



Community UCC, 805 South 6th Street, Champaign, IL 61820
Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B
Live Stream
May 9, 2021



Community UCC

We're worth our words
Welcoming Progressive Community
Vibrant Messengers of Hope



Champaign, Illinois

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year B

May 9, 2021

Gathering Music

Christ Be Our Light

Led by Xiaoyi Zha
Larry Lee, Guitar
arr Bernadette Farrell

Welcome

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Christ the Lord is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed! Amen. Welcome to worship this morning at Community UCC, where we continue to wish you a happy Easter. Today, we continue our worship series for the Easter season: Way of Light. For Christians, the resurrection is a way of life, not just a single holiday, and so, we are taking a long look at many of the resurrection stories which appear in the Gospels. The way of light, or the Via Lucis as it is called, spends 50 days immersed in the power of the resurrection and the journey into resurrected life, which is continual and on-going, not a single, one-off event. We welcome this opportunity to think about how the resurrection unfolds over time both in life and in faith. Our theme today is Forgiven so we Can Love. As we read today's gospel text of Jesus asking Peter if he loves him three times, we remember how this mirrors the way Peter denied Jesus three times. This exchange is an affirmation of love in triplicate to counterbalance the fear that led Peter to reject Jesus. That restoration of love is the forgiveness that sets him free to love others in the same measure. Today, as we enter into worship, consider what moments still hold you back from loving fully. We are forgiven so we can love" How has forgiveness set you free? That's the question we will explore today. Have a second browser window or device available so that after the message, you can type your answers into our menti.com word cloud for the day. Then, we'll look at that word cloud together. As we settle into worship, as we begin, we welcome you. And who are we? We are young and old and middle age. Gay and straight and in between. We are single and partnered. Happy and sad, confused and inspired. We are street smart and college educated. Some of us can't pay our bills and others of us have more than enough to share. Who are we? We are God's people. We are the Body of Christ. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here and we really mean it. Welcome to worship.

Prelude

As the Deer / Fairest Lord Jesus

Aaron Ames
Martin Nystrom, arr. Mark Hayes

Call to Worship

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser, Joel Brotherton

The tomb is empty! A new day has come! By the power of the Spirit, Christ Jesus is with us, bringing new light and new life!

Even when we think our past failures define us and we cannot imagine a different future?

Even then, God loves us, Christ comes to us, and the Spirit empowers us. Come, let us rejoice in the Light!

We welcome you to our service this morning. Celebrating the diversity of creation, Community United Church welcomes persons of any age, ability, race, gender identity, sexual orientation, or life condition. May the Divine Presence become real to you through this time of worship. We hope you come back!

Opening Prayer

Joel Brotherton

from Via Lucis: the Way of Light by Glenn Byer

From across the miles, let us join our hearts and minds together in prayer. Let us pray. Most Holy Spirit of God, you who are with us in all the stages of our lives, help us to be open to what each season of life brings, and what we must reconcile within ourselves in each season. You were with Jacob and Rachel in their first meeting, and as they grew older. You blessed Mary as a young person, transforming what could have been her shame into her deepest joy and calling. You were with the Ethiopian Eunuch who was an outsider in every way, poured out your grace upon him, and commissioned him to tell the good news. In every season and every stage of life, you call us, you transform us, you love us without end. Parent of the ages, we pray now for the courage we need to confess when we have failed, and to offer sincere forgiveness when offenses occur, knowing that your love for us, which knows no end, extends to the ends of the earth. We pause now to sit with the gift of your grace. Thank you for this gift. We are grateful. Amen.

Hymn

Listen to Your Savior Call

NCH 250

Led by Xiaoyi Zha, Jeanne Ward, Kathy Lee, David Willcox
Words William Cowper, Arr. Richard Redhead

*Listen to your Savior call, "Do you love me most of all?"
Jesus speaks, and speaks to you: "Love me as I first loved you."*

*"I delivered you when bound, and when bleeding, healed your wound.
Sought you wandering, set you right, for your pathway gave you light."*

*"Mine is an unchanging love, higher than the heights above.
Deeper than the depths beneath, free and faithful, strong to death."*

*O my Savior, hear my need: though my love is faint indeed.
Still I love you and adore – oh, for grace to love you more!*

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

(children PreK – 5th Graders are invited to go to the Breakout Room for Sunday School)

(requires a 2nd device for the children to access the breakout room)

Prelude to Scripture

Joel Brotherton

Whether we take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth, or story, let us listen now for the meaning it might hold for us on this day.

Sacred Reading from the Gospels

John 21:15-17

¹⁵ 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.' ¹⁶A 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.' ¹⁷He 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.

Postlude to Scripture

Together, let us say:

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

Hymn

My Shepherd Is the Living God

NCH #247

Led by Stephen Kolderup, Jan Hiland
Thomas Sternhold, Issac Watts, Harmony Erik Routley

*My shepherd is the living God, I therefore nothing need;
In pastures fair, near pleasant streams you settle me to feed.
You bring my wandering spirit back when I forsake your ways,
And lead me for your mercy's sake in paths of truth and grace.*

*When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;
A word of your supporting breath drives all my fear away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessing overflows, your oil anoints my head.*

*The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others come and go
No more a stranger or a guest, but like a child at home.*

Message

Forgiven so we Can Love

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Congregational Response

Go to [Join a presentation - Mentimeter](#), put in today's code, and answer the question

Anthem

Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

CUCC Choir
Video Produced by David Willcox
Arr. K. Lee Scott

Call to Offering

Joel Brotherton

At this time, you are invited to place your prayer concerns in the comments or the chat as we prepare for prayer. We pause in our worship now to affirm what it means to be an Easter people. Every morning is Easter morning from now on. Our own encounter with the Risen One shapes life together as a church – together, we call one another to new life. The resurrection mission and ministry of Community United Church of Christ is made possible through the generosity of you, Community UCC’s members and friends, and your gift of time, expertise, talent, and treasure. We thank you for your generosity and ask God to bless and multiply all that you offer in God’s name. To make a financial gift to CUCC, you can go to our website www.community-ucc.org where you can click “donate” and give. May God bless the gifts and the givers.

Sharing our Prayer Requests

- Our sincere condolences to the Tarr Family upon the death of James Tarr on May 1, 2021. Jim and Bonnie Tarr were members of CUCC from 1980 - 2006 where Jim served as Financial Secretary for many years. If you would like to read more about Jim’s life his obituary can be found here [James Tarr - Morgan Memorial Home Morgan Memorial Home](#).
- Martha Seif
- Karen Garner
- Violence against our black and brown siblings
 - Remy Fennell
 - Ma’Khia Bryant
 - Mario Gonzalez
 - Isaiah Brown
 - Andrew Brown Jr.
 - Tiara Banks
 - Natalia Smut
 - Iris Santos
 - Tiffany Thomas
 - Keri Washington
 - Jahaira DeAlto
- Residual trauma all black and brown people experience every time there is trauma against black and brown people in this country.
- People of our country

Prayer Requests and Morning Prayer

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Commissioning of the Community

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

Hymn

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

NCH 531 v 1, 2, 4

Led by Elena Negruta, Kathy Lee

Words Frances Ridley Havergat, Arr. Robert Schumann

*God, speak to me, that I may speak
in living echoes of your tone;
as you have sought, so let me seek
your erring children lost and lone.*

*O lead me, God, that I may lead
some wanderers along life's way;
O feed me so that I may feed
your hungry ones without delay.*

*O fill me with your fullness, God,
your overflowing love to know;
In glowing word and kindling thought,
your love to tell, your praise to show.*

*O use me, God, use even me
just as you will, and when, and where,
until your blessed face I see,
your rest, your joy, your glory share.*

Benediction

Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser

People of God,
Jesus promises that he is the Light of the World,
and we are children of that Light.
Go now, bearing that Light out into the world,
beacons of hope and God's love for all.
Go in peace and serve in love.
Amen.

Way of Light: The Stations of the Resurrection

Don't forget to check the blog post that is part of this series where Sue Osborne (photos) and Pastor Connie Bandy (reflection and prayer) will be posting "Prayers for Eye and Heart" twice weekly spiritontheprairie.blogspot.com.

Queering Faith 4.0

For those of you who missed (or want to watch again) Queering Faith 4.0: Mythology and Futurism as Tools for Queer Theology, the video is now posted on YouTube. Speakers Taj M. Smith and Dr. Gabrielle M.W. Bychowski discuss how these elements typically reserved for fiction can actually be useful tools for creating a more just brilliant future for

everyone. The talk is moderated by the magnificent Rev. Dr. Chris Davies. The link is here:
https://youtu.be/3o_ADxO2x7I?t=274

Serving Today

Ministers: The Community of Community UCC
Preacher: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser
Liturgist: Joel Brotherton
Director of Music Ministry: Kathy Lee
Organist: Aaron Ames
Audio/Video: Rev. Nate Brantingham
Audio/Video: Andy Contreras
Zoom Room Greeter: Kent Henkel

CUCC Staff

Pastor: Rev. Leah Robberts-Mosser leah@community-ucc.org	Parish Associate: Rev. Connie Bandy connie@community-ucc.org
Director of Youth Ministries: Jessica Smiley jessica@community-ucc.org	Director of Music Ministries: Kathy Lee music@community-ucc.org
Childcare Coordinator: Courtney Hayman childcare@community-ucc.org	Organist: Aaron Ames, Interim Organist
Commissioned Minister of Congregational Health: Linda Morgan lindamorgan@sbcglobal.net	Office Manager: Carla Rush info@community-ucc.org

Your Ministry Team Leaders

-Community Building: Peg Wade and Randy Musser	-Usher Coordinator: (pending)
-Care Team: Jeff & Tina Stovall	-Sound Coordinator: Roger Wade
-Prayer Shawls: Elena Kasper	-Clerk: Shane Brownfield
-Meal Train: Jennifer Robbennolt	-Moderator: Elizabeth Shack
-Driver's Ministry: John Osborne	Past Moderator: Jon Ebel
-Card Ministry: Peg Wade	-Incoming Moderator: Erin Ewoldt
-Healing Music Ministry: Marilou Hinrichs	-UCC Campus Ministry Liaison: Ilsa Kantola
-Health and Wellness Team: Doug Irwin	-Pastoral Relations: Cara Finnegan
-Finance: Roger Wade (treasurer), David Willcox (financial secretary)	-Personnel Committee: Anna Barnes
-Mission: Jeanne Ward and Kristy Brownfield	-Sound & Ethical Practices (SEP): Grant Robbennolt and Kyle Mahannah
-Identity: Keri Evans and (pending)	-Buildings & Grounds: Tom Ward and Matthew Hart
-Children & Family: Julie McClure and (pending)	-Contracts & Insurance: Andrew McClure
-Worship: Chase Skye and Susan Pawlicki	

United Church Foundation (UCC Campus Ministry)

Director of Campus Ministry: Nate Brantingham (nate@ucccampusministry.org)
<http://community-ucc.org/campus-ministry/>

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Community United Church of Christ

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SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9, 2021

John 15:9-17

Friends Together
Rural Life Sunday / Mother's Day

Church coffee hour is as important a weekly ritual as church worship. On this Rural Life Sunday, consider how your church community is intentional about making relationships with the farmers who produce the treats you enjoy each Sunday morning. Through Equal Exchange coffee, your church can celebrate its relationship with farmers every day, not just on Rural Life Sunday.

*“Started in 2004, the UCC Fair Trade Project allows your congregation to partner with the United Church of Christ and Equal Exchange in building fair trade for small farming communities by serving fairly traded coffee, tea and cocoa, and chocolate, snacks, and olive oil for justice at fellowship hour on Sundays.

This project is a way for your congregation to join hands with communities in the developing world. As Christians we can address a consumer dilemma by buying coffee and other commodities that are fairly traded. Through the project, small farmers and their families gain more control over their lives, earn a fairer share of income, have access to credit and technical support, and gain a trading partner they can trust. Members of your congregation can learn about consumption habits that support small scale farmers and workers throughout the world and encourage careful stewardship of God's creation. At fellowship hour, you will be taking action in a spirit of love.

Through the UCC Fair Trade Project, you get access to Organic, fairly-traded products at discounted wholesale case prices, ensuring that more of the money you spend on coffee and other products reaches the hardworking farmers who actually grow them.” *(<https://equalexchange.coop/ucc>)

Find out more about how your church community can partner with Equal Exchange at <https://equalexchange.coop/ucc>.



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