

EASTER SUNDAY

April 20, 2025

John 20:1-18

Resurrection Joy

The morning sun was peeking over the hills of the cemetery where the faithful had gathered to sing the first alleluias of Easter. As the sky turned from black to gray to an orangey pink, casting a warm glow on the sleepy headstones, the pastor spoke of a stone rolled away, an empty tomb revealed, and angels in bright clothing asking the living among the dead, "Who are you looking for?"

It was then a young woman attending the sunrise service could no longer hold back her tears. With them flowing freely, she offered no apologies but rather she proclaimed the message of Easter more eloquently than any pastor ever could.

It's amazing that Easter joy begins in a graveyard! There is resurrection all around! We live because He lives!

Those around her smiled. Some even joined her in the tears she shed.

Yes, isn't it amazing, my friends, that Easter joy begins in a graveyard. Isn't it amazing that God brings new life from what has passed away? Death does not have the last word. Endings are new beginnings. Good-byes are followed by blessed hellos.

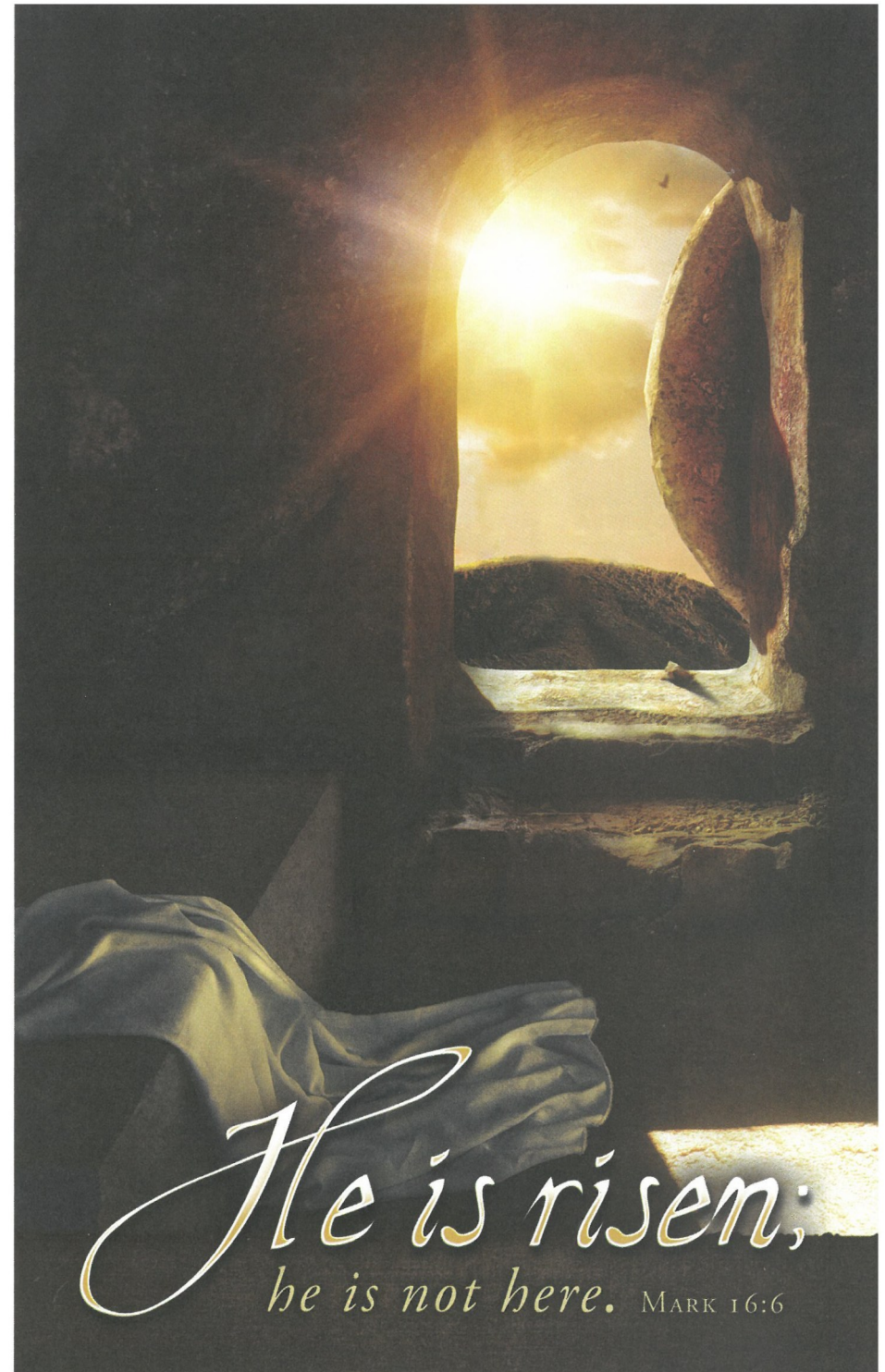
And yet, how many times do we fully embrace the Easter promise, believing beyond belief that the end is never the end with God?

The late Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong once said that "the Easter moment is a call to life, to love and to the courage to be all that God created us to be." We will never get to that Easter life, though, if we linger among that which is dead. For what are we hoping to revive? What are we clinging to? Who are we looking for?

As the angels proclaimed that first Easter morning, Jesus is alive. He is waiting to meet us on our paths where we discover the Risen Christ in the care shown to us from strangers as well as the compassion we give in return. We might not always recognize Jesus, but He is indeed there. Our cynical eyes just need to see through the lenses of faith.

May this Easter we stop our woeful gaze into the tomb of dead dreams and hopes and shout to the world, as Mary did, "I have seen the Lord!" For you have. He is alive among us — within all our hearts.

God of Easter new life, we thank You and praise You for fresh beginnings. May we begin to live as Easter people, holding tightly to the promise that death is no more. With our Risen Lord by our sides, there is always hope and amazing possibilities. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
A United Church of Christ
(708) 865-1282

Easter Sunday

“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!

April 20, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Welcome on behalf of our pastoral staff

Rev. Joseph E. Mills, III, Pastor 708/562-0759

Lawrence Underwood, Music Director

Joyce Kelstrom, Bell Choir Director

Pastor Vinod Wesley, Chicago Tamil Church Pastor
& Associate Pastor

Altar Flowers: Kathy Marinier in Memory of Charles

Liturgist: John Mika

Ushers: O Toni Randle and Judy Weismann

Greeter: Bob Von Laven

Zoom: Mary Linville

Westchester Community Church, United Church of Christ

1840 Westchester Boulevard

Westchester, IL 60154

708/865-1282

www.westchesterucc.org

Email: westcomchurch@hotmail.com

**(If you have a prayer request you'd like to share with us,
go to CHAT on your Zoom page and type it in
so we can share it with others)**

****ALSO REMEMBER TO MUTE YOUR ZOOM
SCREEN SO WE CAN HEAR THE PASTOR
UNLESS IT'S A TIME TO SHARE**

Please remember to sign the Red Booklet at the end of every pew. If you have any prayer request please put them into the offertory plates so Pastor Joe can receive them.

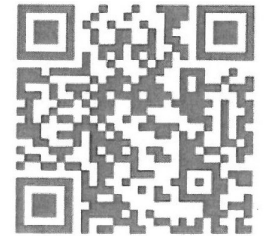
There are In Touch cards in the pews if you want to fill them out.

Please put them in the offertory plates.

Thank You, Your Parish Fellowship Board

**FOR THOSE ON ZOOM AND
ANYTIME YOU WANT TO MAKE A SPECIAL GIFT**

We truly encourage you to use our online giving tool, Which you can access through our website. When you are at home on Zoom, or away on trips, Our bills here at church don't go away. We need your help!! Remember to give, and if it is a special gift, There is a way to make a note on the Vanco page. Make clear what the donation s for!!! Thank you!!



Manna news!!! Graduations, Mothers Day and Fathers Day are fast approaching so, consider buying a gift cards from Manna!

Manna is a program where people order gift cards through the church, we order them through a company that gives us a discount on the cards and we keep the discount. So, you pay the value of the card, you GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR, and WE earn money. It's a win, win. With each order the church pays the tax and shipping fees.

Manna forms are available in the narthex and on the table outside the office. Manna orders & payment is due the last Sunday of the month, and are distributed by the 2nd Sunday of the month. Manna is great for gifts, donating for In-reach, and for places you shop. Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please see Charlene Dolnics or Sue Becerra.

Bike Rodeo and Resource Fair

April 26, 2025 from 1to 4pm Everyone is welcome especially those who would like safer streets for children, families and adults. You'll learn how to use your bike, wear a helmet, rules of the road and more. Westchester Intermediate School 11900 Canterbury St, Westchester. Free! Register now at bit.ly/bike2025.

Please continue to support our **In-Reach Fund**. This money helps our own members in medical emergencies, or rent, or just to make it possible to breathe. Please make out a check or on-line gift, and mark it **"In-Reach"**.

Thank you to **Chris Stout**, who arranged that 8 members were certified by our Fire Department in CPR. If you are interested in CPR training, see Chris!!

Congratulations to **Abby Montanus** (granddaughter to Dorothy Malczewski) who graduated from the NC State Wilson College of Textiles (Textile Engineering) Summa Cum Laude!!!!

Our **Mission Board** asks you to support our **Easter Offering** to help with members who have severe need. We call it the **In-Reach Fund**. Our discretionary is down to **nothing**, and we can use your help. Please make out a gift to WCC, and mark it "In-Reach". Thank you!!

The Music Board proudly presents **On the Air 50's Hit Parade, sung by the Cordially Yours musical group**, directed by Judy Schindler. This fundraiser will be on **Sunday, April 27th at 11:15 am** and a luncheon will be served after the performance.

Cordially Yours is a group of singers that includes parishioners and their friends from Mary, Mother of Divine Grace and our very own Kathy Marinier.

This is a 45-minute medley bringing in the greatest tunes from the 50's. Following the performance, we will be serving Tacos, Gluten Free Mexican Casserole, beans, and Churro bars. Tickets are \$12 per person and will be available before & after church, in the church office. **Please buy your tickets by TODAY, Sunday, April 20th**, if possible, as a limited number of tickets will be available the day of the event.



Our Kitchen certification will expire in June. We need someone willing to take the test and recertify the kitchen in their name. We need to keep our kitchen certified so we can host dinners and such if we have a fish fry again or spaghetti dinner. We otherwise cannot sell to the public. Questions please see Noreen Love.

WISH LIST for Women's Society Closet—Paper Towels, Zip Lock Bags (quart and gallon), 8 inch and 10 inch Heavy Duty Paper Plates and Distilled Water. Please if you can donate any of these items bring them to the church office.

Westchester Food Pantry 2025 Yard Sale Extravaganza will be held on May 29th, 30th and 31st. Donation Last Drop-Off Day is Saturday, May 3rd from 9—11am at our church.

If you are looking for a fun group.....please join Sassy Stitchers! We invite knitters and crocheters. All materials for service projects are provided. Everyone Welcome! Please contact Barb Boyd for more info at 708.267.2272.

WORSHIP SERVICE

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God" - Corrie Ten Boom

PRELUDE Lawrence Underwood
GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS John Mika
OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS Pastor Mills
*WE PROCLAIM HIS RESURRECTION #288

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

*CALL TO WORSHIP John Mika
Leader: We believe that He has been raised from the dead.
People: **And we know that we truly do not understand what this means. We pray that Your Spirit will breathe understanding and hope into all of us.**

Leader: Understanding because we do not now the mind of God.

People: **But hope because we wish to trust the Will of the Lord.**

Leader: He is Risen!! He is Risen, indeed!!

ALL: **CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN.
THE POWERS OF EVIL AND DEATH HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.
ALLELUIA!! ALLELUIA!!**

AN EASTER THANKSGIVING - **"How Beautiful,"**
Twila Paris

A Reading from God's Holy Word John Mika
From the Gospel: John 20:1-18 p. 88, NT, Pew Bible
p. 140, NT, Large Print

*A GLORIA PATRI #295
**"Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!
Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!"**

WE PRAY TO THE LORD #300
"In the Garden"

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Mills
THE LORDS PRAYER (Please Use Debts/Debtors)

THE MORNING OFFERING John Mika
AN OFFERTORY—"Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

WCC Chancel Choir

(THOSE AT HOME, PLEASE SEND IN GIFTS BY CHECK OR USE OUR ON-LINE GIVING)
*THE DOXOLOGY #298

*Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth its song begin!
The world resound in triumph, and all that is there-in;
Let all things seen and unseen
their notes of gladness blend;*

For Christ the Lord has risen, our Joy that has no end.

*A PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison) John Mika

How awesome You are, Lord! You can make a feast
out of loaves and fish; You can make the blind see and the
lame walk. You can make miracles out of our gifts!! We
give them to You in thanks, and pray wisdom through Your
Spirit to guide us in their use, through Jesus Your Son and
our Risen Lord. Amen!

A Reading from God's Holy Word John Mika

From the Epistles: I Corinthians 15:19-26

p. 134, NT, Pew Bible
p. 215, NT, Large Print

AN EASTER SOLO—"Crown Him, the Risen King!"

Medley, arr. Lloyd Larson

THE MEDITATION—"For That Which is to Come"

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

AN EASTER ANTHEM—"He Is the Risen Lord," J. Martin

WCC Chancel Choir

Words of Remembrance in Light of Easter

The Invitation to Communion

The Sharing of the Elements

(For here, there is one plate for Gluten Free.

*If you wish to be served, raise your hand when that tray is offered
near you. Those at home, feel free to use what you have at
home to participate with us in this Sacrament)*

A Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)

For that which is to come, we give thanks.

For our salvation made possible in Christ Jesus,
we give thanks.

For our hope of eternal life through Him, we give
thanks.

That we can leave Your table and never be apart from
You, we give thanks.

Blessed be You, O God, for raising Jesus from death,
and making it possible that we might live abundantly
in Your sight.

And to Your Glory we give thanks to You, O Lord.
Amen.

*WE CELEBRATE THE GOOD NEWS #302

"He Lives"

THE COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION Pastor Mills

THE POSTLUDE Lawrence Underwood

EASTER

302

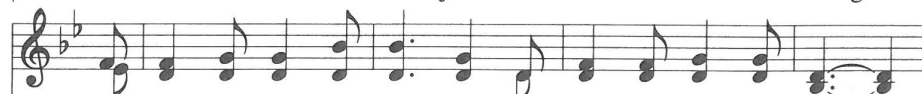
He Lives



1 I serve a ris - en Sav - ior, he's in the world to - day;
2 In all the world a - round me I see his lov - ing care,
3 Re - joice, re - joice, O Chris - tian, lift up your voice and sing



I know that he is liv - ing, what - ev - er some may say;
and though my heart grows wea - ry, I nev - er will de - spair;
e - ter - nal hal - le - lu - jahs to Je - sus Christ the King!



I see his hand of mer - cy, I hear his voice of cheer,
I know that he is lead - ing through all the storm - y blast,
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find,



and just the time I need him he's al - ways near.
the day of his ap - pear - ing will come at last.
none oth - er is so lov - ing, so good and kind.



Refrain
He lives, he lives, Christ Je - sus lives to - day!
he lives, he lives,



He walks with me and talks with me a - long life's nar - row way.



He lives, he lives, sal - va - tion to im - part!
he lives, he lives,



You ask me how I know he lives? He lives with - in my heart.

In the Garden



1 I come to the gar-den a-lone, while the dew is still on the
 2 He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their
 3 I'd stay in the gar-den with him though the night a-round me be



ros-es; and the voice I hear, fall-ing on my ear, the
 sing-ing, and the mel-o-dy that he gave to me with-
 fall-ing, but he bids me go; through the voice of woe his



Refrain



Son of God dis-clos-es.
 in my heart is ring-ing. And he walks with me, and he
 voice to me is call-ing.



talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, and the



joy we share, as we tar-ry there, none oth-er has ev-er known.



CALENDAR

TODAY

Worship 10 am

MONDAY

Chicago Tamil UCC Worship, 12:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Play practice—7 p.m. Sanctuary

Zoom Bible Study, 9:30 am THIS WEEK

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/961336622>

Play Practice—7 p.m. Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Worship/Special Play

Noon - Chicago Tamil Worship

BIRTHDAYS THRU 4/27/25

4/20 Charlene Dolnics, Elayne Dalheim

4/21 Grace Cecconi

4/22 Jim Locigno, James Slanker, Lelandra Randle,
 Riley Barker

4/25 John Moore, Kate Monahan

4/26 Megan Stetzer

4/27 Ethan Kniesel

THINKING AHEAD...

Sassy Stitchers—3rd Tuesday of the month from 9am to 11:30am

Women's Book Club— Our next Book Club will be Wednesday, April 30th, 4:30pm in the first floor classroom. Bring your own Dinner! Call Barb Mills to join us.

Scrapbooking and Diamond Art Dates: May 1—3. Please come join us! Contact Barb Mills if you can attend.

Card Making—Friday, April 25th at 10am in the south basement
Fall Craft Sale— will be held on November 15. Setup is November 12, 13 and 14th Please mark these dates in your calendar!

Due Today.....

Order forms are due for the **Annual Plant Sale!** Please have the orders in by Today, Easter Sunday, April 20!!!

Please buy your tickets by **TODAY**, for the Sunday, April 27th Fundraiser sponsored by the Music Board—"On the Air 50's Hit Parade", sung by the Cordially Yours musical group

Ladies Weekend at Tower Hill.....June 6-7-8th. This weekend is open to ALL ladies of the church. Those interested please sign the sheet in the Narthex **TODAY**—questions contact Lou Bender or Barb Mills

**PRAYER REQUESTS:
PEOPLE AT THEIR HOMES:**

Doris Blomberg, Linda Belice, Minnie Rice, Frank Fleming, Marge Nelson, Lorraine Feehan, Chris Stout, Marilyn Sinde, Dave Else, Allen Meskan, Lou Bender, Virginia Hodina, Jeannie Rowe, Caroline Long, Char Schwass, Jimmy Marczuk, Paul Barnes, Bettyann Richeson, Betty Koenig, Isabella Brumwell, Wayne Scharlach, Allan Boyd, Ed Monahan, Karen Hart, Bill & Maggie Smith, George Long, Mary Kay Baca, Chuck Yeiser, Dave Vrablic, Emil Poprawski, Benny Locigno, Ellie Merritt, Barb Sweazey, James Hixon, Judy Frandsen, Don Smith, Mark Henning, Serena Ivers & Chris, Elayne Dalheim, Patricia Ladner, Michael Kelstrom, Patrick McCarthy



FRIENDS IN PRAYERS: Joyce Barbee, Marie Brewster, Andee Brown-Roth, Bob Chappell, Bill and Kimble Compton, Bob and Jean, Kathy D'Autino, Dominick DiBrizzii, Sr., Drake Dennis/Family, Father Neil Fackler, Charlie Feehan, Ashley Feeney, Nancy Fiala-Zinn, Ann Franz, Herman Goodloe, Brandon Gumel, Kyle Hall, Karen and Bob; Karen Hekr, Helen Hicks, Ken & Herta, Janice Lombardi, Julie McGee, Julie McLean, Frieda McKinnon, Jane McNamee, Don and Sue Meyer, Joseph Mills Jr., Amy Morlier, Betty Moticka, Eric Odelson, Pat (cousin to Linda Belice), Connie Petrik, Carol Popple (sister to Charlene Dolnics), Diana & Larry Ridener, Scott Rouse, Sammy (niece to Sue Becerra/Sally France), Gary Schultz, Roy Swanson, Marsha Swetin, Jackie Tomany, Patricia Traylor, Ron Tulke, Gwendolyn and Bob Westlund, Monica Wojdziak, Charles Woodman

OUR MILITARY: Samantha Brown (overseas), Tyler Kimbler is deployed; Jay Mills (Ft. Bliss, Texas), Bri Mills (deployed; Malik Taylor—Norfolk, VA, Anthony Taylor—Ft. Hood, TX; Nick Weeks -Peace Corp. South Africa

HOSPITALIZED/Long-Term: Jim Craver (our Jim's father)—Nursing Facility, Lil Klippel - Radcliffe; Steve Tomporowski - Wisconsin; Rosemarie Kosik (Terra Vista, OakBrook Terrace)

We celebrate with **Christopher and Alyssa Kasanders** in the birth of their son **CJ (Christopher Joseph)**, born on 4/4—9lbs 2oz! CJ has 2 brothers Bradley(4) and Brooks (15mon)! Keep them in prayers!

EASTER

288 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today



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!

All cre - a - tion, 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!
Once he died our souls to 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 has 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 (1707-1788), alt.
MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

EASTER HYMN
7.7.7.7. Alleluia