

St. John's United Church of Christ
April 11, 2021
Second Sunday of Easter

Unison Welcome

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here"

Announcements

Passing of the Peace

"The peace of Christ be with you"

"And also with you"

Prelude

Meditation on "Love Divine"

Roger Wilson

Call to Worship

God of our life's journey, we gather together as your beloved family, on our way home.

Loving God, as we journey together, may we always keep our eyes on you.

God of our every experience, we gather to share and support each other as we seek to be faithful to you.

Encouraging God, guide and bless us as we seek to build our community in faith and love.

God our Creator and Parent, we gather together to strengthen our bonds of commitment and fellowship surrounded and upheld by Your Holy Presence.

God of our faith journey, we gather before you in humble prayers and praise, seeking your forgiveness, restoration, and renewal as your united and loving people in this time and place. Amen.

Musical Meditation

Chorale Prelude on "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

John Troutman

Prayer of Invocation

Come to us, God.

Open our locked doors and hearts.

Dust us off and make us new.

**Lead us, with all our questions and wonderings,
into the exciting mysteries of discipleship.**

**We long to be your Easter people,
to live and proclaim, with all of our being, new life
and abundance for all of your creation. Amen.**

The Call to Confession

How often have we heard God call us to be Easter people ~ to be a people of community and unity~ to try always to have as our goal the good of all of God's creation? And yet we are reluctant to respond to the call to seek the common good because we are afraid to let go of the old and accept God's offer of new life. We don't trust God's promises of grace, joy, peace, and abundance. In the silence, let us confess our reluctance to be Easter people.

The Silent Prayer of Confession

Kyrie (spoken rather than sung)

Hymnal Companion C-4

The Assurance of Pardon

Easter people, hear and believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, God not only forgives our sin but strengthens and guides us in doing everything we can to assure the common good for all of God's creation.

Glory Be to the Father #704 (spoken rather than sung)

Children's Message

Roxanne Davenport

The Prayer for Illumination

God of all who doubt and all who believe, by the gift of your Spirit enable us to hear with our ears, to see with our eyes, and to touch with our hands the Light that has come into the world, show us Your truth and the Word of Life, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

The Reading from Christian Scripture

Acts 4:32-35

The Psalter Reading

Psalms 133

Anthem

"Trust and Obey"

John H. Sammis/Daniel B. Towner

The Reading from Christian Scripture

John 20:19-31

The Message

Rev. Dr. Karin Stork-Whitson

Musical Meditation

Interlude on "Breathe on Me"

Robert Jackson

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Our Savior (debts)

The Invitation to Giving

Commission & Benediction

Postlude

"Now all the Vault of Heaven Resounds"

Robert Hobby

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If you are ill, have a fever, or are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, we respectfully ask that you remain at home.

The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross are given to the glory of God.

Worship Resources:

Portions of the liturgy were adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, *Rev Gal Blogs*, and Thom Shuman's *Lectionary Liturgies*.

Worship Participants:	
Guest Preacher	Rev. Dr. Karin Stork-Whitson
Deacon in Charge	David Dietrich
Lector	Henry Hopper
Children's Sermon	Roxanne Davenport
Hospitality Team	Pete and Lisa A'Zary
Media Coordinator	Scott Cairns

Pastor Caroline is currently on vacation. We welcome Rev. Dr. Karin Stork-Whitson as our preacher this morning.

As the daughter of a Baptist preacher, **Rev. Dr. Karin Stork-Whitson** has lived in many different states and cities including CO, TX, KS, IA, OH, GA, and Mexico. She moved back to Texas for her education and earned all three degrees from Texas schools. Karin is currently an unemployed intentional interim minister. Karin was ordained in Ohio and served churches in Hawai'i, Wyoming, and Texas before being called to intentional interim ministry in the Penn Central Conference. Since moving to PA in 2005, she has served seven congregations and enjoyed almost every minute of it! Karin lives in Mechanicsburg and is a member of St. Paul's UCC in Mechanicsburg.