

Easter 2026
Mt. Zion UCC

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
1054 Ridgewood Road, York, Pennsylvania 17406
Telephone: 717-755-6117
E-mail: office@mtzionucc.org
Website: www.mtzionucc.org

Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Louis Allison, Tech Director
Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

April 05, 2026

9:45 AM

Easter Sunday
Wandering Heart: And I Hope¹
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*This morning, as we worship our God, we also celebrate the Lord's Supper.
Here at Mt. Zion UCC, all are invited to the table of grace.*

If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping with us today. We invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

*We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! We have children's books and activity bags for them to enjoy in the side narthex! Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance! **Please note that we will not be having Sunday school this morning.***

We pray God's blessing upon you. For today's service, we will be using the black hymnal.

EASTER PRAISE ANTHEM

Majesty

by Hayford

WORDS OF WELCOME

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

INTRODUCTION TO THEME

POEM²

Easter Morning

by Rev. Sarah Speed

PRELUDE: WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM

Worthy is the Lamb

by Pote

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Yesterday we thought death had won. Yesterday we thought all was lost. Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

C: But not today. Today we know that love has won. Today we know that hope is real. Today we know that Christ is here.

L: We have a reason to hope.

C: We have a reason to sing!

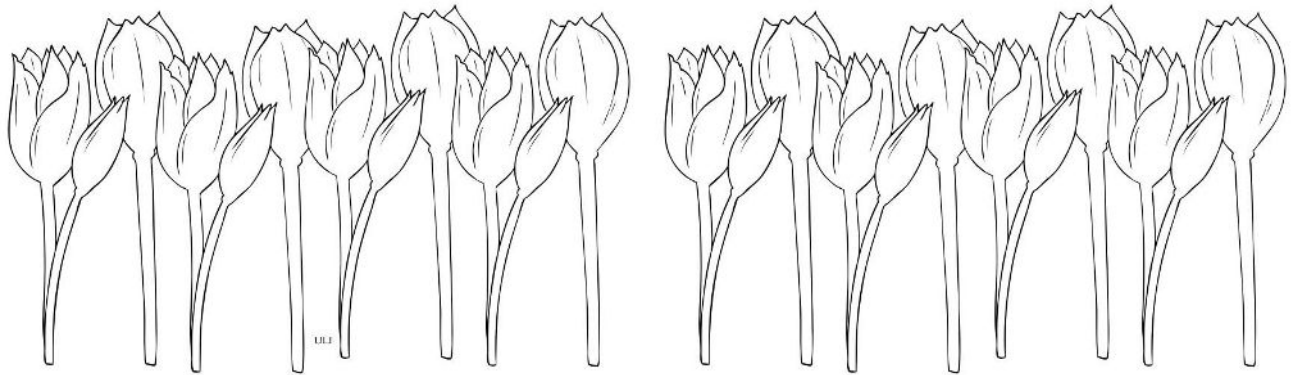
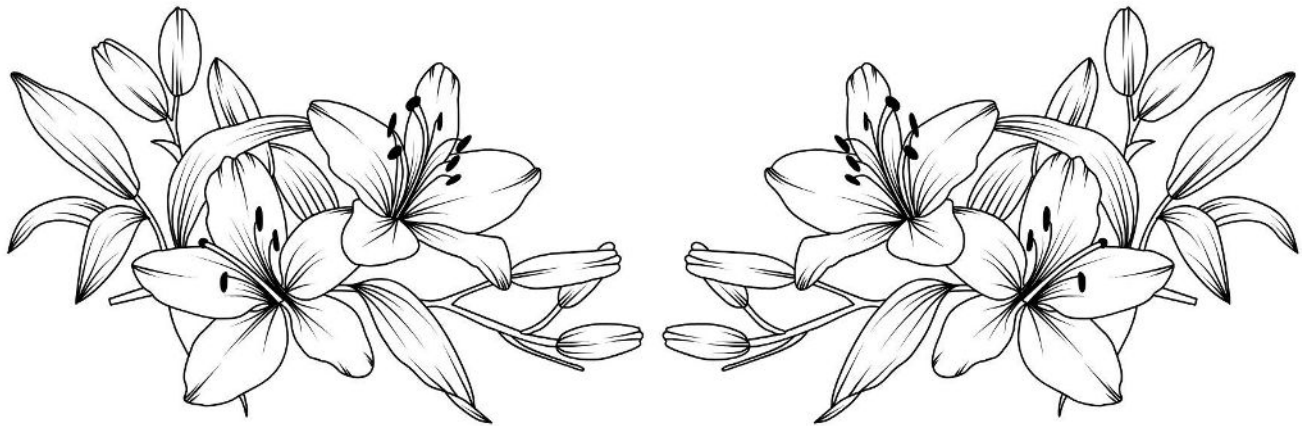
L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: I invite you to stand as comfortable as we praise our Risen Savior with song

***OPENING HYMN** (see next page)

Jesus Christ is Risen Today



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

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$\text{♩} = 120$

Piano

1. Je - sus Christ is risen to - day. Al - le - lu - ia! Our tri - um - phant
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia! un - to Christ our
3. But the pains which he endured, Al - le - lu - ia! Our sal - va - tion
4. Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise e - ter - nal

6

ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia! Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le -
heav'nly King. Al - le - lu - ia! Who endured the Cross and grave, Al - le -
have proeured, Al - le - lu - ia! Now a - bove the sky He's King, Al - le -
as His love, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise him all ye Heavenly host, Al - le -

12

- lu - ia! Suf - fer to re - deem our loss, Al - le - lu - ia!
- lu - ia! Sin - ners to re - deem and save, Al - le - lu - ia!
- lu - ia! Where the an - gels ev - er sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
- lu - ia! Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, Al - le - lu -

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: The stone is rolled away. The tomb is empty. And still—our wandering hearts struggle to believe it. So we come before God with honesty—bringing our doubts, our questions, and our fear—trusting that grace meets us here. Together, let us pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: Risen Lord,

C: The stone is rolled away! We assume it is a mistake. The angels say, “He is not here!” We assume their news is fake. The women tell the story, but we do not want to hear it. Peter runs to the tomb, but we do not understand.

Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb is nothing more than a prank. Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths and still holding tight to death. Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope when you are alive and well in the world. Teach us to see what you see. Unravel the threads of our unbelief. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*ACT OF PRAISE NO. 459 (black hymnal, v. 1)

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

ALL SING: Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

*PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

L: God of new beginnings,

C: On that first Easter morning, the disciples struggled to hear the good news. Doubt clouded their minds. Negativity took root and hope vanished with a simple shake of their heads. As we return to this familiar text, help us to hear differently this morning. Open our ears that we might hear the sound of Alleluias ringing through this text. Open up our minds that the mystery and joy of Easter might feel within reach. Open up our hearts that we might believe the unbelievable. And like Peter, in this hearing, may we move closer to you. God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good news. Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts we listen and we pray, amen.

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Strodach, 1876

Kirchengesange, 1623

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$

1. Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in
 2. E - ter-nal is the gift he brings, There -
 3. Oh, fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set
 4. A - doring prais - es now we bring and

4
 praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is
 - fore our heart with rapture sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! He is
 heart and will on things a - bove that we con - quer through your
 with the heav'n-ly bless-ed sing: "Christ has tri - umphed! All - le -

7
 liv-ing!" Sing, choirs of an-gels, loud and clear! Re - peat their song of glo-ry
 liv-ing!" Now still he comes to give us life. And by his pre-sence still all
 triumph; Grant grace suf - fi-cient for life's day that by our lives we tru-ly
 - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa-ther, and our Lord, To Spir - it blest, most ho-ly

11 *Refrain*
 here: "Christ has tri-umphed! Christ has tri-umphed!" Alle-lu-ia, alle-lu-ia, aHe -
 strife. Christ has tri-umphed! He is liv - ing!
 say: Christ has tri-umphed! He is liv - ing!
 God, All the glo - ry, nev - er end - ing!

16
 - lu - ia!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: God of the empty tomb, we come to you as people who forget. We forget your promises. We forget your presence. We forget that love is stronger than death. And still—you call us back. Remembering Christ's resurrection our hearts turn to you in prayer.

L: When grief lingers and joy feels out of reach, when the world feels heavy and hope feels distant—teach us to remember that this is not the end of the story.

C: Alleluia—hope has risen; roll away the stones in our lives.

L: For those walking through valleys—through illness, loss, fear, or uncertainty—for those who feel sealed in by despair—speak life into every place that feels closed off and send your healing upon them.

C: Alleluia—hope has risen; roll away the stones in our lives.

L: For those who doubt, who stand at the edge of the tomb with more questions than answers—for wandering hearts unsure what to believe—meet us there.

C: Alleluia—hope has risen; roll away the stones in our lives.

L: For this community, called to remember and to live differently—to carry resurrection into a weary world—make us witnesses to your hope.

C: Alleluia—hope has risen; roll away the stones in our lives.

L: For our world that forgets the miracle of this life and takes it for granted—move the hearts of those in power to strive for your peace for all people. Open our eyes to see possibility outside of divisiveness and to lift up love over fear.

C: Alleluia—hope has risen; roll away the stones in our lives.

L: God of new life, teach us to remember not just with our minds, but with our hearts. Help us to look for openings in relationships that feel closed off and heal the harm we ourselves have caused.

C: Alleluia—hope has risen; roll away the stones in our lives.

L: God of resurrection, you meet us in our forgetting and call us back to life. Keep us remembering. Keep us hoping. Keep us walking in your light.

C: Alleluia. We remember. In you, the stone gets rolled away. Amen.

TIME OF GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

CALL TO OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY

Behold the Lamb

by Rambo

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Generous God,

C: you take our wandering hearts and fill them with resurrection expectation. Bless these gifts we offer today. Use them to seek the lost, to feed the hungry, to bring hope to deep waters, and to remind the world that your love never stops pursuing us. With gratitude we give and receive. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

REMEMBERING THE STORY

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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.

INVITATION TO THE MEAL

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS *(all cups contain grape juice)*

To receive communion all are invited to come forward and receive God's meal. Starting in the front, proceed forward and receive bread from the communion server on your side of the Sanctuary, then continue the path back toward your seat to receive grape juice through intinction where you will dip your bread into the chalice provided. From there, return to your seat. If you have a gluten intolerance please let those serving communion know—gluten free bread and separate glasses of grape juice are available to those who need uncontaminated elements.

If you need to receive communion at your seat, please let a member of the Welcome Team know and Communion will be brought to you at your seat when brought to the tech team.

During the sharing of the elements, we will be singing various Easter hymns. Words for the songs will be listed on the screens. The hymnal numbers are also listed below if you'd prefer to use a hymnal.

In the Garden #237 (black hymnal)

Now the Green Blade Rises #238 (black hymnal)

They Day of Resurrection # 245 (black hymnal)

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

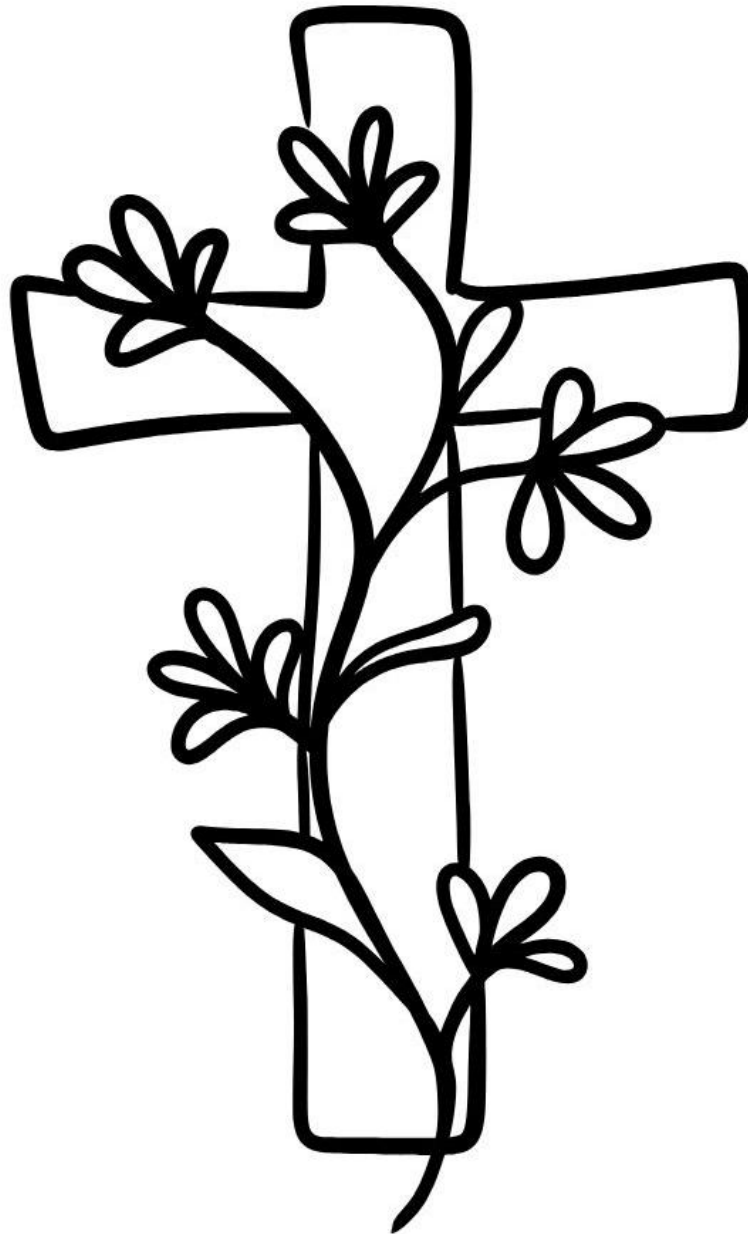
L: Let us pray, Loving God,

C: you have met us at this table with grace for our wandering hearts.

Strengthen us to carry resurrection into the world. Help us trust that new life is always possible and that love will have the final word. With gratitude we pray. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 233** (black hymnal, see next page)

Christ the Lord is Risen Today



*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Charles Wesley, 1739

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al- le- lu- ia! Mor- tal tongues and
 2. Let the Vic- tor's peo- ples sing, Al- le- lu- ia! Where, O death, is
 3. Love's re-deem- ing work is done, Al- le- lu- ia! Fought the fight, the
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al- le- lu- ia! Fol- lowing our ex-

6

an- gels say: Al- le- lu- ia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Al- le-
 now your sting? Al- le- lu- ia! Dy- ing once, Christ lives to save, Al- le-
 bat- tle won, Al- le- lu- ia! Death in vain for bids Christ rise, Al- le-
 - alt - ed Head, Al- le- lu- ia! Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al- le-

12

lu- ia! Sing, glad heavens, and earth re- ply: Al- le- lu- ia!
 lu- ia! Where your vic- to- ry, O grave? Al- le- lu- ia!
 lu- ia! God has o- pened par- a- dise, Al- le- lu- ia!
 lu- ia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al- le- lu- ia!

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.

***BENEDICTION**

L: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C: Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

P & L: Go from this place remembering—the stone is rolled away. Love lives. When your heart wanders—remember. Hope has risen. And it will rise in you again. Go forth rejoicing in the good news—And may our risen Savior go before you, walk alongside you, and lead you in the way of life. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C: Christ is Risen, indeed! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE CHOIR ANTHEM

The Hallelujah Chorus

by Handel

¹The Liturgy is written by and adapted from the writings of Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.”

²Poem by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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MT ZION UCC WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK...

Thank you to our volunteers for blessing us with their gifts today.

Thank you to Jim Beyer for painting the beautiful cover on our Easter service bulletins.

Worship Choir

Soprano: Vanessa Bicher, Debbie Butcher, Carol Hartman, Lana Fritz, Norma Hull, Barb Neff, Eloise Rhinehart

Alto: Brenda Beyer, Jen Miller, Melody Stine

Tenor: Dave Firestone, Mike Gibbs, Michael Maletz

Bass: Tom Bair & Braden Bicher

Accompanist: Travis Pinci

Welcome Team: Deb & Terry Barnes, Jennifer Damon, & Barb Stebbins

Communion Servers: Pastor Amy, Deb Herlocker, Connie & John Wolfe,

Tech Team: Jack Herlocker, Eloise Rhinehart, John Schriver

Liturgist: Deb Herlocker

*Those for whom it is comfortable, please rise.