



John 20:1-18 • [illustratedministry.com](http://illustratedministry.com)

***St. John's United Church of Christ  
Chambersburg, PA  
Easter Sunday  
April 5, 2026***

## **EASTER SUNDAY: FULFILLING IMAGINATION**

\*Please stand in body or in spirit

### **GATHERING SONG**

*"This is the Day"*

### **UNISON WELCOME**

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CHIMING OF THE TRINITY & PRELUDE**

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*from The Work of Imagination*

Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

**By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

Come into God's day of resurrection, you who have known grief, you who long for new life, you who carry "Alleluias" in your hearts.

**In Christ, we gather at the empty tomb.**

Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

**To God be the glory! We gather to praise!**

### **\*HYMN #194**

*"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"*

### **\*OPENING PRAYER**

*from The Work of Imagination*

**God of life, you breathe resurrection into our world, and you promise that life will triumph over death. On this day of celebration, awaken our spirits to signs of new life and symbols of grace, in our world, in our relationships, and in our own hearts. Lead us by the witness of Mary Magdalene and the faith that drew her to the garden. With her, let us proclaim, "We have seen Jesus!" Give us the courage and the joy to share this good news in word and in deed. We pray this in the name of Christ, who is risen indeed - alleluia! Amen.**

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*from The Work of Imagination*

As we greet this Easter day, we celebrate a world bursting with new life. We celebrate hope rising from despair, love conquering fear, and a world where death does not have the final word. Let this resurrection joy begin here as we share the peace of Christ with one another. May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

*from The Work of Imagination*

**God who breathes meaning and inspiration into our sacred scriptures, who crafts stories of redemption, liberation, and love, may these words help us celebrate the world you are making new. May we be emboldened to join you in this resurrection**

work, bringing heaven to earth as we follow the risen Christ in love and justice.  
Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READING** Philippians 2:12-18

**ANTHEM** *"Crown Him Lord This Easter Day!"* Don Besig/Nancy Price

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE** Roxanne Davenport  
*Children's Corner will be offered following the Children's Message*

**SCRIPTURE READING** John 20:1-18

**SERMON** Rev. Caroline E. Saxton

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (DEBTS)**

**INVITATION TO GIVING**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**Praise God, who fills each cup and plate,  
Whose table's wide and love is great.  
From broken bread, may all be fed,  
And justice rise where fear has spread. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *from The Work of Imagination*  
**Generous God, we bring our gifts before you and your church like tiny seeds from a dandelion. Send out these gifts on the mighty wind of your Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit, and nourishing both our faith community and our neighbors. May each gift of every size bloom with your holy imagination. Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION** (liturgy on the screen)  
*We celebrate communion today by passing the plates of bread and cup.  
We will hold the elements and consume them together as invited by Pastor Caroline.*

**\*HYMN #206** *"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"*

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *from The Work of Imagination*  
Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination. **We believe in the resurrection. We believe in new life and fresh starts. We believe people change and situations change. We believe love and justice can transform the world. We believe Jesus is alive and well, stoking our imaginations to conceive new ways of bringing the kin(g)dom to earth. We believe the good news is food for the hungry, healing for the sick, water for the thirsty, and freedom for all the oppressed. We believe the resurrection of Jesus gives us hope for tomorrow. We will live, work,**

play, and sleep in holy anticipation for the good things God will accomplish among us as we continue to follow the way of Jesus. We dare to dream, to imagine a better world, made right in Christ.

**\*CHARGE & BENEDICTION**

*from The Work of Imagination*

**POSTLUDE**

The "Nursery Nook in the Narthex" quiet area and infant/toddler space in the Parlor are available for children and families to use during worship. Age-appropriate activity bags are also available.

*All are welcome at Christ's table. To let the church office know that you communed today, please sign the black attendance pad found in each row. If you are communing from home, please contact the church office to let us know.*

**Birthdays this week:** 04/06 Diana Kongkeattikul; 04/08 Sharon Mayer; 04/09 Beverly Peters; 04/10 Diane Bigler and 04/11 Doris Miller.

<b>Worship Participants:</b>	
Pastor	Rev. Caroline E. Saxton
Organist	Barbara Motichka
Choir Director	Gary Crum
Deacon in Charge	Diana Kongkeattikul
Lector	Chris Willman-Bunge
Children's Corner	Chani Wolfe
Media Coordinators	Calvin Frantz and Neath Ham
Bulletin cover	"Mary Magdalene" © 2026 Illustrated Ministry

**The Flowers at the Foot of the Cross** are given in honor of the wedding date of Sue and Lee Powell by their children Steve, Gary and Kristen.

Please see the insert for information about the beautiful **Easter tulips** decorating the Sanctuary this morning.



**St. John's Vision**

We are called to love, to learn, to worship and to witness in Christ as a congregation that welcomes everyone, and seeks service that will advance God's realm on earth.

**St. John's Mission**

To grow in love of God and neighbor

**Worship Resources:** *"The Work of Imagination" Lenten liturgy & commentary © 2026 Illustrated Ministry*

## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

194

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2. Love's re-deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Earth and heav - en join to say, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O Death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Dy - ing once He all doth save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Him, like Him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth, re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ hath o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.

MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

EASTER HYMN

7.7.7.7 with alleluias

# Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 206

1. Christ is ris - en! Shout ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days.  
 2. Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of des - pair.  
 3. Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.

Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der; all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.

In the des - ert all-sur-round-ing, see, a spread-ing tree has grown.  
 Drink the wine of res-ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend;  
 Tell its grim, de - mon-ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"

Heal-ing leaves of grace a-bound-ing bring a taste of love un-known.  
 Je - sus is our strong com-pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev-er end.  
 God the first and last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1984

MUSIC: Polish carol, alt.; harm. Wilbur Lee, 1958

W ZLOBIE LEZY, alt.

8.7.8.7 D

Words © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. Music © 1958 Broadman Press (Admin. by LifeWay Worship)

## EASTER TULIPS



**THANK YOU to all who provided tulips for today's service.**

### **GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD**

Nancy Gaal

The Marotte Family

Clyde and Sarah Shiraki

Chris Willman-Bunge

### **GIVEN IN MEMORY OF**

Braylen Paulus

Richard and Norma Bull

Jack A. Davenport

John Gaal

Laura Trichel

Emily Weatherholtz

Maurice L. Marotte Jr.

Parents- Clarence and Virginia Tarner;

Sister- Janice Crawford

Charles W. Karper and Hazel Karper Rumler

### **GIVEN BY**

Kara Alt

Roxanne Davenport

Roxanne Davenport

Nancy Gaal

Jen Long

Jen Long

The Marotte Family

Carol and Mike Marotte

Sandy Lewis, Cookie Miller, and families

**GIVEN IN MEMORY OF**

Jeryl C. "Jerry" Miller

Karl Pound

Don and Margaret Rockwell

Our Parents

My father David Bunge

Leonard and Esther Zeger  
Robert and Elva Dilling

**GIVEN IN HONOR OF**

My family

Freeman Johnson – Pearl Harbor survivor, age 106

Our sons Chip and Jon and their families

Our three children: Steve, Gary, Kristen

Our five grandchildren and great-granddaughter  
Margot

**GIVEN BY**

His wife Cookie, sons Chip and Jon  
and their families

Lynda Pound

Carol Rockwell

John and Nina Widmann

Chris Willman-Bunge

Marvin and Linda Zeger

**GIVEN BY**

Nancy Gaal

Rev. Bob and Diana Macfarlane

Cookie Miller

Lee Powell

John and Nina Widmann

*Please take your flowers with you today*

## **NEWS IN THE PEWS April 5, 2026**

The Rev. Caroline E. Saxton, [pastor@sjucc1811.org](mailto:pastor@sjucc1811.org) (641) 260-1868 (cell)  
Tonya Schwartz, Office Administrator, [manager@sjucc1811.org](mailto:manager@sjucc1811.org) (717) 263-8593 (office)  
Gary Crum, Music Director | Barbara Motichka, Organist  
Roxanne Davenport, Director of Children & Youth  
The Rev. Stephen W. Hoffman, Pastor Emeritus.

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S**

### **TODAY: HAPPY EASTER!**

#### **Monday, April 6**

**Church Office Closed** – In Observance of Easter

1:30 pm Monday Afternoon Book Study – **No book Study** -will resume on 4/13 (Chapter 7)

6:00 pm Craft Night – Room 202 (rescheduled from 3/30)

#### **Tuesday, April 7**

5:30 pm Yoga – Room 202

6:00 pm Ladies' Bible Study– Zoom

6:00 pm Cub Scouts Graduation – Sanctuary

#### **Wednesday, April 8**

11:30 am Ladies Luncheon – Hoss' Steakhouse (20 Falling Spring Road, Chambersburg, 17202)

#### **Thursday, April 9**

6:00 pm Dance Class – Fellowship Hall

6:00 pm Bell Choir Practice – Bell Room 117

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal – Choir Room 103

#### **Saturday, April 11**

9:00 am Spring Church Grounds Clean Up – Church Grounds

10:30 Delivery of items to CVAS – Meet at Church

1:15 pm Laser Tag – Cluggy's

#### **Sunday, April 12**

8:45 am Sunday Morning Caffeine Church School Class – Parlor Room 104

8:45 am Godly Play Class – Room 119

8:45 am SPARK! Elementary Church School Class – Room 115

8:45 am Teen Discussion Class – Room 206

8:45 am Wired Word Church School Class – Room 116

8:45 am Upper Room Church School Class – Conference Room 111

10:00 am Sunday Worship – Sanctuary

8:00 pm Bible Study on Esther – chapters 7&8 (link in Friday e-blast)

**Bible Study on the Book of Esther** will resume with our study of chapters 7 & 8 on April 12. The Zoom link is in the Friday e-blast. Contact Pastor Caroline with any questions.

**Pastoral Coverage** Pastor Caroline will be on vacation April 6-11. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact the church office and they will get your message to the pastor on call. Pastor Caroline will return to lead worship on Sunday, April 12.

**Monday Afternoon Book Study** We will read chapter 7 of Norman Wirzba's book "Love's Braided Dance: Hope in a Time of Crisis" for our discussion on **Monday, April 13**, 1:30 pm in Conference Room 111. Come and join the conversation!

**Bible and a Beer** is an opportunity to talk about our faith in public. Join us on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at the Trojan Diner at 6:30 pm. Our next gathering will be April 20th.

**Blueberry Bliss Spring Tea Tickets** will be held on Saturday, April 25, 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Tickets are available now \$35, cash or check. Limited quantities left.

**CVAS Collection** The Youth are once again helping St. John's Nursery School in their collection of items for the CVAS by creating wonderful animal displays and signs for the collection sites in the church. We will embark on a delivery of these items on April 11 at 10:30 am. Meet at SJUCC.

**Laser Tag** By popular request, we are scheduling laser tag fun at Cluggy's on April 11. Cost is \$15 for unlimited time; meet at church at 1:00 pm or Cluggy's at 1:15 pm. We'll plan to return to the church by 4:30 pm. Service hours are applicable and there is no age requirement. Arcade games, mini golf, etc. are at your own cost. See Roxanne for more information.

**2025 SJUCC Year End Financial Report** is available upon request from the Church Office. This report is similar to what was shared at past mid-year Congregational Meetings.

**May/June Upper Room** devotionals are currently available at the Welcome Center. We suggest a donation of \$1 for small print/\$2 for large print copies. If you would like to have a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.

**April First Fruits** will support organizations designated as part of the Lenten Projects. This year's recipients are African Mission Healthcare, the Peru School Project, and the United Church of Christ Disaster Emergency Fund. Via these offerings, we will support medical care in Africa, education in Peru, and support where individuals have been affected by natural disasters.

**NETwork Ministries** Will be having their 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraising Banquet on Thursday April 16 at World Harvest Outreach in Chambersburg. 5-6 pm Artwork, Appetizers and Music. 6pm Dinner and Program. Reservations: \$30 per person. RSVP by phone 717-264-4640 or online at [network-ministries.org/banquet](http://network-ministries.org/banquet) by Monday April 6.

**Combined Church School Class** Join us for a continental breakfast and conversation on "what is Pentecost" led by Pastor Caroline on Sunday, May 17, 8:45 am in Fellowship Hall.

**Pentecost Picnic** will be held on Sunday, May 24 after worship. The menu includes hot dogs, chips, drinks, and dessert. We hope the weather will allow us to gather outside!