

**ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Third and Jackson Streets**

**Decatur, Indiana**

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**(\*)Please stand either in body or in spirit**

**Second Sunday Of Easter**

**April 27, 2025**

**Revelation calls us to hope and endurance for today**

Gathering Music: "Praise The King" Shelly Nussbaum

The Welcome and Announcements: Liturgist: Bill Carpenter

(Visitors, Please sign the Friendship folder)

The Prelude: "Jesus Shall Reign"

*The Prelude calls us together. It is a time of quiet reflection to focus ourselves  
in preparation for worshipping God.*

The Light appears: The Acolytes serve

The Church Bell rings:

\*The Call to Praise: Liturgist

What if we told you we come to this sanctuary because there is  
no safety behind locked doors.

**Jesus speaks peace among us. We do not carry this all  
alone.**

What if we told you we gather together to remember that fear  
can't keep love from showing up.

**Jesus breathes the spirit among us. We do not carry this  
all alone.**

What if we told you worship is a place where we touch the  
wounds this world makes in us.

**Jesus reaches out his hands to us. We do not carry this all  
alone.**

What if we told you we join our hearts in prayer and praise to  
practice moving disbelief toward recognition.

**Jesus tells truths among us. We do not carry this all alone.**

What if it was all true?

**My Lord and my God! Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

\*The Hymn of Praise: "Christ Arose" No. 216

\*Invocation: (Unison) Liturgist

**In the midst of our fear, Tender God, we do not expect to meet you. Yet you are here, among us, holding out your hands to us, breathing the Spirit over us, showing us again and again that nothing can separate us from you. Surround us with your peace in this moment, Jesus; let our fears rest in you. Amen.**

\*Passing the Peace of Christ: Liturgist

Please pass the peace through our words and through our actions in a world that desperately needs to see the results of following the Prince of Peace.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you**

\* Prayer for Transformation and New Life: Rev. Kahler

Where we have locked the doors to new awareness with defensiveness...

Jesus, breathe peace.

**Unlock our understanding.**

Where we have closed off to others in fear...

Jesus, breathe peace.

**Open our hearts.**



Scripture Meditation: Rev. Kahler

The Sermon Scripture: Revelation 1: 4-8 Rev. Kahler  
Pew Bible, pg. 1072

\*The Sermon Hymn: "In The Garden" No.425

Sermon: "Beginning With The End" Rev. Kahler

The Moment of Offering: Liturgist

Invitation To Generosity: Liturgist

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**In the presence of fear, may these gifts bring hope.**

**Where doors are locked, may these offerings open new possibilities.**

**Where there are wounds, may these gifts honor their truth.**

The Moment Of Offering: Ushers Serve

The Offertory: "I Will Sing Of My Redeemer"

\*Doxology:

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God for all that love has done;**

**Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Commitment: "Because He Lives" No.213

\*The Benediction:

*“Building Up a New World – Locked Doors” Service Prayers for Easter 2 C was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, who serves as Join the Movement toward Racial Justice Curator with UCC National Ministries.*

- \*The Moment for Silent Prayers Chimes
- \*The Light is carried forth Acolytes serve
- \*The Worship Leaders exit
- \*The Postlude: “To God Be The Glory”

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Each of Us	A Minister of Christ
Rev. Allen Kahler	Minister
Barb Engle	Congregation President
Jan Miller	Board Secretary
Maggie Bolinger	Office Secretary
Stacey Smith	Church Treasurer
Lisa Krueckeberg	Financial Secretary
Shelly Nussbaum	Music Director/Church Organist
Kacie Shaffer	Custodian
Justin Shaffer	Building Manager

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Neil & Sue Keller, Russ Augsburg	Door Greeters
Scott Heller, Confirmands	Ushers
Russ Augsburg	Money Counter
Confirmands	Acolytes

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We welcome all members, visitors, and guests to our worship service this morning. Visitors: Please sign our Friendship Folder located in each pew.

Our altar flowers are presented by Bruce and Jeanne Reidenbach in honor of their wedding anniversary. Bulletins are in memory of their loved ones.

Our Operation Help for May will be **cereal**. Please place your donations in the tubs in the dining room and West vestibule.

The Northeast Association Spring meeting will take place this afternoon at Plymouth Congregational Church in Fort Wayne. Our elected delegates are Bruce and Jeanne Reidenbach.

The Big Reveal for this year's SPIRIT Pals will be next Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. Pizza will be served after Confirmation Class. Following lunch, the secret pals will reveal their identities to the young people. Thank you to all who have participated this past school year.

**New Series for Easter:** Today we begin a series of lessons on the book of Revelation. The book of Revelation contains some of the most cryptic language and most fanciful imagery in the entire Bible. It has been used to try to forecast the events of the end times, as well as to call hopeless Christians to fortitude and endurance. Its lectionary placement in the season of Easter is notable, as it draws us to another contemporary application of this book: as a guide to experiencing the resurrected life. John's vision allows us to see the world, the church, and the Christian life in the way God envisions it: not for how it is, but for how it can be. And each week, through the power of the one who makes all things new, we are called to make those possibilities a resurrection reality.

Brooks, Kyle E.. A Preacher's Guide to Lectionary Sermon Series, Volume 2: Thematic Plans for Years C (pp. 195-205). Kindle Edition.

The Decatur Ministerial Association will join in the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 1<sup>st</sup>. Community-wide services are held on the Cour House Lawn beginning at 11 a.m. Please join with our friends and neighbors at this time of prayer.

Pastor Allen will be in Indianapolis from May 13<sup>th</sup> to May 15<sup>th</sup> for Transitional Pastor Training. He and Shannon will then be taking a few days of vacation and will return to Decatur on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Our road clean-up day will be Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Please meet at the church at 9 a.m. to carpool. Don't forget to wear old clothes and bring gloves.

Forms for those wishing to have automated withdrawals for their tithes and offerings can be found in the vestibules. Please give the completed form to treasurer Stacey Smith.

### **Looking Ahead**

Wednesday, April 30: Bell Choir Practice 6 p.m.  
Chancel Choir Practice 7 p.m.

Thursday, May 1: National Day of Prayer Courthouse Lawn 11 a.m.

Sunday, May 4: Confirmation 11:30 a.m.  
SPIRIT Pals Reveal Party 1 p.m.

Saturday, May 10: Adopt-A-Road 9 a.m.

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pastor: [arkinpastor59@gmail.com](mailto:arkinpastor59@gmail.com)

Last week's attendance      Offering: \$

Needed each week: \$4085.87