



The United Church of Christ
of Annapolis

Sunday, May 4, 2025, 10:30am
Third Sunday of Easter
Hybrid In-Person & Online Worship Service Order
YouTube LiveStream

Music: Matthew Bunn
Liturgist: Suzanne Muther
Preaching: Rev. Ellen Witko

SERVICE NOTES: "+" *before a line is an invitation to rise as you are able.*
Responses in BOLD are invitation for all to respond. Hymnals –
Purple refers to Glory to God, the purple hymnal, Black refers to
the black New Century Hymnal.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – UCCA Choir *"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"*

+ CALL TO WORSHIP AND BRINGING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

One: We glorify you, O Lord, for you have lifted us up.
Many: O Lord, our God, we cried out to you, and you healed us.
One: Sing praises to the Lord, O faithful ones,
and praise God's holy name.
Many: For God's anger is but for a moment,
but God's favor is for a lifetime.
One: Weeping may linger for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.
Many: O God, you have turned our mourning into dancing!
Let us worship God!
One: The peace of the Lord be always with you!
Many: And also with you.

— *Share a sign of peace with each other, by commenting on the livestream page, or send a text to someone, or shout "Peace!" to the world!*

+ GLORIA

Gloria, gloria, gloria: in excelsis Deo!

+ HYMN OF PRAISE "One Bread, One Body" Purple #530

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Selfless Christ, though we rejected your teachings, you poured out your life for us anyway. In your resurrection, you continue to nourish us with your steadfast love and the power of your Spirit. Enliven our hearts, that we might share the nourishment we have received and feed your people. Amen.

Via Negativa

A time of letting go.

*Even our emptiness — the repressed, the evil, the nothingness —
is all redeemed and we can let go.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Trusting in God's forgiveness,
let us in silence confess our failings
and acknowledge our part in the pain of the world.

{We hold silence}

Before God,
with the people of God,
I confess to turning away from God
in the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.

***May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.***

Amen.

***Before God,
with the people of God,
we confess to turning away from God
in the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.***

May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love. ***Amen.***

Via Creativa

We are co-creators with God in the work of our time.

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

PRAISE AND THANKS

One: Let us pray. We praise you, God, for this table
set in love for all who seek you.
Praise, too, for this company,
heaven and earth assembled for the feast.
Praise for the mercy we find here,
your mothering arms embracing all.

**All: Aware of our failings
and grateful for your kindness,
we ask help for our hearts,
that we may grow in love
and serve with our whole lives
the purposes of your mercy
and the cause of justice.**

Mindful also of everyone whose lives are marred by exclusion and pain, we
thank you for the joy we find in your house.

We call to mind every victim
shamed and slaughtered by the world's powers,
everyone who cries for breath.
With them present at this table,

we tell again the dangerous story
of love triumphant over death.

REMEMBERING JESUS

Now, O God, with grateful joy,
we remember Jesus.

He sided with the poor, made the sick well,
welcomed sinners and ate with outcasts.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

He would not hate.

He told the truth at the cost of his life.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

Betrayed and deserted by his friends,
he was killed as a common criminal,
shamed and despised.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

Death could not hold him.

God raised him in power from the grave.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

He returned to us without vengeance,
only mercy in his hands.

He is with us now, to the end of the age.

We remember, we refuse to forget.

And we remember that on the night of betrayal,
he fed us with signs of love:

a loaf, divided and shared;

a cup, poured and passed from hand to hand;

a meal to eat in resistance,

grace and courage for the struggle that goes on.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, Holy Spirit, Life of our life!

Bless this grain from the earth,

this fruit of the vine.

Make them food and drink of abundant life.

**As we share this meal, help us rejoice
that Christ is present with us here.**

**Give us love for one another,
and make us servants of peace
until your new age of justice comes,
and every creature beholds it.**

THE PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

Forgiven, loved, and free,

grateful for daily bread,

and eager to owe every neighbor

a debt of justice-love,

we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us:

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

**Thy Kindom 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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kindom, the power, and the glory for ever. Amen.

Come, for all things are ready.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Let us give thanks for all we have been given.

**Thank you, gracious God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus
and the mission of justice you have made our own.**

**Give us the gifts of this holy Communion:
oneness of heart, love for our neighbors,
forgiveness of enemies, the will to serve you every day,
and the life that never ends. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Listen now, in the reading of Scripture,
for the word and wisdom of God.

We open our hearts to the word and wisdom of God.

John 20:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish.

This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God

SERMON "Joy Comes in the Morning"
Rev. Ellen Witko

TIME OF SILENT REFLECTION

Via Transformativa

transforming passion for the world is borne of love. Having given praise, been reminded that we are loved, and participated in the building up of love together, we now prepare ourselves to be transformed by that love to do God's work in the world.

+ HYMN OF INCLUSION "God, How Can We Forgive" Purple #445

COLLECTION FOR THE WORK OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

We are deeply appreciative to receive the offering for the life and work of this beloved community. To support the ongoing work of our church, we ask that you please continue to give via the offering plate, online at our website, use the QR code, or online at our website:



www.uccannapolis.org/giving

or

Text to Give: Text "Give \$25" to (410) 376-5446

Offertory – Soprano Solo, Kayla Currie

+ DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ all creatures here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
God in all three whom we adore. Amen***

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE OFFERING

**Eternal God, take and use these gifts for your purpose in the world—
giving food to the hungry, hope to the despairing, and new life to the
dead. Teach us to live each day for you, so that future generations will
know your goodness and praise your glory; in the name of Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We share our prayers of hope and concern together.

We will conclude our prayers with:

***O Loving God, spirit of hope and peace,
lead us from death to life.***

Lead us from falsehood to truth.

Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe:

Peace ... Peace ... Peace,

CHORAL RESPONSE *John L. Bell*

Amen, Amen, Alleluia, Amen!

+ HYMN OF DEDICATION "Christ Is Alive" Purple #246 v. 1, 2, & 5

BENEDICTION

May the grace of Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the companionship of the Holy Spirit,

be with us all evermore, Amen

POSTLUDE

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service, and to reprint it, obtained from One License with license #A-724119.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

For thousands of years, Indigenous people called Piscataway lived in this area of Maryland. We acknowledge the land upon which our church sits was taken from the Piscataway people, therefore, we are occupying Piscataway land and tidewaters. Acknowledge this with us by paying land tax/rent. Please email Pastor Ellen at ellenwitko@att.net for a payment link.

The United Church of Christ of Annapolis

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We give thanks to God that you could join us today!

Announcements and Upcoming Events:

May Mother's Day Diaper Drive: In honor of Mother's, we will be collecting diaper and hygiene items during the month of May to support the Community Pantry. Needed are diapers, wipes, baby shampoo, soap and lotion, diaper cream, women's pads and liners. A donation basket will be in the Narthex. Thank you

Pastor Hours: The pastor will observe days of rest on Tuesday and Friday. Appointments are available by contacting the pastor or the church office.

Home Communion: is available for those who are unable to attend church. Please contact pastor Ellen or the church office to make arrangements.

Sunday School: Sunday School is offered during worship for youth 11 years old and younger during the academic year. Please see Pastor Ellen or Ginger Glasser for more information.

Fellowship Following Services: Please join us after the 10:30 service for a cup and conversation! Third Sunday Potluck luncheons are back! On the third Sunday of each month please bring a dish to share and join us to for lunch and to celebrate birthdays of the month.

UCCA Choir: Come and sing with us! The UCCA Choir meets on Sunday mornings at 9:30am. If you are interested, please join us Sunday morning or contact Rev. Witko.

Pastoral Care: If you would like more information about pastoral care or arrange a meeting, please contact Rev. Ellen Witko at ellenwitko@att.net or (908)-425-6362.

Living the Questions Adult Study Group: The group meets on the first and third Thursday of every month at 10:30am. All are welcome. Meetings are currently online. For more information contact Kathy Walker.

Faith and Film: The group meets on the last Thursday of each month. This will be our last film until we break for Summer. "Jesus Camp" filmmakers visit an evangelical Christian summer camp for kids. We will meet and discuss the film on May 29 at 6:00pm. The movie is available for free on YouTube. There is a direct link in this week's newsletter. Contact Lisa Clark for the zoom link at jjettxtc@aol.com.

May Movie of the Month: Gayby Baby will be shown in Caton Hall on May 18. Please note that we have changed the showing to coincide with our 3rd Sunday Potluck so we can enjoy snacks and the film! Gayby Baby follows the lives of four children being raised by gay parents. The screening is free, but we will be taking a collection for Annapolis Pride.