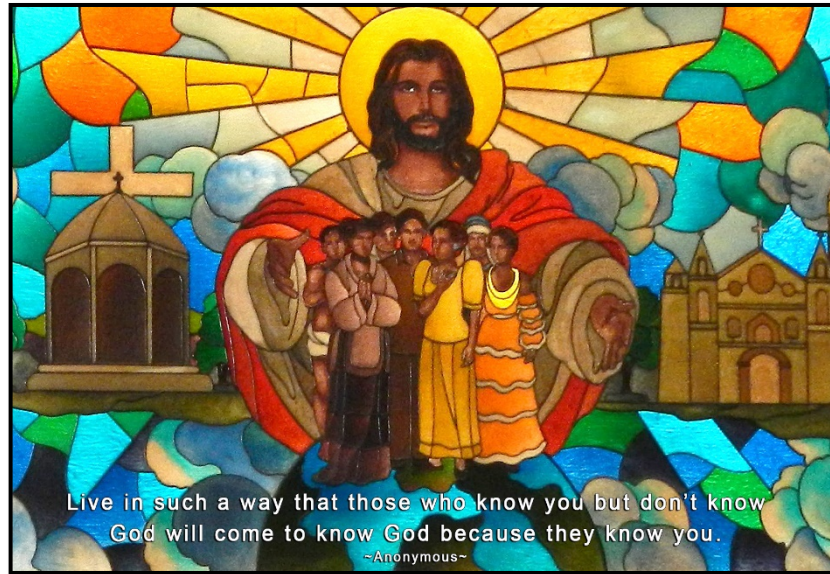


ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 18TH, 2021 ☛ 11A.M.

SUNDAY BULLETIN



The Risen Way

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! Welcome back to in-person worship! Please remember to properly wear your face mask at all times inside and to socially distance.

Last week's scriptures focused on seeing with Thomas stating he wanted to see the nail-scarred hands of the Savior to know he had risen as we shared testimonies of the resurrection power today. This week's scriptures focus on touching with Jesus trying to ground the disciples' faith in the reality of his presence, in the concreteness of his being. He told them to touch him; he ate in front of them. He was announcing that he was real. What can we provide, what hands-on proof can we give that Jesus is alive among us? Of course, we have been in a pandemic and touching is still not something we want to engage in. But we still know and feel examples of lives being touched, and hearts being touched.

What examples do we see, envision, and feel led to act upon to prove Jesus' presence? What work do we do to show our commitment to the "Risen Way," otherwise known as the "work of Easter." Essentially the way or foundation of our faith. How do we live our faith today? How do we interact with our community, meeting their needs in a socially distanced world? How do we prove our Lord is risen indeed? Our words and stories are a great start, but how do we act or show our faith? Maybe our Soup Kitchen Ministry or another outreach program we currently have, or a new addition?

Is anything too wonderful for our God? Come, let us worship the God who is with us!

WE GATHER

Gathering Music ✧

"Praeludium in E-Flat Major"

Words of Welcome

Prelude to Worship ✧

"The Holy City"

Call to Community

One: Like the disciples who met the risen Christ,

All: we come hoping for unexpected appearances of God's love.

One: We come with our questions and doubts, and listen for Christ to appear in our midst saying:

All: "Peace be with you."

One: "Touch me and see who I am" says Jesus: We look around at the lives of our neighbors and guests, and seek the power of the risen Christ at work there, offering peace, offering hope, offering courage, offering transformation.

All: We are witnesses to the tangible love of Jesus!

One: For those times when we move in the shadow, unaware or unwilling to be aware of how our actions affect others,

All: We come together, in the light, to find our joy in God.

One: For those times when we deceive ourselves – not revealing to ourselves or others the true nature of our vulnerabilities and fears,

All: We come together in the truth, to find forgiveness in fellowship.

One: For those times when life has been revealed, and we have ignored or denied it,

All: We come together to touch grace in the presence of the Spirit of Christ.

Opening Prayer

God of love and light, we come as witnesses of your glory and faithfulness, amazed to discover your transformative love. God, we desire for you to abide within us, and for your grace to be revealed anew daily.

**Be with us and awaken within us the call to love one another,
in the way it was made real through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Prayer of Brokenness

O Present God, our lives are filled with distractions big and small. We confess that like the disciples we are easily scared by the unknown. We are overcome with worry about illness, unemployment, our children, and the world as a whole. In our most vulnerable moments we demand that you answer us when we call to you. But often

we do not listen for you or seek your unexpected, grace filled presence in our trouble. Forgive us for our demands. Be gracious to us and hear the longing found within our prayers.

~Please pause for a time of silent prayer~

Remind us that your light shines in all moments of life. Give us eyes to see the light of your face shining on us, O God. Let us feel the gladness you have placed in each of our hearts, more plentiful than grain and wine, and let us live out of that glad confidence. In our waking and in our slumber, give us peace. Amen.

Words of Blessing

Hear the Good News! God hears our prayers... hears the prayers in our hearts and responds with words of love. "Do not give up Faith, Beloved, because you are blessed and forgiven." Feel God's peace and share it with everyone you meet today.

Meditative Interlude✦

"Jesus Shall Reign"

WE MEDITATE

Epistle Lesson

1 John 3:1-7 (NRSV)

Lector: Aaron Kelly

¹ See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³ And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. ⁴ Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵ You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Gospel Lesson✦

Luke 24:36b-48 (NRSV)

Pastor Katie

³⁶ While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he

opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

The Message

Beloved

Contemplative Interlude ✧

"Lead On, O King Eternal"

WE RESPOND

Invitation to Give

Blessing Our Gifts

A Prayer of Dedication

Life-Giving God, may you bless our gifts and let them go forth from us to benefit all your children with wisdom, compassion, and imagination. Amen.

Special Music Video

"Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)"

Prayer of Our Savior

**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

Let us go forth having laid down our burdens. Know that God has a plan for our lives. Go forth as witnesses to God's hope of justice, peace, grace, and love. Believe that Christ is among us all, now and always. Amen.

Prelude to Service ✧

"Hallelujah Chorus"

GO FORTH IN PEACE & SERVE!





Jesus did something else.
What was it?

Remove all A's, U's and F's from
the string of letters below to fill in the blanks.

AHFEOPAEUNEFDTHFEIARUMJINFIDASUSOATUHUAFFYUA

_____ could understand

the Scriptures.



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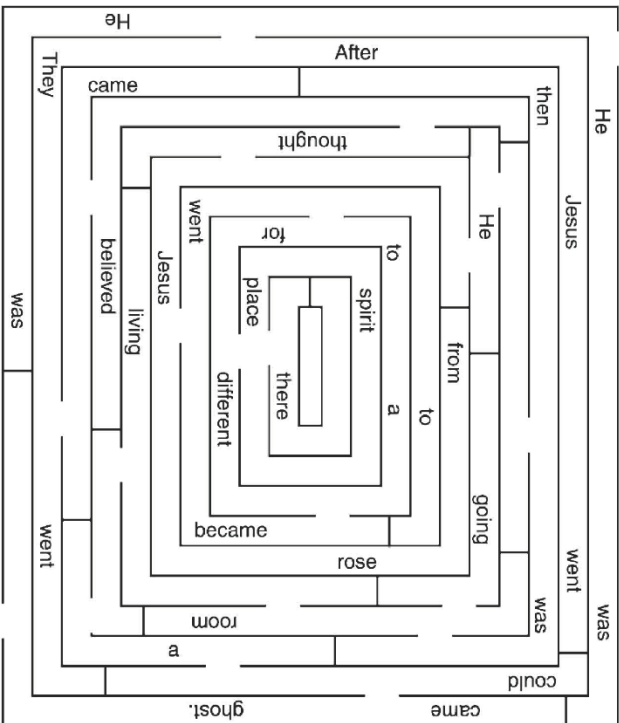
April 18, 2021 • Luke 24:36-48

Jesus Helps the Disciples Understand Scripture



After Jesus had been crucified, He appeared
to His disciples. What did they think at first?

Find the right path through the maze
and read the words along the way.



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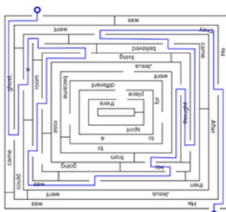
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Fill in the Blanks

He opened their minds so they
could understand the Scriptures.

Find the Path



Take Action this Earth Day

PERSONAL:

1. Get your soil & water tested for lead.
2. Learn about public transit and advocate for better access- air pollution leads to respiratory conditions such as asthma. Advocate for better public transit in your municipality. Also do your part to try to bike, walk, or carpool.
3. Visit The Native Land App to learn about the indigenous people from the land you occupy.

COMMUNITY:

1. Get involved in gardening and/or food access justice. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted the disparities in food distribution systems. Growing your own food can lower your grocery bill and it cuts down emissions from food transportation. You can also volunteer at a community garden that supplies fresh produce to food pantries.
2. Learn how your church can become a hub of climate resilience at creationjustice.org/resilience

3. Find where waste from your community goes? Waste is disproportionately disposed of in communities of color. Sometimes waste and recycling are even shipped to be disposed of in other countries. Find ways to reduce your own waste through reducing consumption, composting, and refusing to acquire products that will end up in landfills.

LEGISLATIVE:

1. Bookmark creationjustice.org/action to participate in timely monthly action opportunities.
2. Mark your calendar for Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2021 & participate in the day of action. This year is free of charge and online. The theme is "Imagine! God's Earth & People Restored". Creation Justice Ministries will be hosting six excellent workshops.
3. Do you know which watershed you live in? Learn about the bodies of water near you, the watershed you live in, and the pollutants your water faces. Water is a human right and gift from God, advocate for everyone to have equitable access to potable water.



A New Heaven & A New Earth

Plan an Earth Day Movie Night by choosing a movie from the UCC recommended list at: www.ucc.org/earth-day-movie-night.

Learn about the UCC's Creation Justice Ministries

Facebook: www.facebook.com/CreationJustice

Website: www.creationjustice.org



CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Week of April 18th



Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School with Kim Ridenour meets at 9:45am this morning via Zoom as they continue their EPIC Teachings Bible Series with the "Sermon on the Mount." Connect your child(ren) by going to <https://zoom.us> or calling 301.715.8592, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: **865 7471 1577** and Passcode: **YouthSS**. For more information, contact Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net.

*"So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries.
Today's trouble is enough for today". (Matthew 6:34)*

Journey Adult Class

Join Adult Sunday School with Sue Graff at 9:45am this morning as we begin our study on Psalm 23, gaining new perspectives on this beloved passage. Connect to this class by going to <https://zoom.us> or calling **301.715.8592**, and when prompted, enter Meeting ID: **894 3614 5937** and Passcode: **536055**. For more info go to www.zionreformed.church/adult. *Zoom users may join using **One-Click Join** without entering meeting information.

One Great Hour of Sharing: Let Love Flow



One Great Hour of Sharing, 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 this morning. Please prayerfully consider giving towards this important ministry as you are able and as God leads by placing your donation in the offering plate before or after service, marking it for "OGHS", or mail your offering to the church marked for "OGHS".

Upcoming Bell Tower Repairs

Repair work will begin this Wednesday in the bell tower, replacing areas of the bell tower roof, the bell tower floors, and to moving a hatch that is leaking. We will be able to hold Worship Services in the Sanctuary through next week but will not be able to use the Sanctuary for the 6 weeks following while the damaged plaster in the Sanctuary is replaced and repainted. We will meet in the Chapel and/or outdoors during this time. Beginning next week, we plan to have color samples displayed in the Sanctuary to get your choice of paint color.

Weekly Communion Beginning in May

Weekly communion will be offered beginning in May to help remind us of our interconnectedness as the body of Christ, Christ's sacrifice, and our call to live the way of the resurrection daily.

Records from Last Week

Holy Week Services: 10 online views | **Soup Kitchen:** 31 meals served.

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 Lorfing](#), [David Ridenour](#), [Betsy Roulette](#), [Donna Rae Seidel](#), [Diana Shafer](#), [Staci Shafer](#), [Darla Smith](#), [Robert Yeoman](#).

Birthdays and Anniversaries This Week

Happy Birthday to **Michael Mooers** (Apr 21st), and **LoriBeth Martin** (Apr 21st), **Krista Burgan** (Apr 23rd), **Kenlin Martin** (Apr 24th). 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 18th



May Newsletter Deadline

Noon, April 19th

Soup Kitchen

April 20th from 5pm-6:15pm. All are welcome!

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

Earth Day

April 22nd – Enjoy God's creation and commit to care for this gift from God. Consider one of the recommended actions on page 7 or come up with a creative way to act of your own, most importantly, take action!

Staff Meeting

April 22nd at 10am via Zoom

Downtown Hagerstown 4H Club

April 22nd at 4:30pm via Zoom.

We recently began our own garden from seeds, created butterflies with coffee filters, baked pizza, and made pudding all while connecting over Zoom. Join us every Thursday at 4:30pm at <https://zoom.us> -- Meeting ID 815 1055 0627 Passcode 899733.



Plan to Worship Next Sunday, April 25th at 11am

In-Person, or Virtually at www.zionreformed.church/sermons.

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

Contact the Church Office or Kim Ridenour at miskim@myactv.net for more info.

Journeys Adult Class via Zoom @ 9:45am

More info at www.zionreformed.church/adult.



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Zion Reformed United Church of Christ

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