

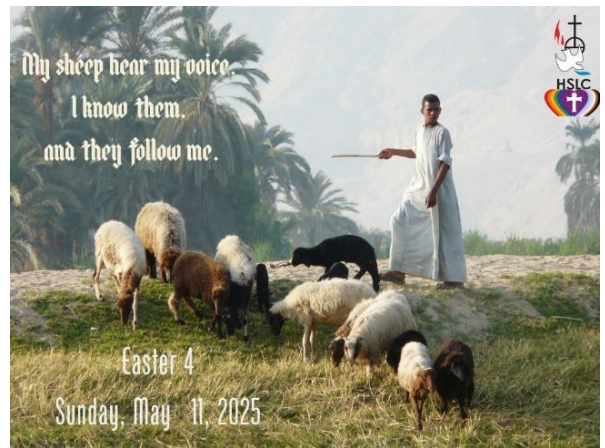


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Fourth Sunday of Easter - Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Pastor: Interim Pastor Prema Samuel
Ministers: Every member
Musician: Isaac Courneyea

Council President: Karen Oko
Video/Live Streaming: Anton Chell
Assisting Minister: Marlene Gold

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Revelation 7:12)ⁱ

We praise creation's God:

Blessing and honor, glory and power!

Let each single voice praise God:

Blessing and honor, glory and power!

Let all voices together praise God:

Blessing and honor, glory and power!

Let the great multitude of nations praise God:

Blessing and honor, glory and power!

With all creation we praise God:

Blessing and honor, glory and power!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS - Now the Feast & Celebration Liturgy

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

Have mercy on us.

We confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted you

with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.

With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you and all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

SONG OF PRAISE – *‘Now the Feast’* – Now the Feast & Celebration Liturgy

GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN’S TIME

FIRST READING: ACTS 9:36-43

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple, a woman named Tabitha—“Dorcas,” in Greek—who never tired of doing kind things or giving to charity. ³⁷About this time she grew ill and died. They washed her body and laid her out in an upstairs room. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples sent two couriers to Peter with the urgent request, “Please come over to us without delay.” ³⁹Peter set out with them as they asked. Upon his arrival, they took him upstairs to the room. All the townswomen who had been widowed stood beside him weeping, and showed him the various garments Dorcas had made when she was still with them. ⁴⁰Peter first made everyone go outside, then knelt down and prayed. Turning to the body, he said, “Tabitha, stand up.” She opened her eyes, then looked at Peter and sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her to her feet. The next thing he did was to call in those who were believers—including the widows—to show them that she was alive. ⁴²This became known all over Joppa and, because of it, many came to believe in Jesus Christ. ⁴³Peter remained awhile in Joppa, staying with Simon, a leather tanner.

GOSPEL VERSE: Now the Feast Liturgy

GOSPEL: JOHN 10:22-30

²²The time came for Hanukkah, the feast of the Dedication, in Jerusalem. ²³It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the Temple area, in Solomon’s Porch, ²⁴when the Temple authorities surrounded him and said, “How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you really are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus replied, “I did tell you, but you don’t believe. The work I do in my Abba’s name gives witness in my favor, ²⁶but you don’t believe because you’re not my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never be lost. No one will ever snatch them from my hand. ²⁹Abba God, who gave them to me, is greater than anyone, and no one can steal them from Abba God. ³⁰For Abba and I are One.”

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY: *‘Don’t Be Afraid’* ACS 1027 sing 3x

AN EASTER AFFIRMATION OF FAITH BY BRIAN MILLER

**We believe in God, who created the world,
was faithful when we were not,
and who continuously seeks to redeem the world.
We believe in God the Son, Jesus Christ,
who humbled himself by becoming human and moving into our neighborhood;
was sent by God to give us life;
embodied and taught the righteous love of God;
and who, though he knew no sin,
became sin and was put to death on a cross.
We believe that three days later,
Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the power of God;
was seen in bodily form by his disciples.
We believe that the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus gives us
victory over any form of sin and brokenness and allows us to know
the full love of God for the world.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who actively works in our lives,
giving us grace to be like Jesus,
and sends us to show God's love for the world.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In our prayers: Cody M, Susan K, Pr. Richard R as he heals from back surgery, Daryl A, Tom d, Gertie B, Pr. Darryl R, Pr. Rita R, Doug L, Petra, Rick & family as they mourn the loss of Petra's mother Veronika, Ken, Bishop Trish & family as Ken heals from surgery to anonymously donate a kidney, and those we hold dear in our hearts.

PEACE

OFFERTORY – *'As the Grains of Wheat'* Now the Feast Liturgy

OFFERING PRAYER

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgy

SANCTUS: Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgy

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgy

LORD'S PRAYER - spoken

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMUNION SONGS

'Lamb of God' Now the Feast and Celebration Liturgy

'Come Now, You Blessed' (ACS 1059)

'God, We Gather as Your People' (ACS 1038)

'Love Has Brought Us Here Together' (ACS 1040)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

COMMUNITY LIFE

AFFIRMATION OF CHRISTIAN VOCATION – Liturgy of the Beloved (spoken)

Beloved, hear now the words of our Savior:

“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

In Christ we are called to be not of this world,
but in this world, as bearers of God’s generous love.

Remember: you are not alone.

Go forth, enlivened in your Being, prayed and protected.

Where peace is unpopular, persist.

Where suffering abounds, tend.

Where bitterness shrouds, forgive.

Where despair lingers, inspire.

May the Word of Life be ever in our midst! Amen.

BENEDICTION ‘*Hope Everlasting*’ Liturgy of the Beloved (sung 2x)

DISMISSAL

ⁱ written by the Reverend Susan A. Blain and posted on the United Church of Christ’s worship ways website. http://www.ucc.org/worship_worship-ways

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