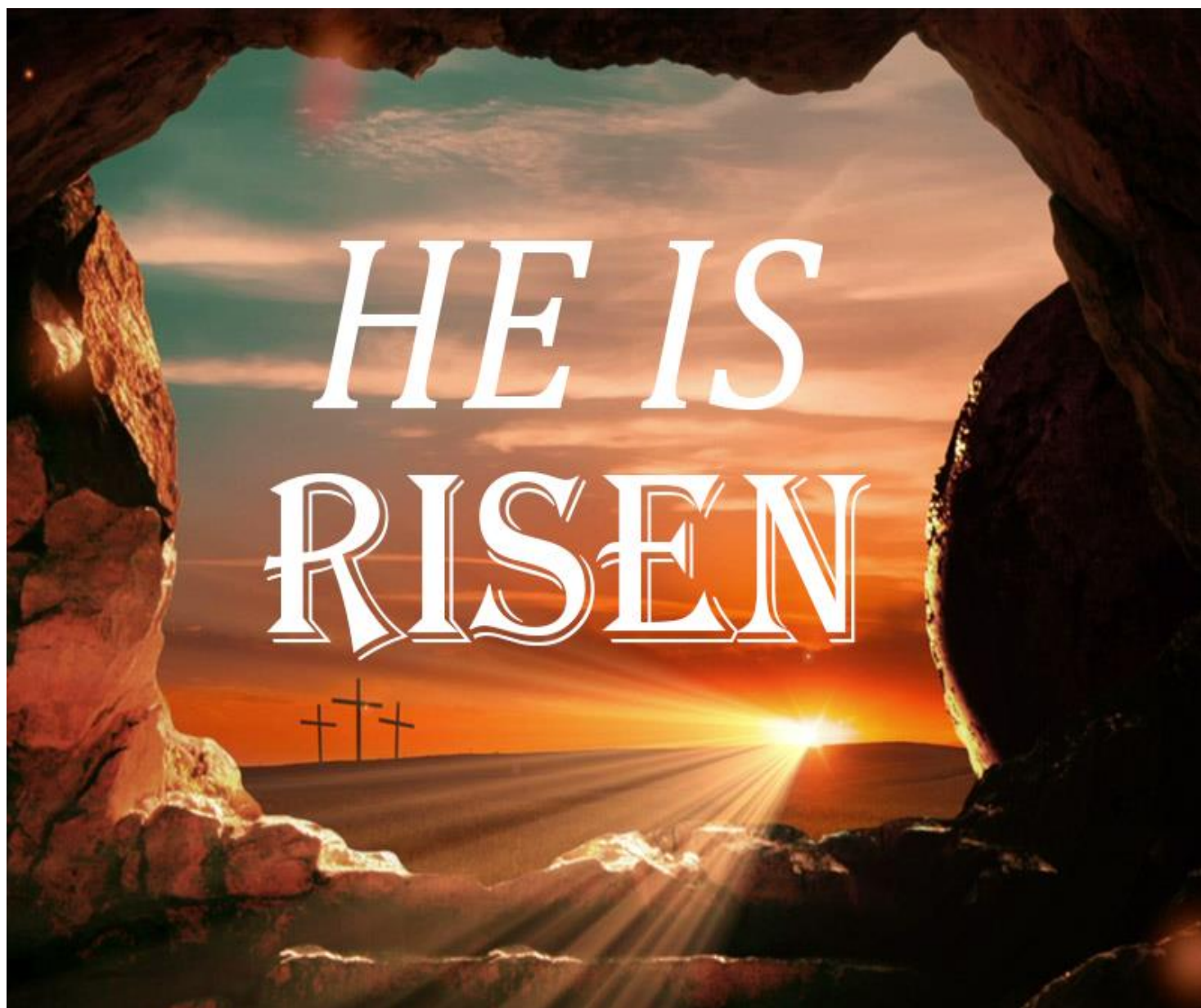


**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024**  
**10:30am Worship**



**1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922**  
**Pastor:** Rev. Ken McDowell, cell phone: 610-207-4783  
**Church Office Phone:** 570-754-7225  
**Office Hours:** Monday – Thursday 9am–2pm; Closed Friday  
**Church Email:** [summerhillucc@gmail.com](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.summerhillucc.com](http://www.summerhillucc.com)  
**Livestream:** [www.facebook.com/summerhillucc](http://www.facebook.com/summerhillucc)

**Easter Sunday; The Sacrament of Holy Communion;  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Offering (Pastor’s Emergency Relief Fund)**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director- Rae Ann Borger  
Organist- Jacob Challenger

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

This morning we remember in prayer, from our Schuylkill Association Prayer Calendar, **the resurrection of our Savior.**

Please read the announcements that are in this downloadable bulletin, as well as those we post on our Facebook site, our emails, and our phone calls, and then help spread the word to those who do not have access to any of those messages.

*(Communion note: This morning, as some of us are gathered together here at church while many are gathering with us virtually from their homes, we all are invited to the same table. Those present this morning are invited to pick up a bag of individually prepared elements from the table in the narthex, as we will not be distributing the elements during the service. Those at home may gather bread and drink and partake as we do when we are gathered together.)*

INVOCATION

**GATHERING FOR THE WORD**

PRELUDE

*The congregation may stand.*

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: This is the good news— the grave is empty; Christ is risen. Hallelujah!

**People: This is the good news—the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out. Hallelujah!**

Pastor: This is the good news— once we were no people; now we are God’s people. Hallelujah!

**People: Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other. Hallelujah!**

OPENING HYMN NO. 295.....“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

*Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!*

*Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!  
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!*

*But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! our salvation have procured: Alleluia!  
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!*

*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!*

CALL TO CONFESSION

CONFESSION OF SIN (Unison)

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.**

MOMENT OF PERSONAL CONFESSION

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Christ, have mercy upon us.

**People: Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us.

**People: Lord, have mercy upon us.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: When you were dead in trespasses, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. Christ is Risen!

**People: Christ is Risen Indeed!**

THE GLORIA PATRI

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

*The congregation may be seated.*

**ENGAGING THE WORD**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

READING OF THE WORD:.....Lector, Trevor Smith

Old Testament: Isaiah 25:6–9 (Page 605)

Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (**Read responsively**)

Lector: O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

**People: Let Israel say, “His steadfast love endures forever.”**

Lector: The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation.

**People: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: “The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;**

Lector: the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

**People: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the Lord.**

Lector: The LORD has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death.

**People: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.**

Lector: This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.

**People: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.**

Lector: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

**People: This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

Lector: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (Page 1001)

Gospel Lesson: John 20:1-18 (Page 944)

Lector: This is the Word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE RESPONSE.....“Let Thy word abide in us, O Lord.”

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM.....“Roll, Roll That Stone Away” by Ruth Elaine Schram

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**  
*The congregation may remain seated.*

HYMN NO. 447.....“Because He Lives”

*God sent His son, they called Him Jesus; he came to love, heal, and forgive;  
he lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.*

**Refrain:** *Because He lives I can face tomorrow; because He lives all fear is gone;  
because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living just because He lives.*

*How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy he gives;  
but greater still the calm assurance: this child can face uncertain days because He lives. [Refrain]*

*And then one day I'll cross the river; I'll fight life's final war with pain;  
and then as death gives way to victory, I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives. [Refrain]*

*The congregation may stand.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison).....The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;  
the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

SILENT PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE

*Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. Amen.*

CALL TO OFFERING

(At this time the Regular, Communion, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday and Easter Offerings will be received.)

*The congregation may stand.*

OFFERING RESPONSE & DEDICATION.....DOXOLOGY

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

OFFERING PRAYER

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation:

Pastor: Luke, the evangelist, wrote of our risen Savior, who at the table with two of the disciples took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.

**People: In company with all believers in every time and beyond time, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread.**

Pastor: This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

The Communion Prayer:

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Seraphic Hymn

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy glory, Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!*

*The congregation may be seated.*

Words of Institution:

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread....we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

**People: Amen. Come, Christ Jesus!**

Prayer of Consecration:

Pastor: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and bless the bread we break and the cup we pour that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, that we may be one with all who share this feast, united in ministry in every place. As this bread is Christ's body for us, send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

**People: Amen. Come, Holy Spirit**

Pastor: We ask these things in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying...

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread:

Lifting of the Cup:

Call to the Supper:

The Sharing of the Elements:

Blessing of the Children:

*The congregation may stand.*

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison):

**Thank you, Triune God, for feeding us abundantly from the storehouse of your mercy in Jesus Christ. You restore us, body and soul. You make us whole. Now send us forth into the world as living witnesses of your renewing love that brings hope and wholeness today, tomorrow, and for generations to come. Amen.**

## GOING WITH THE WORD

### COMMISSION

Pastor: Go forth in joy to love and serve God in all that you do.

**People: We are sent in the name of the risen Christ.**

Pastor: Let us bless our Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

### BENEDICTION

THE THREEFOLD AMEN.....*Amen. Amen. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN NO. 317.....“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

*Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne.  
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.*

*Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save;  
his glories now we sing who died and rose on high,  
who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.*

*Crown him the Lord of love; behold his hands and side,  
rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified;  
no angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,  
but downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.*

*Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,  
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.  
All hail, Redeemer, hail! for thou hast died for me;  
thy praise shall never, never fail throughout eternity.*

### SILENT MEDITATION

### POSTLUDE

\* \* \* \*

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-The altar flowers are in memory of Caroline Wildermuth (who was born on Easter Sunday) by her family.

-The bulletins are in memory of Caroline Wildermuth by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

-Offering on Sunday, March 24, 2024: \$2,272.00

-Weekly envelope & plate budget for 2024: \$3,243.09

**- The March Communion offering will support the Joe and Tamara Nagle Family (medical expenses).  
The April Communion offering is designated to the Schuylkill Association Ministries.**

**-Please note that the fresh altar flower sponsorship price will be going up in price from \$30 to \$35, effective tomorrow, April 1.** The silk flowers will still be \$12, and bulletin sponsorship will be \$10.

**-Join us for Fellowship Time (aka, coffee hour) on Sunday, April 14 following worship. Enjoy conversation, along with a cup of coffee and light refreshments.** We gather in the rear of the Sanctuary the second Sunday of each month. Catch up with old friends, make new ones, and stay up to date on everything happening at St. Paul's. And best of all, it's free of charge! Help is needed: If you would be interested in helping to assist in hosting a fellowship hour, please contact the church office/ speak to Pastor Ken or sign the sheet on the bulletin table.

**-The Schuylkill Haven Food Pantry** is in great need and accepts all non-perishable food items/ paper products. Items can be dropped off at the church during the week or placed in the shopping cart at the back of the sanctuary. **NO OUTDATED FOOD PLEASE.** We will be helping **Monday, April 15** at 8:30am and **Friday, April 19** at 1pm. Please speak to Verna Ebling or the church office if you would like to help or donate items.

**-The next Consistory Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:00pm.**

**-Your invited to the Everybody's Birthday Party on Friday, April 19 from 6-9pm.** It will be a pot-luck style, so you may bring a dinner choice and/or a dessert choice. Please sign your name and what you will be bringing on the sign-up sheet by the bulletin basket. We will have games & provide ice cream and drinks. We hope to see you there!!

-There will be a **Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting on Tuesday, April 23** at 7pm in Room B1. Speak to Bill Reber for more information. Mark your calendar for VBS 2024...**Monday, June 17-Friday, June 21.** More information and registration material will be forthcoming. We invite all children ages 4 to 12 to join us for Scuba...Diving into friendship with God.

**-The Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet Tuesday, April 30** from 10am-12noon in the conference room. If you are interested in crocheting and/or knitting, we can hook you up! If you know of someone who could use a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.

**-PLAY BALL!** Spring is here and with it so comes America's great past time of baseball. **We have once again scheduled a group outing to see the Reading Fightin' Phils on Saturday, June 15th** against the Portland Sea Dogs. First pitch is at 6:45pm. Tickets are \$36.00 each and includes admission to the game, AYCE Buffet supper (starts at 5pm) and incredible fireworks to follow the game! A sign-up sheet is on table as you enter the sanctuary. Payment for tix can be given to Kelly in the church office or paid directly to Mike Fessler. There are 32 tickets reserved for us so tickets will be provided first come, first serve.

**-Meals Needed:** Tamara and Joe Nagle and their children along with Joe's mother, Lucinda have moved to the Philadelphia area Ronald McDonald House while they await the birth of Mathias. This will be over the course of a few months. Rae Ann Borger is organizing meals for Lucinda's husband, Tom and her mother, Marion. If you would be able to assist, it would be greatly appreciated. Please speak to her or call 739-2311 for more information.

**-In an effort to keep our records up to date,** we are asking that if you have had a change to any of your information, would like to add a cell phone number or email address, or just want to be sure we have your most current info., please contact the church office.

**-Your help is needed!! Now that we have settled into our new sound and video equipment, we are looking for some additional people to help run it on a Sunday morning!** Please let us know if you would be willing to help. We will then figure out a good mutual time to "train" those who are interested! Ideally, we will get a few people interested, and then sign up for Sundays either on a weekly or monthly basis, somewhat like the lectors.

**-When you or a loved one is sick or in the hospital for an extended stay, please notify the church office.** Please do not assume that the pastor will know you are there. We are served by many different area hospitals and do not know which one you may utilize. So please do not hesitate to let us know your condition so that Pastor Ken can provide you with spiritual care! You may call the church office at 570-754-7225 and leave a message 24/7 with your name, number, and what you are calling about. The staff will be notified remotely of your call and will get back to you as soon as possible. You can also email us at [summerhillucc@gmail.com](mailto:summerhillucc@gmail.com).

**-Our church services are livestreamed on Facebook!** We continue to reach many people who are unable to worship with us in person, giving them God's message of hope and love. Call the church office if you or someone you know needs help getting online.

**-Prayer is Powerful!** Please continue to call the church office or email us your prayer concerns to be included on our prayer list. We believe in the power of prayer and want to pray for you. **We have a prayer concerns email group for anyone who would like to join.** Contact the church office and we will be happy to add you to the email distribution list. The Agape Committee continues to send cards to members on the prayer concerns list, so please continue sharing your concerns with us. Thank you!!

PRAYER CONCERNS: All those earnestly seeking God's help in difficult times, Military personnel & National Leaders, *family and friends of Norm Spotts, family and friends of Barb Worthy, Sharon Koszyk, family and friends of Jason Yoder, Amy Crouse, Erinn Carll, Auggie Warke*, Dave Heim, Ernie Jones, Ron Mengel, Tom Toomey, Guy Fessler, Harold Berkheiser, Joseph & Tamara Nagle and unborn son Mathias Joseph, Shirley German, Dick Clauser, Cassie Wolfe, Marion Bartolet, Mabel Edwards

CANCER PATIENTS: *Wayne Alward*, Boone, Marie Bleu, Alex DuVee, John Eckert, Glennis Eifert, Rebecca Henderson, Sherri Jo Jennar, Deb Kemmerling, Norma Koperna, Joan Krause, Carol Mallory, Carol Mengel, Tom Nagle, Judy Ohl, Pat Reading, Jim Thompson, Terri Willard

## **FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

**Easter Sunday, March 31**

**Wednesday, April 3**

7:00 PM -Senior Choir Rehearsal

**Saturday, April 6**

9:00 AM -Visitation/ 10:00 AM -Memorial Service for Jason Yoder

**Sunday, April 7**

9:15 AM -Sunday School

10:30 AM -Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

### **\*Lectionary Readings for next week:**

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133

I John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31