

TULLY UNITED COMMUNITY CHURCH

APRIL 14, 2024 9:30 AM

THE REV. RICHARD G. REED, PASTOR



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

-WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THE LIVING GOD -

STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Tully United Community Church would like to acknowledge with respect the Onondaga Nation, Fire-keepers of the Haudenosaunee, the indigenous peoples on whose ancestral lands our buildings now stand.

PRELUDE

"I've Just Seen Jesus"

Linda Stassen

GREETING

Officiant: On this day we join together in gratitude for Christ's sacrifice and the joyful renewal it brings to all God's children in this Easter season and always.

CENTERING SONG

"You Are Risen"

Jim Kerr-Whitt

**You are risen, and in you I am changed.
You are with us, and You promise to remain!
You are Life to me, Lord!**

MOMENT OF SILENT MEDITATION

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Liturgist: The Risen One has come alongside us on our journey from the empty tomb.

People: He speaks to us, with love and encouragement, the word that frees us from our sorrows.

Liturgist: A guest among us, he becomes the Host.

People: He makes himself known still today in the breaking of bread.

Liturgist: Let us celebrate the promise of life, for Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Liturgist: Let us pray.

Life-giving God, as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, we pray that you bind us together in Christian love and that our faith and fellowship may bear witness to your saving grace. We give you thanks for your many blessings and ask that we may learn how to truly be Easter people; always remembering that we are celebrating resurrection day every day. This we pray through Jesus Christ, the Risen One. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

Officiant: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

****HYMN**

“Christ Is Alive”

#318

**1. Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
His cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
His love in death shall never die.**

**2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
He comes to claim the here and now,
and dwell in every place and time.**

**3. Not throned afar, remotely high,
Untouched, unmoved by human pains,
But daily, in the midst of life,
Our Savior in the God-head reigns.**

**4. In every insult, rift and war,
where color, scorn or wealth divide,
he suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, though ever crucified.**

**5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and all creation ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

-WE REJOICE IN THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS-

FIRST LESSON

Acts 3:12-19

Liturgist: The Apostle Peter bears witness to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

"And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Here ends the reading.

PSALTER

Psalm 4

#741

R **♪ There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole. ♪**

Liturgist: Answer me when I call, O God of my right!

People: You have given me room when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.

L: How long, O people, shall my honor suffer shame?

P: How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies?

L: But know that the LORD has set apart the righteous as God's own;

P: the LORD hears when I call. R

L: Be angry, but do not sin;

P: commune with your own hearts in your beds, and be silent.

L: Offer right sacrifices,

P: and put your trust in the LORD.

L: There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!

P: Lift up the light of your countenance upon us, O LORD!"

L: You have put more joy in my heart
than they have when their grain and wine abound.

**P: In peace I will both lie down and sleep;
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety. *R***

SECOND LESSON

First John 3:1-7

Liturgist: John admonishes his readers to show the love of God and thus to live in righteousness.

Behold, what manner of love the Father has given us, that we should be called the children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Here ends the reading.

****HYMN**

"Christ Is Risen"

#307

**1. Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.**

2. **Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.**

3. **Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!**

****THE GOSPEL**

+Luke 24:36b-48+

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

SERMON

The Rev. Richard G. Reed

CHORAL ANTHEM

**"Precious Lord, Take My Hand"
LAURA CURRIE CHANCEL CHOIR**

Roy Ringwald

-WE BOW BEFORE THE LORD IN PRAYER-

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (using "sins")

#894

Bidding: Hear our prayer, O Lord:

Response: Be gracious and answer us, O God!

Celebrant: God you have given us light to dispel the darkness and give us hope. So we draw near and make our needs, our hopes, and our desires known as we pray; *Hear our prayer, O Lord: **Be gracious and answer us, O God!***

Send your Spirit upon us that we might be transformed. Make our truest desires be to live in closer communion with Christ and his people. Bless the leaders of this congregation and of your universal Church that your love and grace may be proclaimed in word and deed.

*Hear our prayer, O Lord: **Be gracious and answer us, O God!***

Loving God, you are our hope. We have often lived as though you were so distant, so uninvolved with us, and so aloof. Yet in Christ you have shown us just how near to us you are—walking by our sides, risking all to be near to us—so much that you would come to be our servant, our Savior and our friend.

*Hear our prayer, O Lord: **Be gracious and answer us, O God!***

Hear our prayers for those for whom we should take such risks, as we lift to you the yearnings of our hearts for your creation and its peoples. Help us as stewards of your many gifts to care more diligently for the brokenness of your world. May our lives honor you by caring for the earth and all of your creatures. May we be renewed and reconciled to live in peace with all people.

*Hear our prayer, O Lord: **Be gracious and answer us, O God!***

Many and great are the needs of those around us, Lord. Help us to better remember the poor, the homeless, the needy of our world, by serving those who live nearby. Teach us the meaning of prayer for the lost, the lonely and the grieving through the consolation of our encounters with them in everyday life. Empower us to heal the hurting, the sick and the dying by the touch and the love of Jesus who lives in us. We especially pray for those whom we have named aloud and those we now bring before you in the silence. (Pause for a moment of silent prayer)

*Hear our prayer, O Lord: **Be gracious and answer us, O God!***

Celebrant: Raise up your people again to lives of deeper prayer through more ready service, that this community of faith might be more strongly joined with Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray, saying:

**“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, the power and the glory, for ever. Amen.”**

-WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD-

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Celebrant: The bounty of God's grace has blessed us in so many ways. God's love was manifested in the ultimate gift of Jesus, the Christ. Let us demonstrate our love through the sharing of our time, talent, and treasure that God may be glorified.

****DOXOLOGY, PRESENTATION, AND OFFERTORY PRAYER**

#95

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

Celebrant: From our hearts and from our hands, we humbly and gladly present these gifts to you, O God, that they may be used to serve you and to bless your people, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen!

-WE ARE SENT TO PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS-

****HYMN**

“The Day Of Resurrection”

#303

**1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.**

**2. Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain
his own "All hail!" and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.**

**3. Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth her song begin!
The round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.**

BENEDICTION

Officiant: May God the Father, who raised Christ Jesus from the dead, continually show loving-kindness toward us.

May God the Son, Victor over sin and death, grant us a share in the joy of his resurrection.

May God the Spirit, giver of light and peace, renew our hearts in God's love. And Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you, now and always.

People: Amen. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

"Sing Hallelujah"

Fred Bock

****Indicates to rise if you are able**