

(verse 2)

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they would not follow me. I danced for the fishermen, for James and John. They came with me and the dance went on.

(refrain)

(verse 3)

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame. The holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and left me there on a cross to die.

(refrain)

(verse 4)

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black. It's hard to dance with the devil on your back. They buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on.

(refrain)

(verse 5)

They cut me down and I leapt up high. I am the life that will never, never die. I'll live in you if you'll live in me, I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

(refrain)

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CALL TO RECONCILIATION

One: It can be hard to honestly examine ourselves and to reckon with the ways we have fallen short of God's dreams. It's even tougher to do that in community, out loud. But on this Bright Sunday, we celebrate our risen Lord who walked the earth, experiencing human temptations and losses, who defeated death, and then returned to be with God's people and show God's promises. Trusting in our savior who loves us enough to experience the mystery and messiness of human life and draws near to us again and again. Let us lay our short-comings before God, trusting we can be made new. Let us pray together:

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of wonder, sometimes we forget to be surprised. Forgive us for the times when our busyness gets in the way of noticing your presence. Forgive us for the times when our familiarity with your age-old story dulls our ability to marvel. Forgive the ways we put away curiosity, leaving questions and wonder to children. Open our eyes and ears to your works – the bold and quiet, strange and strong, beautiful and befuddling. Stir our desire to celebrate with you and our neighbors. Unbind our tight-lipped ways that we might proclaim in head-shaking wonder, and bewildered praise: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

One: Family of God, hear and believe the Good News, the best news, the totally unexpected news! Death could not contain our God. The tomb was empty! Alleluia!

In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection – acts of power and surprising joy – Christ freed us from our broken ways and their power over us. Like butterflies emerging to new and beautiful life, may we stretch our wings and soar in the freedom and fresh promise of God. In Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #33**

Praise the Lord! God's Glories Show
(verse 3)

Llanfair

Strings and voices, hands and hearts, Alleluia! in the concert, bear your parts, Alleluia! All that breathes, your Lord adore, Alleluia! singing praise forever more, Alleluia!

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: As those who have received the peace of Christ, let us greet our neighbors with signs of Christ's peace. The peace of Christ be with you all!

All: And, also, with you.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, surprise us today. Help us discover you in fresh ways as we encounter your word. Stir our holy imagination, open our eyes to wonder. Inspire us to pay attention so that we might not miss the unpredictable ways you come to us and for us. And may our reflection as a community of faith bring you joy, on this day. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *John 20:19-31*

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' ²⁸ Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' ²⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*Please stand as you are able.

REFLECTION ONE

“Jesus Explains the Joke”

***HYMN MADNESS TOURNAMENT WINNING SONG #69**

I, The Lord of Sea and Sky *Here I Am (Schutte)*
(verse 1)

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

(refrain)

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

(verse 2)

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people’s pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

(refrain)

(verse 3)

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

(refrain)

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SECOND SCRIPTURE READING *John 21:1-14*

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ² 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. ³ 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.

⁴ Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵ Jesus said to them, ‘Children, you have no fish, have you?’ They answered him, ‘No.’ ⁶ 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. ⁷ That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, ‘It is the Lord!’ When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. ⁸ 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.

⁹ When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰ Jesus said to them, ‘Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.’ ¹¹ So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹² 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. ¹³ Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴ This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

*Please stand as you are able.

REFLECTION TWO

"You Bring the Snacks"

UNISON CONFESSION OF FAITH (from "A Declaration of Faith")

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus God kept his promises. All that we can ever hope for was present in Christ. But the work of God in Christ is not over. God calls us to hope for more than we have yet seen. The hope God gives us is ultimate confidence that supports us when lesser hopes fail us. In Christ God gives hope for a new heaven and earth, certainty of victory over death, assurance of mercy and judgment beyond death. This hope gives us courage for the present struggle.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO OFFERING

We take this time to reflect and recognize all contributions of time, talent, and treasure. A basket is available for making monetary donations.

OFFERTORY

Easter Dawn

James Southbridge

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts. Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*SENDING SONG #80

You Shall Go Out with Joy

The Trees of the Field

(sing three times)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands. And all the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy.

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*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

Henry Balcombe

Elements of today's order of worship were provided by the Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation (OPSF), which seeks, equips, and supports Christian leaders.

**Please stand as you are able.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Knitting For Others

Inviting all folks from 12-100 years of age, who like to knit or who would like to learn, to be a part of Valley's Knitting Group.



The group will meet Sunday, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.:
April 12 & 26

This group has been busy knitting prayer blankets and shawls for members of our congregation. It takes a lot of yarn to knit or crochet these items. Many of us have made items in the past but have not used quite all the yarn. Knitting for Others can use the leftover yarn to make items to share with others. We are currently making items for babies and young children. If you have any size-3 or 4 yarn that you will not be using and could share with Knitting for Others, we certainly would appreciate your donation. Yarn can be left in the box marked “yarn” in the Library. Thank you so much for your help.

For questions, please call one of our Co-Chairs, Beverly or Bev:

Beverly Wahl
502-553-7255

Bev Keough
330-888-5385

Mid-week Lunch Group – April 14



All are welcome to gather for lunch together at Buckeye Café (located across from the church in Tanglewood Square) at noon on the second Tuesday of each month (April 14, May 12, June 9, etc.) for a time of good food, great coffee, and even better conversations.

Sarah Circle 2025-26

We'd love to have you join us!

The next meeting will be:
Tuesday, April 14

Our study this year is:

PCUSA: Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

Meet September — May the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. in the Church Library. For more information, please contact Glenna Pool at 419-789-9446 or e-mail gpool205@yahoo.com.

CFPCC Food Bank Needs

Please consider donating the following items to help stock the shelves at Chagrin Falls Park Community Center:



Ground beef, chicken, eggs, milk, fresh fruit and vegetables, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti sauce, pasta, Spaghetti O's, snacks, or anything you would like to donate.

CFPCC is receiving donations at your car. Someone will come out and retrieve donations. You can, also, leave them in the blue donation bin in the Narthex.

Pass-it-on Resale Store



The **store will be open** on:

Friday, April 17 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Saturday, April 18 (10 a.m. – 2 p.m.)

Pass-it-on is accepting donations. Please contact Brenda Wahl at 440-829-7841 or passitonamissionoflove@gmail.com.

Pet Supply Drive – April 19 and 26

Payton Timmons is collecting blankets / other pet supplies for donation to Rescue Village! As part of the Kenston High School National Honor Society, her project involves accepting donations for animal shelters. If you have any blankets or other supplies, please let her know, or bring them into church for the next two Sundays. Any donations are greatly appreciated! Thank you!

Community Meal

Tuesday, April 21



Community Meal

The community-wide dinner is offered at no charge for anyone who is hungry, who is feeling stretched, or who might need to be reminded that they are loved.

Menu: Vegetable lasagna, green salad, garlic bread, brownies

If you are interested in helping, we will be cooking meals from 9:30-11:30 a.m.; assembling from 3-4 p.m.; and distributing / delivering from 4-5:30 p.m. In addition, if you would like to bake brownies (your recipe of choice) at home, please drop off by 10 a.m. on April 21st.

See the April Valley Voice or the Church website for the links to sign up to volunteer and for the meal.

Donations – Credit Card or Zelle

Credit card donations are available on-line at the Valley Presbyterian website below:

<http://valleypresbychurch.org>

Look for “Give Now” button. Can only be used for donations.

Can not pay for holiday flowers, VBS, books, etc. at this link.

Use the following QR Code to donate via **Zelle**:



VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

www.valleypresbychurch.org

VPC Guest Wifi Password: VPC12345

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Director of Music: Nancy Sullivan
Liturgist: Sean Bulanda, Marilyn Rodenhausen

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Bev Wahl