



# CHRIST CHURCH

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING WISE CONGREGATION.



EASTER SUNDAY

April 5th, 2026

9:30 AM



# Welcome to Christ Church United Church of Christ – Des Plaines

*"We serve to be a beacon of God's love; a place of hope & belonging."*

We're so glad you're here. Whether you're visiting or looking for a church home, we hope you experience belonging in this sacred space.

Our **worship services** are livestreamed and available on:

[christchurchuccdesplaines.org](http://christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

[facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines](https://facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines)

**We also invite you to join us after worship for fellowship**—a time to connect, enjoy refreshments, and get to know one another.

## CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP

We joyfully welcome children of all ages in our services. Feel free to move about as needed—this space is for your whole family.

Helpful Resources:

- **Toys & Activities:** Located in the Narthex—ask an usher for assistance.
- **Sunday School:** Offered every other week during worship, with fellowship & activities.
- **Play Area:** Available during fellowship time after worship.

## FACILITIES & AMENITIES

**Gender-neutral Restrooms:** Wobbe Hall (accessible, changing table) & Sacristy

**Gendered Restrooms:** Downstairs via Narthex (changing tables)

**Water Cooler:** Outside the Narthex (right-hand side)

**Quiet Spots:** Memorial Garden & Little Library Courtyard for peaceful rest or prayer.

## OUR VISION

To make a lasting difference in our lives, community, and world.

### Want to learn more?

You can find additional details about our ministries, history, beliefs, and justice commitments at [christchurchuccdesplaines.org](http://christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

## ABOUT US

We are an **Open and Affirming (ONA) and WISE for Mental Health** congregation.

At **Christ Church UCC**, we embrace diversity and affirm the sacred worth of every person. We welcome people of all races, ethnicities, ages, gender identities, sexual orientations, abilities, marital statuses, and faith backgrounds into full participation in our life, ministry, and leadership.



**UCC Mental Health Network**

Welcoming • Inclusive • Supportive • Engaged

As a **WISE congregation**, we recognize the gifts of those living with mental health challenges, including mental illness, addiction, and trauma. We commit to:

- Reducing stigma through education and inclusion
- Supporting individuals and families through companionship and advocacy
- Including people with lived experience in all aspects of church life
- Partnering with organizations engaged in mental health and faith-based work

## OUR MISSION

"Share God's teachings through worship, prayer, and ministries while striving to continue the work of Jesus Christ by treating all with compassion and kindness and helping those in need."



## OUR DENOMINATION

We are part of the **United Church of Christ (UCC)**—a progressive, justice-seeking denomination known as a "church of firsts" and a community of extravagant welcome, the UCC unites faith and action in a shared vision "...that they may all be one" (John 17:21). Christ Church UCC belongs to the **Illinois Conference** and the **Chicago Metropolitan Association** of the UCC.

*"The sounds of joyful songs and deliverance are heard in the tents of the righteous." - Psalm 118:15*

**No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.**

*\* Please stand in body or spirit.*

*Quiet meditation at the first note of the prelude.*

**PROCESSIONAL**

**PASSING OF THE LIGHT**

**HYMN** *"Good Christians All Rejoice and Sing"* (see music insert)

**\* CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

**All: By the Spirit, we gather in hope.**

One: Come into God's day of resurrection, you who have known grief, you who long for new life, you who carry "Alleluias" in your hearts.

**All: In Christ, we gather at the empty tomb.**

One: Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

**All: To God be the glory! We gather to praise!**

\*\*\*\*\* **BELL** \*\*\*\*\*

**\*HYMN** *"Halle, Halle, Halle"* (see music insert)

**OPENING PRAYER**

**SILENT PRAYER**

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

One: Siblings in Christ, let us confess our sins to God, for sin and death have been defeated. They have no power over us any longer!

**All: God of resurrection power, we confess we have sinned against you. We have lived in the sad melancholy of sinfulness despite the transformative power you showed us in Jesus. Forgive our unbelief and inspire us to imagine life in the glow of resurrection today. In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

*TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION*

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### WAVING A SIGN OF PEACE 🙌

#### MINISTRY OF MUSIC

"Christ is Arisen Today"

Choir

#### READINGS (CEB)

Acts 10:34-43

Colossians 3:1-4

\*John 20:1-18

#### CHARACTER NARRATIVE

#### SERMON

"The Apostle to the Apostles"

Rev. Gilbert Martinez

#### RESPONSE to scripture(*twice*)

↳ Je-su, Je-su, fill us with your love, show  
↳ us how to serve the neighbors we have from you. ↳

#### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

One: Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination.

**All: We believe in the resurrection. We believe in new life and fresh starts. We believe people change and situations change. We believe love and justice can transform the world. We believe Jesus is alive and well, stoking our imaginations to conceive new ways of bringing the kin(g)dom to earth. We believe the good news is food for the hungry, healing for the sick, water for the thirsty, and freedom for all the oppressed. We believe the resurrection of Jesus gives us hope for tomorrow. We will live, work, play, and sleep in holy anticipation for the good things God will accomplish among us as we continue to follow the way of Jesus. We dare to dream, to imagine a better world, made right in Christ.**

#### \*HYMN

*"Now the Green Blades Rises"*

*(see music insert)*

#### COMMUNION

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your fears, your hopes, your dreams.

**All: We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to our generous, imaginative God.

**All: We joyfully give our thanks and praise.**

One: Today is such...join the unending hymn:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Divine, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Creator. Hosanna in the highest.**

One: We proclaim the mystery of our faith...

**All: Christ was executed. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**PRAYER OF PETITION**

One: Living, Loving God...Loving God,  
**All: Hear our prayer.**  
One: We celebrate...Loving God,  
**All: Hear our prayer.**  
One: We remember...Loving God,  
**All: Hear our prayer.**

**THE PRAYER THAT JESUS TAUGHT US** *(unison)*. *please recite the version closest to your heart*  
*(Our Father, Our Mother, Our Parent, etc.)*

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERTORY**

**OFFERTORY** The ushers will bring the collection basket to you. Thank you for your continued support. *Other ways to give:* Text-to-Give (847) 750-3007 Online: <https://bit.ly/CCUCCGiving>



**HYMN** "Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord " (see music insert)

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *(After the benediction, you are invited to respond with these words.)*  
**Christ is risen indeed! We will walk in resurrection hope. We will resist hatred and embody love. We will carry joy into the world, trusting that God is making all things new. Amen.**

**\*\*\*\*\* Bell & Extinguishing of the Candles \*\*\*\*\***

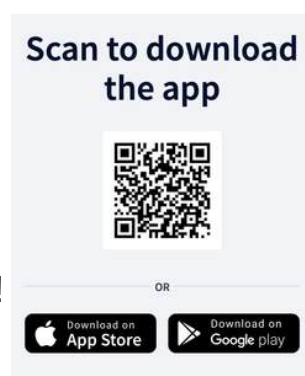
**\*HYMN** "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" (Red Hymnal 130)

**POSTLUDE**



**Download Our Church App!**  
Stay connected with our church family anytime, anywhere. Access sermons, events, updates, and so much more—all right at your fingertips. Don't miss out on this convenient way to stay in the loop! Download it today!

<https://bit.ly/CCUCCAPP>



# Good Christians All, Rejoice 307

1 Good Chris-tians all, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
 2 The Lord of life is risen to - day; death's might - y stone is  
 3 We praise in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life, which  
 4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with

of our King! To all the world glad news we bring:  
 rolled a - way: let ev - ery tongue re - joice and say:  
 can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
 one ac - cord the life laid down, the life re - stored:

*Refrain*

“Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!”

# Halle Halle Halle

Words and Music by  
Hal H. Hopson

## CHORUS

G Bm/D G D/F# Em Em/D C C/B Am7

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -

7 Am D7 G Bm/D G D/F# Em Am

lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah, hal -

1, 3, 5 2, 4, 6

G/D D G C/G G C/G G

14 le - lu - jah. jah. *Fine*

VERSE

1. Praise God in this  
2. Ev 'ry - thing that

20 Am/G Gmaj7 Am7

ho - ly place, ev - 'ry na - tion, ev - 'ry race. Come, make joy - ful mu - sic to the  
breathes now praise; Sing your songs, let voic - es raise. Come, make joy - ful mu - sic to the

25 Dsus D G Am

Lord. Sound the trum - pet, sound it clear. Sound it for the world to hear.  
Lord. Play the cym - bals, play the lute; Play the tim - brel, play the flute.

31 Gmaj7 Am7 Dsus D

Come, make joy - ful mu - sic to the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_  
Come, make joy - ful mu - sic to the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_

*D.C. al Fine*

# Now the Green Blade Rises

238

John M. C. Crann, 1928; alt.

Matt. 27:57-28:7; Luke 23:50-24:12

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;  
2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,  
3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;  
Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,  
Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,  
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:  
Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

*Refrain*

Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

# Alleluia No. 1

Words and Music by  
Donald E. Fishel

## CHORUS

F Dm Gm C F

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the Ris - en Lord, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

## VERSE

6 Dm Gm C F *Fine* F Dm B $\flat$

lu - ia, give praise to His Name. 1. Je sus is Lord of all the

2. Spread the good news o'er all the
3. We have been cru - ci - fied with
4. God has pro - claimed the just re -
5. Come let us praise the Liv - ing

12 C F Dm Gm C *D.S. al Fine*

earth, He is the King of cre - a - - - tion. Al - le  
 earth, Je - sus has died and has ris - - - en.  
 Christ. Now we shall live for - ev - - - er.  
 ward, life for all men, al - le - lu - - - ia.  
 God, joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - - - iour.

CCLI 1718955



# IN MEMORY / HONOR

In honor of our son, parents & grandparents from Bud & Elaine Hudson

In gratefulness for Rev. Grice's ministry from Don & Judy Rosedale  
Rest in Peace, faithful servant of God by Rev. Gilbert on behalf of CCUCC



## May we continue special prayers for...

## Homebound\*

Marion Meseth*	Marilyn McCown	Rev. Marcia Urban	Documented & Undocumented Immigrants Our Country Ukraine, Lebanon, Palestinian, and Israeli citizens
Dawn Mashek	Dorothy Zemke*	Jack Branding	
Linda Steckel	Kelly Roberts	Charles Eppely	
Jack Storm	Hope & Bruce Tschappat	Alice Barnhart	
Marilyn Hoover*	Helen Harney	The Hudsons	
Sue Prunty	Caid Carter	Julie Radman	
John Prellberg	Ariana Subera	Grice Family	
Grace Pastor	Louis Georgioulis		

## Special prayers for:

Those living with mental illness, illness, without a home or food, our church community, service people, veterans, our nation, and our leaders.



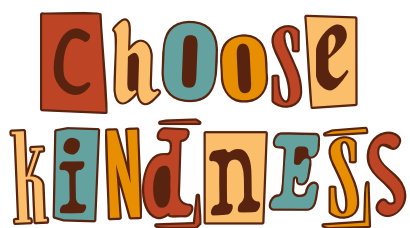
# Happy Birthday!

6 - Michael Skibbe  
8 - Dorothy Zemke

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Thanks to everyone scheduled to help with worship:

Pastor.....	Rev. Gilbert Martinez
Liturgist/Lector.....	Laura Benitez
Music Director.....	Karen Wilberg
Guest Musician.....	Mick Archer
Council Greeter.....	Judy Rosedale
Ushers.....	Rita Barth, Gary Smith, Cathy Wiesner, Ruben Oviedo



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCE:** 64±  
*Our attendance is calculated using our  
LIVE Facebook viewers and those in person.*

**GET IT TOGETHER:** Tiny Toes & Big Hearts! Our Get It Together group crafted blankets, hats & booties for Project Baby Blanket! They'll bring a little love to NICU babies. Can you crochet or knit? Consider joining our group! The group meets on the third Wednesday of each month in the lounge. *The next meeting will be on April 15th, from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.*


**MEN'S LUNCH:** Held on the second Monday of every month at 11:45 am, at Sunrise Grill.

**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST:** Held the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00 am, at Sunrise Grill.

**SELF-HELP CLOSET & PANTRY:** They are in dire need of the following items: ketchup, mustard, mayo, pasta sauce (plain), flour, sugar, instant coffee, breakfast cereal (chocolate), new or like-new clean bed linens and towels, men's, women's, children's underwear (all sizes), body wash, shampoo, dish soap, laundry detergent, and paper towels. Please bring clean, dry plastic grocery bags.

**COMMUNITY BACKPACK PROJECT:** If you would like to bring items for The Community Backpack Project, these are the suggested items (please no glass jars): single serve breakfast cereal, instant oatmeal packets, pancake mix, canned red beans, one-pound bags of rice, pasta and pasta sauce, canned soup, canned pasta, stew or chili, peanut butter and jelly, fruit cups, pudding cups, fruit snacks, individually-wrapped snacks and chips. Please place them in the blue bins. Speak to Cathy for more information!

**COFFEE HOUR SIGN-UP:** Looking for a way to get involved? Sign-up for coffee hour in the office.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** Sign-up sheet is available in the office. 

**ONE EARTH FILM FESTIVAL:** Join Trinity Lutheran for a showing of the environmental documentary Beyond Zero on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6 PM.

**FREE HIV TESTING:** Camino Rising will now be offering complementary rapid HIV testing and STD prevention education starting on April 14<sup>th</sup> and will continue on select Tuesdays.

**EASTER EGG HUNT:** Kids of all ages are welcome to join us after Easter worship and fill up a basket of colorful Easter eggs! Please bring your own basket.

**RELIABLE HELP FOR ALL YOUR HOME REPAIR AND UPKEEP NEEDS!** Services include general repairs, minor electrical & plumbing, painting, flooring, furniture assembly, power washing, landscaping, and home & window cleaning. **Call Emanuel at (224) 392-9069**





## **Christ Church**

**United Church of Christ**

**1492 Henry Avenue - Des Plaines, IL 60016**

**847-297-4230**

**Tuesday - Friday**

**9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

### **PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS**

**Tues. & Wed. 9:30 am - 3 pm;**

***Days off:* Friday & Saturday**



**Website:** [christchurchuccdesplaines.org](http://christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines](https://facebook.com/christchurchuccdesplaines)

**Instagram:** [instagram.com/christchurchuccdesplaines](https://instagram.com/christchurchuccdesplaines)

### **CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Gilbert Martinez, Pastor**

[gilbert@christchurchuccdesplaines.org](mailto:gilbert@christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

**Kat Chwalisz, Administrative Assistant**

[kat@christchurchuccdesplaines.org](mailto:kat@christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

**Helayne Levin, Finance Coordinator**

[helayne@christchurchuccdesplaines.org](mailto:helayne@christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

**Karen Wilberg, Music Director & Church Organist**

[karen@christchurchuccdesplaines.org](mailto:karen@christchurchuccdesplaines.org)

**Tommie Jordan, Custodian**

**Emanuel Alvarez, Maintenance Technician**

**Rita S. Barth, Faith Forward Adventures Lead Teacher**

**Grace Pastor, Faith Forward Adventures Teacher**

### **Lay Ministry: All Members**

Judy Rosedale, *Council President*; Laura Hallberg, *Council Vice-President*

Council greeters are available to listen to your questions, concerns

& positive feedback about worship and all areas of church life.

**Art Sketch of Church Front by Nancy Boeckenhauer 1990.**