



*He Lives!*

Behold, I am  
*alive*  
for evermore.

REVELATION 1:18



**Welcome to Shiloh United Church of Christ**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**April 5<sup>th</sup> 2026 @ 10:00AM**

**MEDITATION**

*"Rolling stones is what it's all about, but Resurrection is another name.*

*~Macrina Wiederkehr: Seasons of Your Heart*

**PRELUDE**                      *"My Lord, What a Morning"*                      *Wilson*

**CHOIR**                      *"Christ Is Risen from the Dead"*                      *Caldara*

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Please, stand if you are able!)*                      *Pastor Melinda*

Pastor: Hear the good news today: Christ is Risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Welcome to Shiloh UCC this joyous Easter day!

**All: Praise God for the beauty and color.**

Pastor: The darkness has been overcome. Jesus Christ has defeated our greatest fear, death.

**All: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. Alleluia!**

Pastor: Sing your praises to the Lord!

**All: For God has given to us new life! Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

One: Let us pray!

**All: Christ the Lord is Risen today! Alleluia! Our hopes and dreams have come true. We do not have to fear death, for Christ goes before us. Praise be to God who has raised Christ from the dead and given to us new life. Open our hearts to receive your wondrous words of love, O God. Help prepare us for the opportunities to serve you by serving others. In Christ's Name, we pray. AMEN.**

**\*HYMN**                      *"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"*                      #233

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**                      *Video*  
*(All children of God who desire to come forward for the Children's Sermon are welcomed. Parent's/caregivers are encouraged to accompany their young child(ren) during the message.)*

**WITNESS TO OUR SACRED STORY**

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-6

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-4

**COMBINE CHOIR**            *“Awake! Arise! Go Fourth!”*            *Arr. Price/Besig*

Third Reading: Matthew 28:1-10

**SERMON**                            *“Easter Joy”*                            **Pastor Melinda**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**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 forever. Amen.

**PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERING BEFORE GOD**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

We are witnesses to the power of the Holy Spirit and the glory of God. Now we turn in thanksgiving to share the good news of forgiveness and grace to all the world. Let these our gifts be a living testimony to those who most need the healing grace of Christ this morning, cornerstones of faith, and joy for the entire world.

**\*OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

**“Easter Doxology”**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## **\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

One: Let us pray!

**All: Generous God, we offer these gifts as our testimony to your glory and as our commitment as your disciples. Bless our gifts to your work in the world and to your reign here on earth. Through your blessing of our gifts, may death be destroyed and hope fill all of creation. Amen.**

## **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

*(All are welcome to partake of communion)*

**\*COMMUNION HYMN**      *“Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ”*      #347

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**      *The Apostle’s Creed*      #881

## **INVITATION**

Pastor: Christ has risen and we have risen to new life with him. Yet we must confess the ways we have continued to remain in our tombs of sin and death.

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

Pastor: Let us Pray!

**All: Almighty God, no matter what the angel might say, we are alarmed! Living Lord, when we stand before the empty tomb, we don’t always feel the joy of resurrection. We feel fear, doubt, and distrust. We feel empty.**

**Forgive the fear that paralyzes us at the brink of new life. Forgive our doubt of your love. Forgive our negativity. Forgive our distrust of your surprising, joyous plan. Fill our emptiness with your glorious light. Raise us to abundant new life for the glory of your name. Appear to us now, so that we might be resurrected with your love. Amen.**

## **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Wake up, sleeper! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. Hear the good news! God has forgiven your sins! Christ calls all of us to new life - because God so loves this world and God so loves you. **Amen.**

## EXCHANGING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

*(Please say “hello” to someone you don’t know yet!)*

One: As forgiven, freed, and risen people, testify to the joy of resurrection as you pass the peace of Christ. The peace of God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

**\*HYMN**                      *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”*                      #14 Special Hymnal

## PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

### SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*The members of Consistory will serve you the bread and juice. To demonstrate our unity in Christ, we will take the elements together. Please wait until everyone has been served.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: Let us Pray!

**All: Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, and to heal broken souls. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do your good news in our Risen Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**                      *“He Lives”*                      Insert

## BENEDICTION

One: Go forth in joy! Go forth in hope! Go forth in peace!

Let your voices ring with victory for: *Christ is Risen!*

**All: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**                      *“Jesus Christ Is Risen”*                      *Smith*

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**THANK YOU FOR WORSHIPPING WITH US TODAY!**

**PLEASE COME AGAIN SOON!**

## PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Sandy Baboian, Julene Bechtel, Jim Sr. and Rosemary Bentzel, Rosabel Bentzel, Helen Byers, Judy Feeser, Dick & Helen Hodgson, Joe Jordan, Bev Kirk, Donna Krone, Elaine Krout, Catherine Lochman, Charlotte Rohrbaugh, Cedric Simpson, Steve Snyder, Rick & Sue Trimble, Romaine Walton, Gloria Melhorn, Fay Myers



### THOSE WHO GRIEVE FOR THEIR LOVED ONES

The Althoff Family, The Mummert Family, The Myers Family,  
The Jordan Family, The Stough/Runkle Family, The Limbert Family

### WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS AND MUSICIANS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE WORSHIP SERVICE!

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Presented in loving memory of Gordon “Skip” Heath by Ginny and family.

**BULLETINS:** Presented in loving memory of Gordon “Skip” Heath and Dennis Heath by Ginny and family.

**VIDEO TEAM:** Lew Wallace, Sallie Hagerman, Dani Bentzel, Jaron Flickinger, Matt Hildebrecht

**LITURGIST:** Carol Burns

**GREETERS:** Carolyn Poff & Jeanie Bentzel

**USHER:** Brad Jacobs

**NURSERY:** Jim & Reen Bentzel

**COFFEE CONNECTIONS:**

## PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

### **Morning Prayer** (By Wendy Blight)

*“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.”*  
(Psalm 118:24)

Dear Lord, I don't know who or what will cross my path today. But I do know that you are my Rock and my Fortress. You are my Shield and my Strong Tower. Help me to anchor myself to you today. Teach me how to stand strong in you and choose only your way today. Help me walk by your truth and not my feelings. Help me to embrace anything that comes my way as an opportunity to see you at work and as an opportunity to point others to you. Thank you that you love me and nothing can ever take that away from me! Even if I fail today and fall short, you whisper your unconditional love deep into my soul and remind me that your mercies are new every morning. Thank you for meeting with me today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Evening Prayer** (By Rebecca Barlow Jordan)

As I close my eyes tonight, I'm praying for my loved ones, for my friends, and those who need to know you, Lord. I'm praying that your love, like the billions of stars in the night sky outside, will touch them and help them see who you really are. I pray for our world and those in it. I pray for their needs as well as my own. Grant me a good night's sleep tonight, O God, so that I can awake refreshed and ready to begin another day loving you. Thank you again for blessings so undeserved and too numerous to count. I love being your child, and I long for the word “faithful” to describe my service to you, each day of every year. When I awake in the morning, may it be with a joyful smile, not a grumpy spirit. May your protection and your presence bathe this place with peace and safety against the enemy. Good night, Lord. In Jesus's name. Amen.



*“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here at Shiloh UCC, where God is still speaking.”*

**THIS WEEK**

SUN	10:00	<b>Worship</b>
	8:45	Wired Word (124) & Sunday School (202)
	9:15	Coffee Connections (gallery)
MON	1 :15	Womans Guild(202)
	5:30	Gospel Choir (100)
TUES	6:00	Cub Scouts (100)
	6:00	Children’s Choir Practice
WED	9:30	Bible Study (202)
	5:00	TOPS (202))
THUR	6:30	Choirs
	6:30	NA Group (100)
SUN	10:00	<b>Worship</b>

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK: 93**

**THE CHURCH STAFF**

<b>Pastor</b>	<i>Rev. Melinda LaMontagne, Ph.D.</i>
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<b>Costa Rica</b>	Sally Jane and Crosby Johnson
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