

## Second Sunday of Easter

April 24, 2022

United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Pastor Gary Wilner

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### CENTERING MUSIC *"Above All, Powers"*

Paul Baloche, Lenny LeBlanc

pianist Holly Pisors

### RINGING OF THE BELLS

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*No Matter Who You are or Where You are on Life's Journey, You are Welcome Here!!*

### INVITATION TO WORSHIP

(Leader in light print – **People in bold print**)

Sing a new song!

**A joyful melody of springtime glory and rebirth  
Sing praise to our Still-Laughing Easter God Who  
has rolled away the bindings of yesterday.**

**Immerse your anxiety and despair in the fountain  
of new birth. We place our visions and hopes on  
the table of wine and wheat**

**For God has taken ordinary things and made them  
extraordinary.**

Sing a New Song!

### INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN *"Morning Has Broken"*  
#29 UCC Eleanor Farjeon

**Morning has broken Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken Like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing Fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain's new fall, Sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dew fall On the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness Of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness Where his feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning  
Born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,  
God's new creation Of the new day!**

**Morning has broken Like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken Like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing Fresh from the Word!**

### CHILDREN'S TIME

### READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES Mike Perkl

Old Testament: Psalm 16

Gospel: John 20:19-31

### The Old Testament reading is Psalm 16

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to God, "You are my God;

I have no good apart from you."

As for the holy ones in the land,

they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;

their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

God is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless God who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep God always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol, or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**The Gospel reading this morning is from the book of John chapter 20: verses 19 through 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." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 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."

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." 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." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 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."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 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.

Here ends the reading of this portion of our family history.

**PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER and  
The LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)**

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**SERVICE OF GIVING AND SHARING  
OFFERTORY**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

Loving God, we lift this prayer to you with great joy this Eastertide? May these gifts, given with love, be further transformed like echoes of grace, delighting all who receive their blessings? May it be so. Amen.

**HYMN "This is the Day of New Beginnings"**

NCH # 417

Brian Wren

This is a day of new beginnings,  
time to remember and move on,  
time to believe what love is bringing,  
laying to rest the pain that's gone.

For by the life and death of Jesus,  
God's mighty Spirit, now as then,  
can make for us a world of difference,  
as faith and hope are born again.

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring,  
step from the past and leave behind  
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving,  
seeking new paths, and sure to find.

Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and  
share what love can do.

This is a day of new beginnings -  
our God is making all things new.

**SERMON**      *“Thomas, Our Friend the Doubter”*  
Pastor Gary Wilner

**HYMN**      *“I Danced in the Morning”*

I danced in the morning when the world  
was begun,  
And I danced in the moon and the stars  
and the sun,  
And I came down from heaven and I  
danced on the earth,  
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

**Refrain**

Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
And I'll lead you all wherever you may  
be,  
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
But they would not dance and they  
would not follow me;  
I danced for the fishermen, for James  
and John;  
They came to me and the dance went on.  
(Refrain)

They cut me down and I leapt up high,  
I am the life that'll never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;  
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.  
(Refrain)

**BENEDICTION**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**POSTLUDE**    *“Jesus is All The World to Be”*  
Holly Pisors  
(You are invited to stay seated for Postlude)

## WELCOME

We welcome you to our service of worship!  
We are glad that you have joined us in-person,  
through the internet or on the radio.  
We pray that you will hear God's call,  
Seek to follow Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **RADIO BROADCAST**

**11 AM Sunday radio broadcast on WCCN  
98.5FM and 1370AM**

**This week's radio broadcast  
is sponsored by  
a "faithful listener".**

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- **Today, April 24th**  
9:15 am – Sunday School  
After worship free Meal Give Away
- **Friday, April 29th**  
10:00 am – Constitution/Bylaws Meeting

