spirit.

One: See my hands.

All: We do not want to see the wounds of the world; there are too many names to recall, too many places scored by violence. Why will you not let us forget?

One: See my hands.

One: Reach out your hand.

All: We are so bound up in your love, O Christ, that your peace, your Spirit, even your pain will not let us go. Therefore we remember, take hold, receive, and move in faith.

One: Do not doubt but believe.

All: Amen.

Musical Offering ✦

Performed by members of University Congregational UCC in Seattle, WA

"Thine is the Glory"

WE MEDITATE

Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31 (NRSV)

Rev Kent Siladi, Director of Philanthropy, UCC national

¹⁹ 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." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ 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." ²⁶ 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." ²⁷ 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." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ 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." ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ 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.

WE RESPOND

Testimonies of Resurrection

Testimony Introduction - Rev Elizabeth Dilley, Minister and MESA Team Leader

Restoration – Rev Dr Edward Davis, Conference Minister of the Southern Conference of the UCC

Resurrection – Rev Lynn Bunjak, Conference Minister of the Vermont Conference

Doubt & Faith – Rev Noel Anderson, CWS Grassroots Coordinator for Immigrants' Rights

The Disabled God – Rev Dr Sarah Lund, Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice

Call for Testimonies - Rev Elizabeth Dilley, Minister and MESA Team Leader

Our Testimonies: What physical, tactile signs of Christ's resurrection do you see or experience today?

Musical Offering

"Rise Up, Peace Eternal"

Written and Performed by The Restoration Project

Pastoral Prayer

Rev Dr. Chris Davies, Minister and Team Leader, Faith INFO, UCC national setting

Prayer of Our Savior

Pastor Katie

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.**

Sending Forth

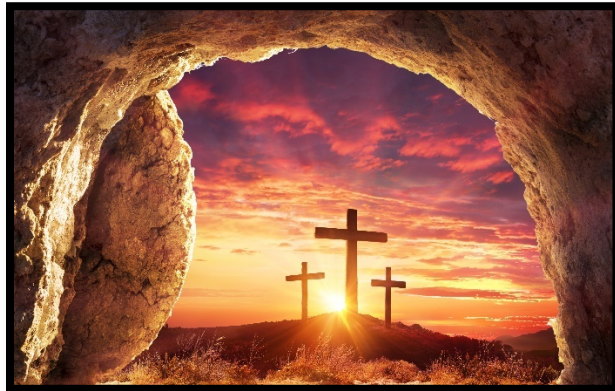
Rev Dr. Chris Davies, Minister and Team Leader, Faith INFO, UCC national setting

Go now, People of God. Witness to the Glory of the Risen Christ. And where the road is rough, when the doubt seeks to overcome all faith, Let's take turns to testify to the Love Eternal in the world today, and all days. Amen.

Prelude to Service✦

"Gabriel's Oboe"

Performed by Claire Marie Moblard and Byron Stay of Zion Reformed UCC.



GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!



Water is life. Water is love. Let love flow.

Access to clean fresh water is vital for all of humanity, but for women in particular, water access means the difference between life and death for them and their families. The United Nations International Observance of **World Water Day** (March 22nd) reflected on the importance of water in our daily lives and remembers those who lack access to adequate drinking water supplies.

For women and girls around the world, it can be a 12 hour walk to the nearest water source to collect water to maintain basic needs and crucial hygiene practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

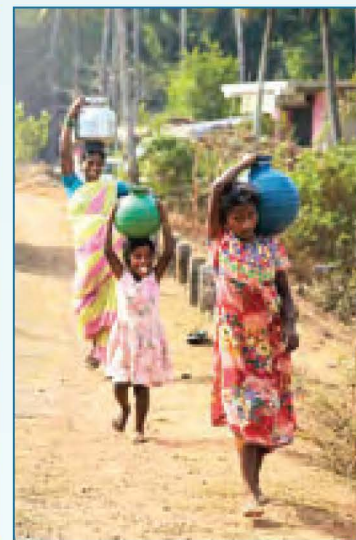
With your support, 100 families will benefit from the Water Well project, sponsored by the United Church of Christ in Mozambique (UCCM). When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you invest in the hopeful future of women and girls around the world and serve as co-workers with God to build *a just world for all*.

Photos by Craig Thompson

One Great
Hour
OF SHARING



Pandasin Orguba, one of Namanu's neighbors, at the water kiosk in Merille.



How Far Will You Go to Let Love Flow?

How far are you willing to go so that your family will not thirst? For Namanu Macharia, that distance was twelve miles. Twelve miles of walking with her children; twelve miles of the heat beating down on them; twelve miles of carrying empty five-gallon containers to retrieve water, then rolling those containers back to her home.

The prophet Isaiah declares that God's people will neither hunger nor thirst. But for those living near Merille, in Kenya's Marsabit County, hunger and thirst were a daily concern as water scarcity is a huge problem in this arid desert region. Obtaining water was once a crippling daily challenge, especially for the women and children responsible for walking long distances in search of streams and ponds. Even when they found precious sources, the water they brought home was contaminated, often making their families sick. Between illness and the sheer amount of time it took every day to find water, families were caught in a vicious cycle of increasing hunger and poverty.

That was the situation until our partners and the community drilled a solar-powered borehole well and installed a water system.

Water kiosks like the one in Merille function like small shops, where people pay a modest fee for clean water. That money covers the operating and maintenance costs of the water system, ensuring it will be around for a long time to come, and available whenever they need water. In addition to the 2,850 community members who use the kiosk, it also serves two schools, the local livestock market, and a health center which serves more than 4,800 people!

Namanu still walks from her home to retrieve water, but now, the entire journey is less than one-third mile to the kiosk and back. "I can leave my food cooking, fetch water, and be back on time," she says. The new water system in Merille is a huge step forward in the fight against hunger, illness, and poverty in the area. For Namanu and thousands of her neighbors, it means freedom and peace of mind.

How far are you willing to go so that people in water-scarce regions no longer need to walk twelve miles to receive God's promise of a life without hunger or thirst? The journey begins with One Great Hour of Sharing. Your generous gift supports life giving water. Let your love flow.



Then Thomas said,
"My Lord and my God!" What did
Jesus say back to him?

Unscramble the names below. Use the
numbered letters to fill in the blanks.

1. VIDAD 6 _ _ _ 2 _ _ _
 2. LAPU _ _ _ 12 9
 3. RAMY 10 _ _ 5 14
 4. BOCAJ _ _ _ 17 13
 5. PHOSEJ _ _ _ 15 18
 6. REWAND 16 _ _ _ 1
 7. BELITHEZA _ _ _ 8 _ _ 3 _ _ 7
 8. ONHJ _ _ _ 4 11
- "
- | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 3 | 18 | 17 | 16 | 12 | 15 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 4 | 16 | 2 | 18 | |
| 15 | 18 | 18 | 11 | 10 | 18 | 14 | 13 | 12 | 4 | 16 | 2 | 18 | | |
| 3 | 18 | 9 | 8 | 18 | 2 | 18 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 18 | 15 | 15 | 18 | 6 |
| 16 | 5 | 18 | 7 | 4 | 13 | 15 | 18 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 4 | 16 | 2 | 18 |
| 11 | 13 | 7 | 15 | 18 | 18 | 11 | 16 | 11 | 6 | 14 | 18 | 7 | | |
| 4 | 16 | 2 | 18 | 3 | 18 | 9 | 8 | 18 | 2 | 18 | 6 | | | |

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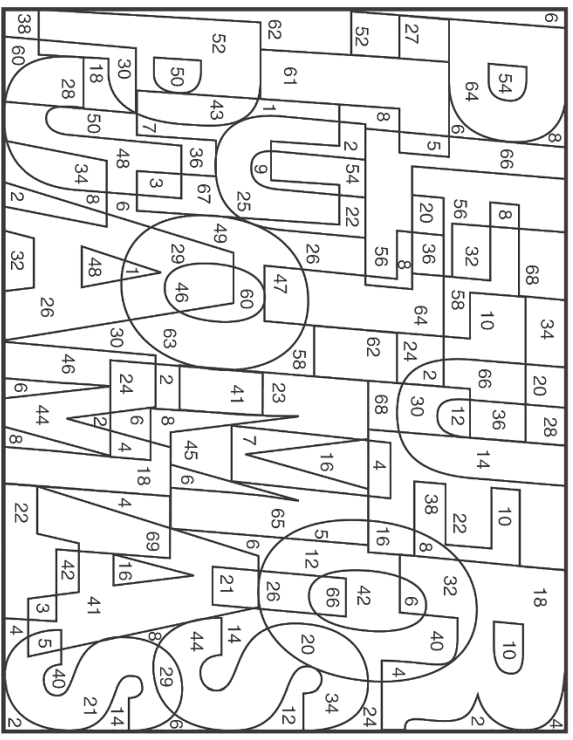
Ages 7+

April 11, 2021 • John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

After Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared
to the disciples. But one of them was not with them
when Jesus came. Which disciple was missing?

Shade in all the areas with an ODD number. Find the answer.



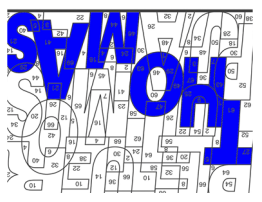
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Enter your **SECRET CODE** to unlock games @
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SECRET CODE!
KFWH75

Unscramble

Find the answer:



Because you have seen Me, you have believed; blessed
are those who have not seen and yet have believed.



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of April 11th



Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School meets at 9:45am via Zoom. For more information, contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net.

Journeys Adult Class

Join Adult Sunday School with Sue Graff at 7pm Sunday evenings by going to <https://zoom.us> or calling [301.715.8592](tel:301.715.8592), and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: [894 3614 5937](https://zoom.us/j/89436145937) and Passcode: [536055](https://zoom.us/j/89436145937).

**Zoom users join using [One-Click Join](#) without entering meeting information.* For more info go to www.zionreformed.church/adult.

Zion Book Club

The Zion Book Club meets the third Friday monthly at the home of Sue Graff. The April discussion will center on the book, "The Last Promise" by Richard Paul Evans. Join us for a great time of discussion and fellowship on Friday, April 16th at 7pm. For more information and directions, contact the Church Office.

In-Person Worship Services Resume April 18th

In-person worship services will resume April 18th with social distancing and face masks required. A livestream will be streamed during the service and available on-demand for any who cannot attend in-person. Should positivity numbers rise above 10%, we will move worship outdoors during that time.

One Great Hour of Sharing: Let Love Flow

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This special offering supporting the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC within Wider Church Ministries will be received on Sunday, April 18th during worship. Please prayerfully consider giving towards this important ministry as you are able and as God leads.



Catoctin Association Spring Meeting

The Catoctin Association of the UCC will hold its Spring Meeting on April 17th from 9am to noon via Zoom. Plan to attend this meeting as a delegate for Zion or as a participant and be part of our association that we are covenant partners in Christ with. Contact the Church Office or Pastor Katie if you would like to attend so we can submit registrations before the registration deadline on April 12th.



General Synod 33



Mark your calendars for this special edition 2021 General Synod of the United Church of Christ, July 11th – 18th. This special edition general synod will be entirely virtual. Registration will open May 1st. Gathering under the theme: Rooted in Love, expect a vibrancy of spirit-led worship with prophetic preaching, music and art-filled experiences that will anchor us. Come, expecting to learn more and connect with the UCC through various opportunities and lend to the forward-momentum of the United Church of Christ. Let Pastor Katie know if you are interested in attending as a delegate for Zion or as a participant in general. Learn more at www.generalsynod.org.

Other Announcements & Reminders

- ❖ The Church Office opens for regular business beginning April 19th from 8-12:30, Monday through Friday. Please remember your face mask and to social distance when in the church.
- ❖ To make a special donation towards the new fridge or new piano fundraisers, please send donations marked "Fridge Fund" or "Piano Fund" respectively to the church or donate online at www.zionreformed.church/give.
- ❖ Choir Rehearsals are postponed until further notice.



Joys & Concerns



Prayer Requests



Prayer is one of the most important spiritual disciplines of our faith, promoting communication with God, and love for God and neighbor. Submit your prayer requests to the church office to be included on the prayer list. Join with us in prayer as we pray with our Zion siblings and their loved ones: [Kelly Bedard](#), [Holly Bell](#), [Naomi Bracket](#), [Linda Cantilena](#), [Kim & Bill Cook](#), [Crist Family](#), [Ruth Dwyer](#), [Elan Foutch](#), [Mike Heyser](#), [Jeanne France Hvidding](#), [Ann Kalinoski](#), [Kauffman Family](#), [Richard Lohman](#), [Mike Lorring](#), [David Ridenour](#), [Betsy Roulette](#), [Donna Rae Seidel](#), [Diana Shafer](#), [Staci Shafer](#), [Darla Smith](#), [Robert Yeoman](#).

Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week

Happy Birthday to **Robert Kefauver** (Apr 12th), and **Sally Stewart** (Apr 17th). Happy Anniversary to **Mary and Robert Kefauver** (Apr 12th)! May this year of your life be filled with happiness as we celebrate the gift of *YOU*. We hope and pray that this year of your life is filled with an abundance of blessings, and for any times of trial, should any arise, that you find the perseverance and strength in Christ to prevail.





IMPORTANT DATES

Week of April 11th



Search & Call Committee Meeting

April 12th at 5:30pm via Zoom

Contact Kim Ridenour for more information at miskim@myactv.net, or call the Church Office.

Soup Kitchen

April 13th from 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome!

Social distancing and masks enforced. **Volunteers welcome!**

Staff Meeting

April 15th at 10am via Zoom

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club

April 15th at 4:30pm via Zoom.

Contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info.

Zion Book Club

April 15th at 7pm at the home of Sue Graff

Contact the Church Office for more information.

**GET
INVOLVED!**

Plan to Worship Next Sunday, April 18th in our sanctuary

A livestream option will also be available at www.zionreformed.church/sermons.

Children's Sunday School via Zoom @ 9:45am

Contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info.

Journeys Adult Class via Zoom @ 7pm

More info at www.zionreformed.church/adult.



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Prelude to Service: "Gabriel's Oboe" – From the motion picture, "The Mission," words and music by Ennio Morricone (1986), ©1986 by EMI Virgin Music, LTD. Performed by Claire Marie Moblard (Organist) and Byron L. Stay (Trumpeter) of Zion Reformed UCC. All rights reserved. *Source(s): [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org) (<https://en.wikipedia.org>).

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A Special Thanks to those who participated in this service:

The Council of Conference Ministers and the national setting of the UCC
Rev Elizabeth Dille, Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Team Leader
Members of University Congregational UCC in Seattle, WA
Rev Elena Larsen, Minister for Volunteer Engagement, UCC national
Rev Kent Siladi, Director of Philanthropy, UCC national
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Rev Noel Anderson, CWS Grassroots Coordinator for Immigrants' Rights
Rev Dr Sarah Lund, Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice
Rev Tracey Howe of Tracy Howe Music and The Restoration Project
Rev Dr. Chris Davies, Minister and Team Leader, Faith INFO, UCC national setting

Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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