



TRUST BUT

VERIFY



April 19, 2020

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# UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL



217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559  
[www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org) Email: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)

**\*\*\*Assisted Listening Devices Available – Please Ask Your Usher\*\*\***

**LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT [UCCMEDINA.ORG](http://UCCMEDINA.ORG)**

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**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS”**

## RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL

## GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

*Take a moment to think about the people who sit beside, behind, and in front of you in church. Connect with them by phone, email, or text to pass the peace of Christ and offer support and encouragement. Write "Peace" on our Facebook live or turn to someone in your house and offer peace.*

## VISIONING PRAYER

by Sharon Alberson

God, help us to be welcoming. God, help us to be loving.  
God, help us to see that serving you can lead us to  
A place full of grace with no limits where we can be free...  
To open our hands, welcoming. To open our hearts, loving.  
To be more than church on Sunday, to live in the light from above;  
To celebrate in service and love.

## CALL TO WORSHIP (1 Peter 1:3-9)

Leader: Blessed be the God and Parent of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: **By God's great mercy we have been given a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

Leader: And into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading,  
kept in heaven for you,

People: **who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.**

Leader: In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials,

People: **so that the genuineness of your faith--**

Leader: being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire--

People: **may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.**

Leader: Although you have not seen him, you love him;

People: **and even though we do not see him now, we believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,**

Leader: For you are receiving the outcome of your faith,

People: **the salvation of our souls.**

**PRAYER** (Matins 2 by John O'Donohue, To Bless the Space Between Us, page 7&8)

Leader: I arise today  
In the name of Silence

**People: Womb of the Word,**  
Leader: In the name of Stillness

**People: Home of Belonging,**  
Leader: In the name of Solitude

**People: Of the Soul and the Earth.**  
Leader: I arise today.

**People: Blessed by all things,**  
Leader: Wings of Breath,

**People: Delight of eyes,**  
Leader: Wonder of whisper,

**People: Intimacy of touch,**  
Leader: Eternity of soul,  
Urgency of thought,

**People: Miracle of health,**  
Leader: Embrace of God.

**People: May I live this day,**  
Leader: Compassionate of heart,

**People: Clear in word,**  
Leader: Graciousness in awareness,

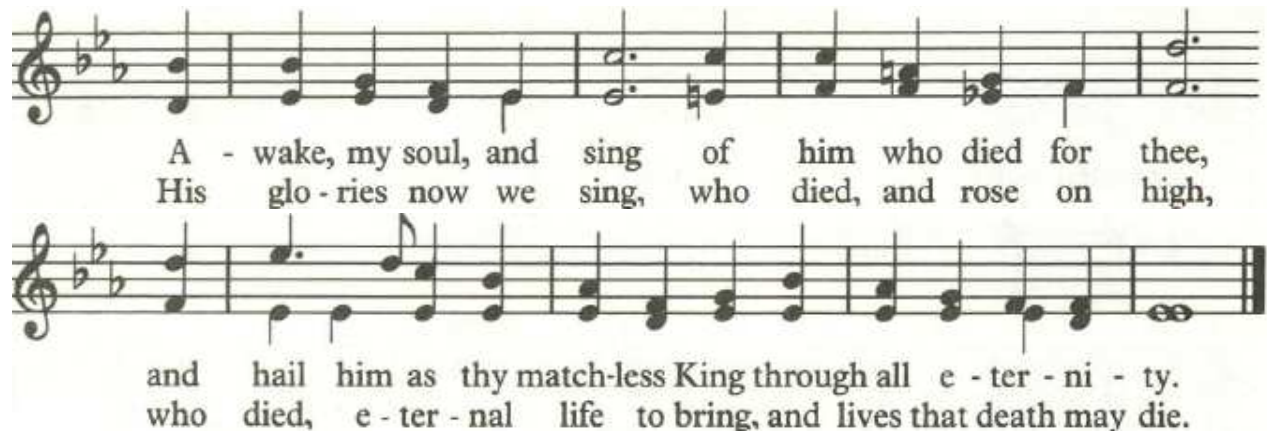
**People: Courage in thought,**  
Leader: Generous in love. Amen.

**HYMN****"Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.  
2. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave,



Hark! how the heav-en-ly an-them drowns all mu-sic but its own.  
and rose vic - to-rious in the strife for those he came to save.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,  
His glo - ries now we sing, who died, and rose on high,  
and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.  
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

WORDS: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874 (Rev. 19:12)  
MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

DIADEMATA  
SMD

**SCRIPTURE** John 20: 19-31

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Stacie Yates

**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.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Joys and Concerns

**Pastoral Prayer** (by the Rev. Jon Komperda, Point Place UCC, Toledo, Ohio.)

All-loving God, you have taken death into your very self and story and crafted new creation.

We pray today that you would take the disease of our bodies, minds, and spirits and those suffering and dying from them, and craft healing, comfort, and joy.

Send your Spirit upon those suffering with COVID-19 and all ailments.

Plant seeds of resurrection hope that give rise to deep-seated joy even now.

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray today that you would take our worries and fears and craft conviction and courage.

We pray especially for those risking health and life to care for the sick, to provide food and other needs, to build bridges of connection and ask that you would not only protect them, but raise up new life in them even now.

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray today that you would take our exhaustion and despair and craft vibrant and abundant life.

May teachers and pastors, students and congregations, parents and children, and all who are blazing new trails during this extraordinary time come to the One who is gentle in spirit and restores our souls.

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

We pray today that you would take our governmental leaders, as well as so many others seeking to guide and serve us, and craft a more wise, just, and compassionate society that reflects the new creation that has begun in Christ.

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

Because you are risen, you are able to fulfill the great promise that you will never leave us nor forsake us, that you will be with us always, even unto the end of the age.

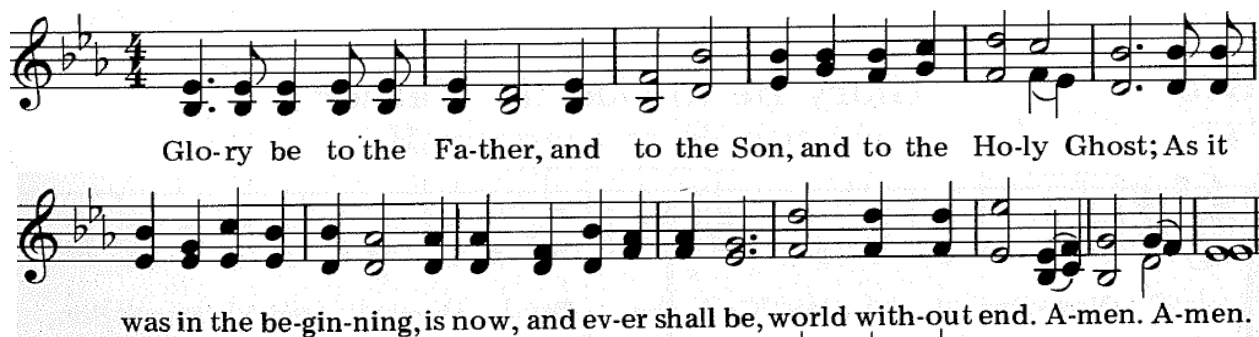
And we are able to embrace our need and walk boldly in your grace through whatever trials and tribulations we face in this life.

Risen Christ, hear our prayer.

## PRAYER RESPONSE

### "Gloria Patri"

Traditional/Henry W. Greatorex, 1851



Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Ghost; As it  
was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men. A-men.

## SERMON

### "Trust but Verify"

Rev. Luke Lindon

## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

### Offertory Invitation

Thank you for continuing to financially support the work and mission of the church! If it's a lean time or you're furloughed, we understand. That is not the purpose of church or this worship. This is just a gentle reminder with grace to mail your contribution to the church office or give online at [www.uccmedina.org/give](http://www.uccmedina.org/give). Setting up a recurring online gift is an easy way to provide consistent financial support to the church. Let us now reflect in this time of silence of what we will offer to God and our neighbor.

**\*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.

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (Psalm 16:5-9)

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; God is my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. Amen.

**BENEDICTION**

Leader: May you be blessed by your questions!  
May you feel the springtime edge of a bleak question.  
May you be awakened by the right thing asked at the unknown time.  
May you act like Christ who answers questions with questions.

People: **May we trust but verify. May we be blessed with patience and not rush back to "normal."**

Leader: And know that God is with you always,

People: **In our doubt.  
In our unnamed and unconscious emotions.  
In our preliminary conclusions, and in our unanswered prayers.**

Leader: May you be blessed by our Triune God!

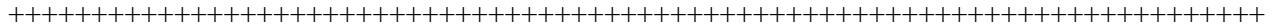
People: **This day and every day. Amen.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"**

**God be with you 'til we meet again; By His counsels guide uphold you;  
With His sheep securely fold you; God be with you 'til we meet again.**

**\*POSTLUDE** "This Joyful Eastertide" – arr. Paul Bouman Cathy Fafrak, Organist

**"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"**



**Participating in the service**

Rev. Luke Lindon, Sr. Pastor  
Rev. Pam Branscome  
Rev. Harry Buch  
Cathy Fafrak, Organist  
Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education  
Jim Kiser, Director of Music

**PASTORAL STAFF**

Rev. Luke Lindon, Senior Minister - email: [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org)

**OFFICE STAFF**

Cindy Korecky, Office Manager - email: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)  
Kelly Charnley, Financial Manager - email: [financial@uccmedina.org](mailto:financial@uccmedina.org)

**PROGRAM STAFF**

Stacie Yates, Director of Christian Education  
Nicole Rubino, Co-Director of Youth  
Jim Kiser, Director of Music  
Cathy Fafrak, Organist  
Rebecca Rosen, Nursery Supervisor  
Xanthe Phillips, Director of Hobby Horse Preschool  
Jack Sharpe, Maintenance  
Joe DeSario, Custodian

# THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

## APRIL 19, 2020

**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.  
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary Service is available at [uccmedina.org](http://uccmedina.org)

April 19, 2020 thru April 26, 2020

### **WEEK AT A GLANCE**

**Sun** You may give online or mail in your offering

**10:30 am WORSHIP LIVESTREAM**

GO TO: [www.uccmedina.org/live](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

**Mon 10:00 am Gift Card Orders Due**

**Tues** Tuesdays & Thursdays

11:00 am Children's Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

2:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

@ 2:00 Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

**Wed**

**Thurs**

Tuesdays & Thursdays

11:00 am Children's Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @

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2:00 pm Tuesdays & Thursdays

@ 2:00 Bible Study

Join us via facebook livestream @

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

**7:00 pm Zoom Council Meeting**

**Fri**

**Sat**

**Sun**

You may give online or mail in your offering

**10:30 am WORSHIP LIVESTREAM**

GO TO: [www.uccmedina.org/live](http://www.uccmedina.org/live)

**Worship Highlights:** 10:30 Live Stream Only

Scriptures: John 20:19-31

Sermon: "Trust but Verify"

Rev. Luke Lindon

## **ANNUAL REPORT TIME IS HERE!**

**Teams, Committees and Leadership** of the church are being asked to write up **their Annual Reports** to be presented at the

**May 17<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

(Stay tuned for updates... this date may change)

**The due date for your report is  
APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>.**

I am still missing some reports. Please email or drop off your reports to me in the church office. Please try to limit your reports to one page for the purpose of space limitations.

I appreciate all your efforts in **getting these to me on time.**

Please email to: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org) or [uccoffice@zoominternet.net](mailto:uccoffice@zoominternet.net).

## **THANK YOU**

I wish to thank everyone for the numerous cards, prayers and visits that I received during my recent surgery and recovery. The response from my fellow church friends was wonderful and very encouraging during this difficult time. I am now well. Stay in, keep safe, and stay well.

–Carolee Rafn

# IMPORTANT CHURCH INFORMATION AND UPDATES!

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**CANCELLATIONS:** ALL CHURCH IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES AND MEETINGS

Join us for Live Stream at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mornings <https://www.uccmedina.org/live>

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2:00 pm Bible Study – Join us on Facebook for live streaming on Tuesdays & Thursdays at  
2:00 pm <https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

We will also provide a Children's Bible Study "A Journey Through the Bible" on Facebook Live every Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00 am <https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/live>

Please check out Facebook, the church website or call the church office for further updates as things unfold in this time of uncertainty.

<https://www.facebook.com/uccmedina/> \*\*\* [www.uccmedina.org](http://www.uccmedina.org) \*\*\* 330-725-4559

## \*\*\* NEW ALL CHURCH EMAILS \*\*\*

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### WE WOULD LIKE TO BE SURE WE CAN REACH YOU ALL WITH IMPORTANT INFORMATION!

This email was sent out on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. If you did not receive the email, please check your spam folder or junk mail folder. If it is in there, please make sure that you have your email set to accept emails from uccmedina.org domain. You must add us to your "Allow Sender" List. Also, if you did not get the email and would like to, please send your email to the church office. If you need to change and email, please notify the church office. We hope to implement this in the very near future for church updates.

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The church has recently sent out an "All Church Email" that reads as such:

Dear Church Family,

It has been brought to our attention that there is yet again another Clergy Gift Card Scam moving through the internet, phones etc.

Please be assured that neither Luke nor the church will ever ask for gift cards through an email or a text for any kind of donation.

If the church is in need of the congregation to donate any kind of gift cards, it will be a direct ask in person or a direct call from Pastor Luke.

If you are ever uncertain of a request, please feel free to contact the church or Pastor Luke directly before you do anything. Please be sure to pass this information along to anyone else.

Julie Gilliland, our Moderator Elect has provided a link to the article that explains that this is an ongoing issue.

Please click here: (If you are reading this online) [Local Cleveland Jewish News Clergy Gift Card Scam](#)

If you have any questions, please contact us: [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org) [luke@uccmedina.org](mailto:luke@uccmedina.org) or 330-725-4559

Blessings,  
Cindy

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**The deadline for submission of articles for NEXT Sunday's *Messenger* is this Sunday at 11:30 am**

**Please submit articles to the church office at [office@uccmedina.org](mailto:office@uccmedina.org)**

\*\*\*\*\*CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm MONDAY THRU FRIDAY\*\*\*\*\*



John 20:19-31

### Holy Language

You might know today's scripture reading as the story of the guy you're *not* supposed to be. In fact, based only on this short passage, the disciple Thomas has such a bad name that any notoriously skeptical person is still called a Doubting Thomas. But was Thomas really a doubter? Or did he clearly understand and believe in Jesus? Maybe Jesus, who meets us where we are knows what we need, is telling us through this story that one way to gain understanding is the way Thomas did.

The other disciples had already seen Jesus' wounds while they were hiding out in a locked room. And where was Thomas during that time? Maybe he was out getting supplies or gathering information. It's possible that he was the bravest of the bunch. In any case, he returned from his outing and when he hears from the others that they have seen Christ, risen, he says that he'll have to see and touch Christ to believe them.

Then in one of those occasional, be-careful-what-you-ask-for-or-you-might-get-it moments in the Bible, Jesus appears and says, "Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Jesus does not say, "believe ONLY in things you cannot see." Instead, he comes gently to Thomas and asks for touch, thus affirming the wisdom and knowledge we gain from paying attention to the wisdom of our bodies.

Jesus goes on to say, "blessed are those who believe without seeing," but he does not say "*more* blessed are those who believe without seeing." He does not say, "you are not blessed because you had to see to believe."

In fact, Jesus gives his own body as a great gift to Thomas. And he gives Thomas the gift of using and trusting in his own senses – Thomas sees Jesus, he hears Jesus, he touches Jesus. And Thomas understands immediately and calls Jesus by his true name: Messiah, My Lord and My God. Maybe we should call this hero by his true name – Believing Thomas.

How do you best encounter the risen Christ?