



April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday
Sacrament of Holy Communion

PRELUDE (A Time for Quiet Meditation)

Low in the Grave

Lani Smith

WORDS OF WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

An Easter Fanfare

Price & Besig

PRAYER OF ADORATION

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP #826

Lift High the Cross
(refrain)

Crucifer

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

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***RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (from I Corinthians 15, Luke 24)**

One: This is the good news by which we are saved;

All: On the third day, Jesus rose from the dead.

One: Christ the Lord is risen! Alleluia!

All: Alleluia! The Lord is risen, indeed!

***GATHERING SONG #248**

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!
(verse 1)

Hymn to Joy

Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed. In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown. Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

(verse 2)

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend. Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

(verse 3)

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

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CALL TO CONFESSION

One: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Trusting in God's grace, let us, together, confess our sin and the sins of this world:

*Please stand as you are able.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, we no longer look for Jesus among the dead, for he is risen and has become the Lord of life. Grant that we might be delivered daily from the power of sin, so that we might live with Christ in the joy of his resurrection. Increase our minds and hearts to this risen life: to the care and compassion, welcome and acceptance of others, and help us to grow as your people toward the fullness of life eternal with you.

(Time of Silence)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: This is the good news we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved: that Christ died for our sins and then rose again, so that we might come to believe and proclaim this good news to the world. In Christ, we are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***SONG OF RESPONSE #240**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks
(refrain)

Alleluia No. 1

***Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
Give praise to his name.***

By Donald Fishel / ©1973 International Liturgy Publications / CCL #11043756

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

One: Because we have peace with God through Christ, let us share this peace together. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And, also, with you.

UNISON PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Living God, with joy we celebrate the presence of your risen Word. Help us to listen and learn as your love is shared with us this day. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING *John 20:1-10*

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

*Please stand as you are able.

RESPONSIVE PSALM READING *Psalm 118:19-26*

One: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

All: This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

One: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

All: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

One: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

One: Save us, we beseech you, O Lord! O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

All: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Empty Now

Martin

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:11-18

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.' ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?' Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, 'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.' ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God."' ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

THE MESSAGE

"Weeping Outside the Tomb"

Rev. Dr. John Wahl

UNISON CONFESSION OF FAITH (Adapted from *The Confession of 1967*)

The resurrection of Jesus is the sign that God will bring to fulfilment the new life begun in Christ. New life in Christ takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them. They, therefore, accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand except God's Grace.

The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which people are reconciled to God and to one another. The Spirit gives people power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and the gospel of reconciliation to all. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING – One Great Hour of Sharing

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

OFFERTORY *That Easter Day with Joy was Bright* Emma Lou Diemer

***DOXOLOGY #609**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***SONG OF PREPARATION #2265 (STF)**

Time Now to Gather

Welcome Song

(verse 3)

All who are hungry, come, and be fed. Serve one another this cup and bread. All who are troubled, hurting, or sad, come, and find healing. Come, and be glad!

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INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING / PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Living God, you make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread and the cup of redemption. Let us now go forth from this place, fed at your table and filled by the Spirit, to walk with you all the days of our lives, and proclaim the glory of your resurrection to the world. Amen.

***SENDING SONG #245**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!

Llanfair

(verse 1)

"Christ the Lord is risen today!" Alleluia! All creation, join to say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

(verse 2)

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

(verse 3)

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia! Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia! Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

*Please stand as you are able.

(verse 4)

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven! Alleluia! Praise to you by both be given, Alleluia! Every knee to you shall bow, Alleluia! Risen Christ triumphant now. Alleluia!

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

Empty Now

Martin

***FINAL BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Christ Is Alive

Edwin T. Childs

*Please stand as you are able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

One Great Hour of Sharing – Collected on Easter Sunday, 4/5

When we give to **One Great Hour of Sharing** (OGHS), we are combining our efforts with thousands of churches across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to repair peoples' lives — people who are hurting, oppressed, lost, or on the margins of society. The exact people about whom Isaiah is speaking of. The people we are called to connect with every day, but especially in the light of the Good News of the resurrection.

By participating, we see how giving opens our hearts to God's work in our own lives and tangibly witness the repairing love of God in Jesus Christ.

North Church Worship and Meal Serving

April 10

Meal Preparation — 9:30–11 a.m.

April 12

Depart at 9:45 a.m., return by 2:00 p.m.

Bright Sunday Worship

Sunday, April 12

Holy Humor / Bright Sunday Worship

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.

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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Liturgist: Lynn Fagerholm

Organist: John Kautzman
Greeter: Jeanne DeLaney