

ST. LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

727 N. Main St.
Independence, Missouri 64050
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Margie Foley, Organist/Pianist
Matthew Bennett, Conductor/Violinist

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Pastors Emeriti: Rev. David Lyon & Rev. Ralph Koch

*If comfortable doing so, you are invited to stand.

The hymns today come from The Methodist Hymnal.

APRIL 20, 2025

EASTER

SILENT MEDITATION: "The Resurrection is not a single event, but a loosening of God's power and light that continues to alter all things, infusing them with the grace and power of God's own holiness. It is as though a door was opened, and what poured out will never be stopped, and that door cannot be closed."--Megan McKenna

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING

PRELUDE

"I Know That My Redeemer Liveth"

G. F. Handel

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 322 "Up from the Grave He Arose"**

CHRIST AROSE

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior,
waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Refrain: Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever, with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus my Savior;
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]

Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus my Savior;
he tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord! [Refrain]

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The chorus of creation cries out:

All: Christ the Lord is risen, Alleluia!

One: The babbling brooks of spring sing:

All: Christ the Lord is risen, Alleluia!

One: The lilies in silent splendor ring:

All: Christ the Lord is risen, Alleluia!

One: Open wide your heart and lift your voice!

**All: With all heaven and earth, we sing out with joy.
Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Unison)

Loving God, despair, pain, and fear are part of our lives. Sometimes we let them overwhelm us. Sometimes we let them hold back the Spirit of the Holy that longs to flow within us. Let your living water fill our lives with your mercy and grace, forgiving our sin and raising us up to newness of life in our Living Lord. Amen

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

***GLORIA PATRI** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

MOMENTS WITH MINNIE

PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those
who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

CHANCEL CHOIR

“All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord”

Arr. Rob Roy Peery

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:1-12

SERMON

“Resurrection River”

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN** No. 302 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” (vs 1-3)

EASTER HYMN

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia! Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

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!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia! Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

THE BEAUTY OF SHARED GIFTS

"Easter Celebration" Handbell Choir

Arr. by Howard F. Stark

*CELEBRATING STEWARDSHIP—DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison)**

God of Restored Hope, with love in our hearts we bring our offerings. Despite worries and fears, we dare to give away a part of what we think we need for ourselves. In the face of suffering, our priorities are changed. The love of Christ awakens a love within us and among us. In giving we move beyond the shadows of fear into the light of Easter's hope. May our gifts bring hope to others. Amen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Affirmation of Faith (Unison) **United Church of Canada**

We believe in God:

Who has created and is creating,
Who has come in Jesus,
The Word made flesh,
To reconcile and make new,
Who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

To celebrate God's presence,
To love and serve others,
To seek justice and resist evil,
To proclaim Jesus,
Crucified and risen,
Our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Sacrament

Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

Loving God, through the grace and mercy that are proclaimed at this table, you have called us from the shadows that would entomb our souls. In Christ's glorious resurrection, you have raised us up and set our feet on the path of life. You have filled us with joy and given us a message of hope. By the Spirit of the Holy, let us share the good news that Christ the Lord is risen! He is risen indeed! Amen

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN No. 310 "He Lives"**

ACKLEY

I serve a risen Savior, he's in the world today; I know that he is living, whatever foes may say.
I see his hand of mercy, I hear his voice of cheer, and just the time I need him, he's always near.

Refrain: He lives, he lives, Christ Jesus lives today!

He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way.

He lives, he lives, salvation to impart! You ask me who I know he lives? He lives within my heart.

In all the world around me I see his loving care, and though my heart grows weary, I never will despair.
I know that he is leading through all the stormy blast; the day of his appearing will come at last. (Refrain)

Rejoice, rejoice O Christian, lift up your voice and sing eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ the King!
The hope of all who seek him, the help of all who find; none other is so loving, so good and kind. (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Resurrection Medley"

Ralph Carmichael

The Liturgist today is Julie Sehrt.
Thank you to John Kritos for playing the organ today.

Easter Lilies



Purchased by:

Carol Lyon

Jeff & Marita Ray

Mel & Linda Sehrt

Dan O'Neill

Pat Boeger & family

Julie & Chris Bernard

Paul & Dianne Emily

Rosie Kuenne

Jeff & Ginger Ruoff

Karen Zuiderhof & Marilyn King

Jane Morman

Barry & Teresa Harris (2 Lilies)

John Kritos

John Kritos

John Kritos & Matt Meeks

Mike & Nanette Moore

Connie Trotter

Dedication:

In Memory of Dave

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Memory of Mom & Dad

In Memory of Loved Ones

*In Memory of Dale & Norma Kesner and
Dewey, Ann & Loretta Bernard*

In Memory of Our Parents

In Memory of Bill

In Memory of Our Families

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Memory of Jan Dunstan

In Memory of George Kritos

In Memory of Juanita Meeks

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Memory of Ruth & Ellis Linnenbringer

If you purchased an Easter Lily, please take it with you today after worship.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

KIDS TABLE

There will be NO Kids' Table available today, Sunday, April 20th.

SAVE THE DATE

LIVING MEMORIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

May 1st, immediately following worship

CHECK IN, SHARE AND COMMENT



If you are worshipping in person, please "Check-in" on Facebook and share the service. Comments and replies make people feel welcome. You are encouraged to have your device out during the service. If the music inspires you, tell Matthew and Margie by commenting about how wonderful it was or say thank you.

If the sermon speaks to you, comment with how it touched you.

If there is a great story during Children's Moment or a kid makes you laugh, comment and tell what it was.

If someone makes a comment that you like, reply to them.

We encourage you to connect with those worshipping online as well as in person.

If you are worshipping online, share and comment on the service. Comment on the things listed above, reply to and/or like other people's comments.

Again, it is so important to stay connected and these are simple ways to do that.

INSTAGRAM

Use this QR code to follow St. Luke's UCC on Instagram!



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday

9:30 AM Sunday School for all ages and 10:45 AM Online Worship

Monday—Friday, 9:45 AM Live with Pastor Paul in Windows Facebook Group

Monday, 6:30 PM NA Meeting

Wednesday, 9:30—1:00 ABC Quilting

7:00 PM NA Meeting

For more information about any of these, please email the church office at stlukes@stlukesuccindep.org

GIVING OPTIONS



If you wish to make a donation to St. Luke's, there are several options available:

1. Check mailed to church office at 727 N. Main, Independence, MO 64050

2. Internet donation – you may now donate from a secure site by clicking on the Give Now button on the website.

3. Electronic funds transfer – your offering can be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account.

To sign up contact the church office

4. Vanco Mobile App - download the free app on Google Play or the App Store. Enter St Lukes (without punctuation) as the church name Select St. Luke's United Church of Christ in Independence. From there you can create an account and use the app for donations.

5. Text the word GIVE to 816-312-5053 and you will be directed to a secure site for giving.

CONNECT

If you are visiting today we would love to connect with you.

Text CONNECT to 816-312-5053 or use the QR code to the left.



PHOTO/VIDEO POLICY

May it be understood that any pictures/videos taken during any church event may be used for promotion. Church events, including but not limited to, worship services may be broadcast live on Facebook.

If you are not in agreement with this notify the church office.