

## **Eighth Reading**

Matthew 28:16-20: Jesus Commissions His Disciples

## **\*Closing Hymn**

“Lord, You Give the Great Commission” #592

## **\*Benediction**

*Please be mindful of others who continue  
to worship through the Postlude.*

## **Postlude**

*\*Please rise in body or spirit.\**

## **Local Missions**

**Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf** is open Tuesdays from 3:00-6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m.-noon. Volunteers are always welcome! Please bring donations to church on the first Sunday of each month.

**The Maple River Youth Center:** The mission jar will be in the back of the Sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month.

## **The United Church of Mapleton**

201 Troendle St SW; PO Box 413 Mapleton, MN 56065

(507) 524-3141

www.unitedchurchmapleton.org

secretary@unitedchurchmapleton.org

Our Mission:

*The United Church of Mapleton is a Christian fellowship of mission, worship, and faith formation dedicated to the Maple River community.*

## **Order of Worship**

Sunday, April 3rd, 2016

Second Sunday of Easter

Easter Service of Stories and Songs

The Appearances of the Resurrected Christ

## **Prelude**

Praise and Worship Songs

## **Welcome, Announcements**

*If you are a visitor today, please fill out the welcome card in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate later in the service so that we can get to know each other!*

## **\*Call to Worship**

*Based on Psalm 150*

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Many: Christ is risen indeed!**

One: Alleluia! Celebrate God in this sacred space!

Celebrate God in all places under heaven!

**Many: Give praise for God's mighty deeds!**

**Give praise for God's resurrecting power!**

One: Praise God with a fanfare of trumpets!

**Many: Praise God with the harp and the cello!**

One: Praise God with tambourines and dancing!

**Many: Praise God with lutes and guitars!**

One: Praise God with cymbals and drums!

**All: Let everything with life and breath praise God!**

## **\*Opening Hymn**

“Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!” #293

**\*Sharing Grace and Peace**

One: God's Word is a word of forgiveness, assurance, and grace.

**Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

One: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.

**Many: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Let us greet one another in fellowship.

**Introduction of Easter Service of Stories and Songs**

**The Resurrection**

Mark 16:1-8: The Empty Tomb

**First Reading**

Luke 24:1-12: The Women Share the Good News

**\*Hymn**

“Thine Is the Glory” #310

**Message for God's Children**

*After the Message for God's Children, children PreK-2nd grade may attend Sunday School in the upstairs classroom (between the Sanctuary and the Nursery, opposite the office).*

*All children may remain in their pews during worship, use the Family Space in the Overflow Room in the back of the Sanctuary, or use the Nursery if they are younger than Kindergarten age. Worship Bags, “The Sunday Paper” coloring pages, and Ministry Card making kits are available in the back of the Sanctuary.*

**Second Reading**

John 20:11-18: Mary and the Gardener

**Third Reading**

Luke 24:13-35: On the Road to Emmaus

**Communion Service**

*At the United Church of Mapleton, the Communion Table is open to all without restriction. This is not our table, but it is God's, and it is open to all of God's children.*

*Today, we will participate in communion by passing two sets of plates that contain the elements of bread and juice. Please hold each element until all have been served so that we may celebrate communion together after each element has been shared.*

*All of our Communion elements are gluten free. During the serving of the bread, Pastor Ashley will walk through the Sanctuary to offer a pastoral blessing if you or your child(ren) choose to not receive Communion today.*

**Fourth Reading**

Luke 24:36-49: Jesus Appears to His Disciples

**Fifth Reading**

John 20:19-31: Jesus and Thomas the Skeptic

**\*Hymn**

“Good Christians All, Rejoice” #307

**Sharing Prayer Requests and Praises**

*You are invited to take a Prayer Requests and Praises sheet from the pew rack in front of you to write your prayer requests and praises.*

*These will be collected by the ushers in a moment and shared with the congregation anonymously before our Preparation for Prayer*

**Preparation for Prayer (Moment of Silence)**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**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.

**\*Hymn**

“The Day of Resurrection!” #298

**Sixth Reading**

John 21:1-14: Jesus Prepares a Meal

**Seventh Reading**

John 21:15-19: The Restoration of Peter

**Mission Moment**

Laura Fritz

**Worship with Tithes and Offerings**

**Offertory**

*The Summons*

Guitar Group

**\*Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #34

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!

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

## Serving Us Today: Sunday, April 3rd, 2016

Pastor—Ashley Whitaker

Lay Leader—Jeff Gerdtz

Readers—Marissa P., Marian M., Sue P., Sean M., Sheila S.,  
Laura F., and Joe S.

Organist—Jola Walker

Sound System—Chad Kunkel

Greeters—Dan and Sue Prenzlów

Head Usher—Sharon Shuck

### Today's Worship & Fellowship

9:00 a.m. Morning Worship with Communion and Loaves & Fishes  
Food Shelf Collections

9:00 a.m. Nursery/Toddler Care (*upstairs north end of hallway in the  
Nursery/Toddler Room*)

9:15 a.m. Sunday School during worship for grades PreK-2nd  
(*classroom A, upstairs across from office*)

10:00 a.m. Confirmation

10:00 a.m. Choir Practice

This service outline and concept were originally designed by Rev.  
Kelly Boubel Shriver, Pastor  
of Peoples Presbyterian Church, Milan, Michigan, and is used with  
her blessing.

Today's *Call to Worship* is from *Feasting on the Word Worship  
Companion: Liturgies for Year  
C, Volume 1*, edited by Kimberly Bracken Long, Westminster John  
Knox Press.

All Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version  
(NRSV) of The Bible.

The **paraments** are white during the Easter season (which is from  
Easter Sunday until Pentecost Sunday) to invite the church to  
remember that, instead of finding a sealed tomb, the women who  
came at dawn on Easter Sunday were surprised by an angel who  
announced astonishing news: "Jesus has been raised from the  
dead!" (Mt 28:7) The heavenly messenger invited the mourners on  
that day as well as Christians of all time to see the empty tomb and  
then go and tell the world the good news that Christ is risen!

*Information from [ucc.org](http://ucc.org)*

## Worshipping With Children

**Children are always welcome** at The United Church!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them;  
for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven  
belongs." (Matthew 19:14)

During worship, several options are available for children:  
*The Sunday Paper* is a coloring page based on the Scripture reading  
for each Sunday. Two versions are available, one for older and  
one for younger elementary aged children.

Ministry card decorating kits are also available, and a sign next to  
these kits lets children know to whom their card will be sent (e.g.  
homebound members, Treats for Troops recipients, etc.).

Worship Bags with creative supplies are located at the back of the  
Sanctuary.

The Nursery/Toddler Room for infants and toddlers (Kindergarten  
and younger) is available throughout the morning worship service  
and is located at the north end of the upstairs hallway.

The Family Space, located in the Overflow Room at the back of the  
Sanctuary, is for our families with infants and small children.

This space is available for families in addition to the Nursery so  
that families can both see and hear what's going on in worship.

### Care Connections

If you are in need of **wheelchair assistance** on Sunday  
mornings, please let us know by calling the church office at  
(507) 524-3141 ahead of time to make arrangements or you may have  
an usher assist you on Sunday morning when you arrive at the  
church. There is a ramp located on the east side of the church.

If you or a family member would like a **pastoral care visit** for  
any reason, or would like to be added to our **weekly prayer list**, please  
let us know! Feel free to contact Pastor Ashley, a Deacon, or the  
church office. The church phone number is (507) 524-3141.  
Pastor Ashley's phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is  
[pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org).

If you have a prayer request for the **Prayer Chain**, please call  
Karen Stanton at 327-8168 or Joyce Johnson at 524-3727. Please let  
them know your prayer request, including the name of the person to  
pray for, and whether you would like your request included in the  
church's public prayer list or if you'd prefer the request be kept  
privately within the prayer chain. There is also a prayer request  
submission form available on The United Church website under the  
"Ministries" tab.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, April 3rd, 2016**

**American Baptist Women's Ministries Spring Rally**

This year the American Baptist Women's Ministries Spring Rally will be held at FBC Church of Eagle Grove, 1210 South Commercial, Eagle Grove, IA 50533, **Monday, April 4th from 9:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.** A Freewill offering will be accepted for the meeting and lunch.

Mercy Gonzalez-Barnes, American Baptist International Ministries Missionary will be the speaker for this years rally. Mercy has served as a missionary with International Ministries since 2000. Mercy is now moving into reginal work in her ministry. To register, contact Rita May Rossmun (515)824-3516.

**Open House Bridal Shower**

You are invited to an open house bridal shower for Stephanie Rigdon, fiancé of Matt Czarniak, Saturday, April 9th, 10:30 a.m. at St. Teresa's gathering area. The couple is registered at Kohl's and Crate & Barrel.

**Spring Fest**

Jackson Lake Lutheran Church of Amboy will be hosting a luncheon buffet **April 10th, 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.** Cost: \$8 per Adult; \$4 children ages 6-11 yrs., age 5 and under are free. Menu: hot beef and turkey sandwiches, variety of salads and Scandinavian goodies. Take outs are available.

**Dayton Oaks Camp**

Spring Clean up days will be **April 23rd and May 21st from 9:00-4:00 p.m.** with lunch being served.

Camps for 2016 will be Card Making/Scrapbooking Weekend, April 29th-May 1st; Paintball Challenge, May 6th-7th; June 12th-July 29th Summer Camp Season; Family Camp and work week, week of July 4th; September 9th-11th, Men's Retreat; September 16th-17th, Fall Paintball Challenge. **Please view flyers posted in mail room on bulletin board.**

**Welcome to The United Church of Mapleton!**

This announcement insert includes information about upcoming church, community, and area events. Please also take advantage of the many opportunities listed here to serve our community!

**This Week at The United Church of Mapleton**

**Sunday, April 3rd, 2016**

Sunday, April 3rd, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation  
Sunday, April 3rd, 10:00 a.m. Choir Practice  
Tuesday, April 5th 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, April 5th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting  
Wednesday, April 6th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT

**Planning Ahead**

Sunday, April 10th, 10:00 a.m. Confirmation  
Monday, April 11th, Women's Fellowship  
Tuesday, April 12th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, April 12th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting  
Thursday, April 14th, 7:30 p.m. **CRC Team Meeting**  
Sunday, April 17th, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Confirmation  
Tuesday, April 19th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, April 19th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting  
Wednesday, April 20th, 6:00-7:00 p.m. GIFT  
Wednesday, April 20th, 7:00 p.m. **Church Council**  
Tuesday, April 26th, 6:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast in GT  
Tuesday, April 26th, 1:00 p.m. Quilting

**Talent Team Member Needed**

The United Church Council is seeking a third Talent Team member. The Talent Team meets as needed to assist all members of the congregation in identifying their spiritual gifts and passions for ministry and finding ways to pursue those passions, in addition to helping the Church Council identify members for the Council itself as well as ministry teams or committees as needed. If you are interested in being part of this team, please let Moderator Dick Dietz, the two current Talent Team members (Louise Webb and Ruth Cumming), or Pastor Ashley know. Thank you!

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, April 3rd 2016**

**How to Contact Pastor Ashley**

Pastor Ashley's cell phone number is (507) 381-8199 and her email is [pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org](mailto:pastor@unitedchurchmapleton.org). Her usual weekly schedule includes these times and places. *Monday* Sabbath. *Tuesday* 9:00-11:00 a.m. church office, noon-1:00 p.m. Pastors' Preaching Text Study Group in Mankato, 3:00-5:00 p.m. Maple River Youth Center. *Wednesday* Community Office Hours at Maggie J's Restaurant 10:00-11:30 a.m., 1st & 3rd Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 p.m. G.I.F.T. *Thursday* 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. church office, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Bible Study. *Friday* Sermon writing. At other times, she may be making pastoral visits, working in the office, or be serving elsewhere in the community. Please feel free to contact her for a visit or meeting!

**Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf**

**Today, Sunday, April 3rd, 2016** we will collect donations for the Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf. Please consider a donation to this wonderful mission!

**Sign-Up for Sunday Lay Ministries!**

Please consider helping by signing-up to be a **Lay Leader, Greeter, Head Usher, Communion Server, and Sunday School teacher** for Sunday worship services. Sheets are posted on the bulletin board outside the main office. Thank you in advance for your service!

**Easter Lily Plants**

Thank you again to those who brought in lily plants. You may pick up your plants and **take them home** after today's worship service.

**New Church Model**

There is a copy of the new church model on the table in the narthex for your reference. If you would like a copy of this information, please contact the church office.

**The United Church News and Announcements**  
**Sunday, April 3rd, 2016**

**Mission Kits**

It is time to start collecting items for baby and hygiene kits. Please consider purchasing items (listed below and provided in the narthex area) to be included into these much needed kits. Bring your items to the church and place in the boxes provided in the narthex/entry area. Thank you so much!

**Baby Care Kit** assembly items:

- Six cloth diapers
- Two T-shirts or undershirts (no onesies)
- Two washcloths
- Two gowns or sleepers
- Two diaper pins
- One sweater or sweatshirt (can be hand knitted or crocheted)
- Two receiving blankets; approximately 30 X 30 inches. (One can be hand-knitted or crocheted baby blanket)

Items must be under 12 months in size. Wrap items inside one of the receiving blankets and secure with both diaper pins.

**Hygiene Kit** assembly items:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 16" X 28" (no fingertip or bath towels)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One nail clipper
- One bar of soap (bath size in wrapper)
- One toothbrush (in original packaging)
- Six standard size Band-Aids brand

Place all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure; remove excess air from bag, and seal.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

**Scripture for the Week:** Let those who fear the Lord say, “His steadfast love endures forever.” Psalm 118:4

### **Sunday**

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy. Titus 3:4–5

Lord Jesus Christ, in this Holy Week we are among those shouting “Hosanna!” Save us, we ask you; grant us strength to remain at your side now and beyond, committed, faithful, and obedient, grateful for our salvation. Amen.

### **Monday:**

Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, and make straight paths for your feet. Hebrews 12:12–13

Approachable God, worthy of our trust in all things and places, strengthen us when we are tempted to choose the path of least resistance, seeking peace at any price, putting on blinders instead of binoculars. We want to please and honor you now and always. Amen.

### **Tuesday:**

We do see Jesus now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death. Hebrews 2:9

Precious God, when we consider the things we exalt in this life, the things we honor, the things that receive our homage and devotion, too often they are less than worthy and are not what would please you. We make this confession, seeking your forgiveness. Amen.

### **Wednesday:**

Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers. James 1:22

God of the living word, you have commanded us to be still, to wait patiently, and to listen more attentively for your voice. Help us to slow down, put on the brakes, shift into neutral, and remain in place awaiting your call through Jesus. Amen.

## Weekly Scriptures for Prayer and Devotion

### **Thursday:**

Jesus said to his disciples, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” Mark 14:34

Lord Jesus Christ, you command that we gather at your table in your name and Spirit. Just as we are, we come to receive the signs of your mercy and the evidence of your grace. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Friday:**

God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:19 (NIV)

O God, there was much about Good Friday that does not seem good: your Son’s betrayal, denial, and crucifixion. But we understand that your all-encompassing love is what brought Jesus to the cross: to die for us—but not only for us—for all. Amen.

### **Saturday:**

Jesus prays, “Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.” John 17:11

Watching God, like your followers in times before, we sometimes cower behind closed and locked doors in fear and desperation. We long for signs, for assurance that sin and death are not the final answer. Break the grip of grief and fear with the coming announcement of the Life. Amen.

*Source: Moravian Daily Texts*

*Continue*

## In Our Prayers

- The ministries of The United Church, including our local missions: The Maple River Youth Center, Loaves & Fishes Food Shelf
- The local, regional, and national leaders of the church, including all ministers and missionaries
- Those anticipating surgery, recovering from surgery, or undergoing medical procedures, tests, or treatments
- Those living in assisted living, a nursing home, or who are homebound, and all those who are caregivers
- Those who are grieving and mourning
- Those affected by mental illness, including anxiety and depression



### **Our church prayer list includes:**

- Those with ongoing health concerns: Norma Baack, Kathy Cramer, Janie Firstbrook, Mary Beth Fritz, Aubrielle Howley, David Keller, Marian Mallory, Lloyd Mitchell, Stan Solie,
- Those recovering from recent health concerns or procedures: Jack Madsen, Sean Mallory, Bill Pfeffer, Roberta Ward
- All those affected by the ongoing crisis in Syria and the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing the Middle East
- All those affected by the bombing in Brussels, Belgium on Tuesday, March 22nd, including the 31 people who died and the 340 people injured
- All those affected by the bombing in Lahore, Pakistan, including the 72 people who died, including 17 children, and the more than 300 people injured

### **The prayer requests and praises shared during last week's worship include:**

#### **Thanksgiving:**

- For answered prayer for my dear friend in her workplace; it is once again a happy environment

#### **Prayers:**

- That the joy of the Risen Christ bring the Spirit of love and forgiveness to each throughout the following year
- For a friend, Alan Olson, who is dealing with medical issues