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**HAPPY EASTER !**

**Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022**  
United Church of Christ, Neillsville  
Pastor Gary Wilner

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**PRELUDE** *“Awake Thou Wintry Earth”* J.S. Bach  
Karen Mohr

**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)

We come to this place,  
seeking Jesus in the familiar story of our faith.  
**Do not meet us only here, O Living Christ, but  
surprise us with Resurrection power in all the  
places of our lives!**  
We gather together to sing and pray the story we  
know by heart, a story of loving triumph and  
powerful grace.

**This story of “Alleluia!” means great joy for the  
One who lives and the ones who witness to this  
new life in all the places of our lives!**

We rejoice and thank you for the life of your son,  
resurrected by the power of your loving, vibrant  
Spirit.

**Let this same Spirit fill all the places of our lives,  
that we may know the truth of resurrection for  
the rest of our lives!**

We join our hearts in song and sing “Alleluia!  
Gracious Jesus!” for Christ is living and so are we!  
**Alleluia indeed!**

**OPENING HYMN** “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”  
#233 NCH Charles Wesley

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!**

**Let the Victor’s people sing, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!**

**Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!  
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

**PRAYER OF INVOCATION (All)**

**Good News God, your angels appeared to the  
faithful women of Jesus’ company,  
bringing them news more wonderful and awe-  
inspiring than they could imagine – Christ is Risen!  
Surely your angels can interrupt our lives, too,  
breaking into our losses and sorrows and offering  
a message of tremendous joy to change our lives!  
Come this Easter morning, we pray,  
and fill us with the joy of the women disciples, the  
first witnesses to your resurrection, that our lives  
may also be renewed in hope and glory.  
Let us roll back the stone of the grave and pick up  
the stones of Alleluia once again! In Christ we  
pray, Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

## READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Intro (Pastor Gary)                      Reader Ray Weyer  
Gospel of John: Chapter 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to

the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Here ends the reading of this portion of our family history found in Holy Scripture.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (All)

**God, we confess to you that while we know well the story of your victory over the grave, it is not a story we always live.**

**We are dragged down by all manner of death –  
Fear may suffocate us: the loss of dreams and hopes for ourselves, our families, our communities and our nation.**

**Sorrow may wall us off like a grave, isolating us with anger, frustration, and grief.**

**Silence**

**Yet the beauty of our faith is life itself not the marks of death, but with the word, "Alleluia!"  
So on this Easter morning, we pray that you will fill us with "fear and great joy" so that, like those women who came to the tomb expecting death, we may instead find the radiant new life that is ever before us in your Resurrection! Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

**SPECIAL MUSIC**    *"Christ Arose"*                      Choir

## SERVICE OF GIVING AND SHARING:

### OFFERTORY

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**O God, you have become our light and our salvation – let these gifts open the gates of joy to all who hunger and thirst for your holy presence on this and every day. May they bear the gifts of Alleluia which we hold so dear, and give away with great joy.**

**We pray in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus the Christ! Amen**

**HYMN**    *"The Strife is O'er"*

#242 NCH Latin Trans. Francis Pott

**Refrain:**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

The strife is o'er, the battle done,  
the victory of life is won;  
The song of triumph has begun.  
Alleluia!

The powers of death have done their worst,  
but Christ their legions has dispersed:  
Let shouts of holy joy outburst.  
Alleluia!

The three sad days are quickly sped,  
Christ rises glorious from the dead:  
All glory to our risen Head!  
Alleluia!

Christ, by your wounds on Calvary  
from death's dread sting your servants free,  
That we may live eternally.  
Alleluia!

Refrain:  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**SERMON**  
"He Has Risen For You" Pastor Gary Wilner

**BENEDICTION**

**SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**THE SENDING** "Halleluiahs Chorus"  
Video – Mormon Tabernacle Choir with virtual additions

**POSTLUDE** Karen Mohr  
(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  
Jim and Rosie Repinski  
with a message of,  
"He is Risen, Alleluia!"**



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- **Today, April 10th**  
No Sunday School
  - **Monday, April 18th**  
9:00 am – Card Making
  - **Tuesday, April 19th**  
5:30 pm – Trustees Meeting  
7:00 pm – Leadership Council Meeting



Thank you to those of you who ordered lilies. Please take your lily home with you following the Easter worship service.

Easter Lilies Given By:

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Doris Bakker                 | - in honor of the Church Family   |
| Deb and Joe Holman           | - in loving memory of family and friends  |
| Karlene Wallace              | - in loving memory of husband, Tom Wallace  |
| Dave and Kim Wagner          | - in memory of parents, Edgar and Margaret Eddy<br>Fred and Lucille Wagner  |
| Hap Eddy                     | - in loving memory of Cheryl Eddy   |
| Kevin Erickson Family        | - in memory of loved ones   |
| Russ and Susie Karl          | - in honor of eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren   |
| Gayle Schermitzler           | - in memory of husband, John Schermitzler and sister, Arla Redmen   |
| Leslie Hemp Buchholz         | - in memory of Haddie Alyn Hemp   |
| Paul Vine                    | - in memory of parents, Gordon and Faith Vine   |
| Pastor Jim and Karen Mohr    | - in memory of our parents  |
| Pastor Gary and Dorry Wilner | - in memory of Dorry's parents, Harry and Dorothy Bujak<br>- in memory of Gary's parents, Clarence and Barbara Wilner |
| Rick Buchsteiner             | - in memory of brothers, Dennis, Gary, Charles  |
| Dave Beck                    | - in memory of Shirley Beck<br>- in memory of Phyllis Embke   |