

**APRIL 1, 2018 EASTER SUNDAY**

*God has written the promise of resurrection not in books alone, but in every leaf in Springtime. Martin Luther*

**PRELUDE** *Lancashire* M. Helman  
*Vruechten, Llanfair* E.L. Diemer

**DRESSING THE ALTAR**  
We return the Altar symbols to proclaim New Life

**EASTER FANFARE**

**WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHORAL INTROIT** *Easter Alleluia* Volckmar Leisring

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Dawn breaks light out of darkness; life out of death.  
**People: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**  
Leader: Hope replaces doubt. Faith overcomes fear. Love transforms hate.  
**People: Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**\*HYMN** *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* black # 240

**CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE**

**MORNING PRAYERS**

**Prayer of Confession**

**God, there are times when, like those early disciples, we are afraid, hiding behind locked doors, unwilling or unable to declare our allegiance to Jesus. Roll away the heavy stones of guilt or regret or disappointment. Remove whatever it is that keeps us from loving you and all people. Amen**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Silent Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer (debts)**

*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*

**Congregational Response**

***Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim;  
Let all adore and praise that sacred name.***

**CHORAL ANTHEM** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* arr. Hal Hopson  
**The congregation will join in singing verses 1 & 5  
from the *Pilgrim Hymnal* # 182. (words printed on small insert)**

**READING FROM THE GOSPEL** Mark 16: 1-8 page 886

**SERMON** **EVEN PETER!**

**OFFERING+**

**Invitation**

**Offertory Anthem** *Crown Him Now with Alleluias* James Brighton

**\*Doxology (unison)**

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low,  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore,  
One God triune whom we adore. Amen.***

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*HYMN** *Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ* black # 347

**COMMUNION**

**Invitation**

**Communion Prayer**

**Words of Institution**

**Distribution of the Bread and Cup**

*It is our tradition to hold each of the elements until all are served so that we may partake together.  
[Rice cake pieces are offered for those with allergies to gluten.]*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)**

**O Holy One, there are no words to describe the mystery of this bread and cup. There are no sighs too deep to reveal what we feel in sharing in this feast. Thank you for gathering us together to remember that you are always present among us. Alleluia! Amen**

**\*HYMN** *The Day of Resurrection* red # 192

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*FINAL ACCLAMATION** *Hallelujah Chorus* George Friedrich Händel

\*Please stand if you are comfortable

We are glad you have come to worship with us this Easter Day.  
Member, friend or visitor – Come Again –  
we may not have trumpets but we will have spirit.

We invite you to stay after worship for refreshments and fellowship  
downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

### In our Service Today



**Preacher:** Rev. Lori J. Souder  
**Organist:** Larry Schipull  
**Choir Director:** Cheryl Cobb  
**Trumpet:** Talia Michaud  
**Greeters:** Valerie and Don Bonzek  
**Reader:** Alison Smith  
**Head Deacon:** Lynne Bertram  
**Head Ushers:** Randy Hyvonen and Joyce Tomlinson

**The Ushers will host Coffee Hour in April.**

+ As is our custom, the **Easter plate** offering will be dedicated to replenishing the “Deacon’s Fund” which is used to help those in need. With these funds, we purchase Big Y gift cards, help with utility payments, offer help at the holidays and with prescription costs. Please consider an extra donation to this very important fund.  
Thank You!

### THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

Ministers: All Church Members  
Senior Minister: Rev. Lori J. Souder  
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Charles P. Blakney

#### Christian Education Program

Children: Martha Guild  
Youth: Emily Carle  
Adult: Randy Purinton  
and Betsy Bergen, Team Chairs

#### Music Program

Organist: Larry Schipull  
Choir Director: Cheryl Cobb  
Associate in Music: Cynthia Morrell

Office Administrator: Cynthia H. Jubinville  
Sexton: Robert Farman



### **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC**



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The two center sections of the sanctuary are equipped with a hearing loop. Turn on the T-coil in your hearing aid and sit in one of these sections for better hearing.