



THEY SAID NOTHING

EASTER SUNDAY 2024

MEDINA | 31
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL MARCH



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CONGREGATIONAL

217 E. Liberty St. Medina, Ohio 44256 330-725-4559 www.uccmedina.org

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LIVE STREAMING OF THE SANCTUARY SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT UCCMEDINA.ORG

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

Please take a moment to sign the attendance pads, (located at the end of each pew) so that you know who is worshipping near you and you may greet them by name.

**Those who are able please stand*

RINGING OF THE BELL

PRELUDE “I Know that My Redeemer Liveth” from *Messiah* – G.F. Handel

Jennifer Cochran, soprano, Jen Vilimonovic, violin

WELCOME

INTROIT “Hallelujah Chorus” from *Messiah*

Chancel Choir, Brass, & Congregation

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (by M Jade Kaiser, posted on enflashed facebook page on March 9 at 10 a.m.)

What I mean by ‘god’ is bread for everyone

Is shared rage at cruelty

Is attention where it is needed

Is grief held in community

Is blooming uninhibited

Is water flowing freely

Is children at ease

Is mystery and magic

Is how trustworthy the rising collective

And determined

Powered by love,

Rooted in truth,

Sharing in risk.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (vs 1-3)

Latin, 4th c; tr. *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt. St. 4, Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

LYRA DAVIDICA 7.7.7.7. with Alleluias
Easter Hymn, 1708. Adapt. *The Compleat Psalmodist*, 1749, alt

**Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!**

**But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!**

***OPENING PRAYER** (from *Stages on the Way* by the Iona Community)

Lord God, early in the morning when the world was young, you made life in all its beauty and terror; you gave birth to all that we know. Hallowed be your name.

Hallowed be your name.

Early in the morning, when the world least expected it, a newborn child crying in a cradle announced that you had come among us, that you were one of us. That you are one with us. Hallowed be your name.

Hallowed be your name.

Early in the morning, surrounded by respectable liars, religious leaders, anxious statesmen and silent friends, you accepted the penalty for doing good, for being God; you shouldered and suffered the cross. Hallowed be your name.

Hallowed be your name.

Early in the morning, a voice in a guarded graveyard and footsteps in the dew proved that you had risen, that you had come back to those and for those who had forgotten, denied, and destroyed you. Hallowed be your name.

Hallowed be your name.

This morning, in the multi-colored company of your Church on earth and in heaven, we celebrate your creation, your life, your death and resurrection, your interest in us; so we pray..

Lord, bring new life, where we are worn and tired;

New love, where we have turned hard-hearted;

Forgiveness, where we felt hurt and where we have wounded;

And the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are prisoners of ourselves.

Silence is Kept

To all and to each, on his community and on his friends, where regret is real, Jesus pronounces his pardon and grants us the right to begin again. Thanks be to God!

Amen!

***PRAISE RESPONSE**

"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" (vs. 4)

**Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as his love, Alleluia!
Praise him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!**

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

SPECIAL MUSIC "Forth He Came At Easter" -John M.C. Crum & Allen Pote Chancel Choir & Brass

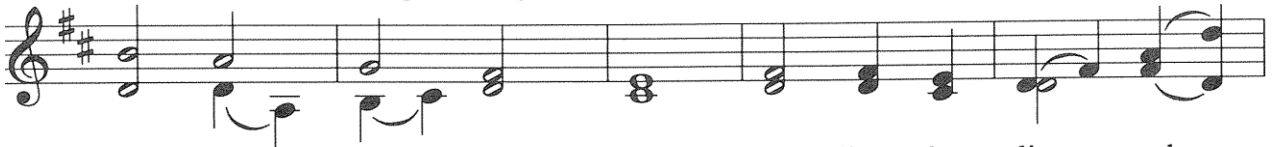
SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (N.T. pg. 165) Alice Metzloff, Liturgist
Mark 16:1-8 (N.T. pg. 51)

SERMON "They Said Nothing" Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

REFLECTION HYMN "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" (vs. 1, 2 & 4) DUKE STREET L.M.
Samuel Medley (1738-1799) *John Hatton (c. 1710-1793)*



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives! What joy this
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; he lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with his love; he lives to
4 He lives, my kind, wise, heav - enly friend; he lives and
5 He lives, all glo - ry to his name! He lives, my



blest as - sur - rance gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save; he lives ex - alt - ed,
plead for me a - bove; he lives my hun - gry
loves me to the end; he lives, and while he
Sav - ior, still the same; what joy this blest as -



once was dead; he lives, my ev - er - liv - ing Head!
throned a - bove; he lives to rule his church in love.
soul to feed; he lives to help in time of need.
lives, I'll sing; he lives, my Proph - et, Priest, and King!
sur - rance gives: I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

There is an offering plate if you feel led to deposit your envelope or an offering there. You can also give through our Realm app or get the link to give by texting UCCMEDINA to 73256. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

Offertory Invitation

Shall we risk trying to give new life words?

Shall we let the silence speak?

Do we hesitate out of fear of the situation

Or fear of what others will say?

Let us ruin our reputation and rise in body or spirit and sing our out praise!

***Doxology** (words, Ruth Duck, ©2005, GIA Publications)

Praise God, the Source of life and birth; Praise God, the Word, who came to earth;

Praise God, the Spirit, holy flame; All glory, honor to God's Name! Amen.

***Dedication**

To each of our "no"

You say "Yes!"

While we focus on death,

You create life!

Help us walk in your ways,

And raise our Alleluia's to you! Amen!

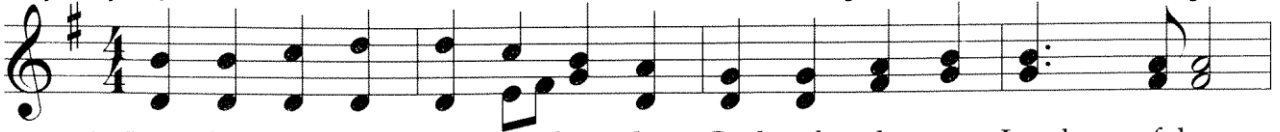
*CLOSING HYMN

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (vs. 1-3)

HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.

Henry van Dyke, 1907, alt.

Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824; arr. Edward Hodges, 1864



1. Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
2. All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heaven re - flect thy rays,
3. Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,
4. Mor - tals, join the hap - py cho - rus; stars of morn - ing, take your part;



hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore thee, open - ing to the sun a - bove.
stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!
love di - vine is reign - ing o'er us, bind - ing those of ten - der heart.



Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive our fear and doubt a - way;
 Field and for- est, vale and moun-tain, flow-ery mead-ow, flash-ing sea,
 Thou our Fa-ther, Christ our Broth-er, all who live in love are thine;
 Ev - er sing-ing, move we on-ward, vic-tors in the midst of strife,



giv - er of im - mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di-vine.
 joy - ful mu - sic leads us sun-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

***BENEDICTION**

Jesus your hands still have holes in them,
Your feet still wet from the dew;
 Your eyes are undimmed by three days of death,
You meet us and call our name.
 We fail to understand how.
We puzzle at the reason why.
 But you have come not to answer our questions,
But to show us your face and give us your love and blessing.
 You are alive! And we can rejoice again!
We can say something!
 We can spread that blessing and wonder!
HALLELUJAH! AMEN!

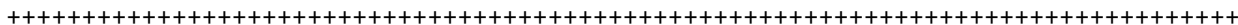
***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE "God Be with You"**

**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**

"Toccata" from *Symphony No. 5 for Organ, Op. 42, No. 1* – Charles-Marie Widor
 Cathy Fafrak, Organist

"MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY"



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Easter Flowers



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Bruce & Connie Anderson
Todd & Becky Bauer
Todd & Becky Bauer
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Jan & Tad Coleman
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Carole Fawcett & Frances Largen
Beth & Craig Hari
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Barb Rosen
Greg & Barb Shaffer
Jan & Chet Simmons
Elaine Taylor
Jennifer Vilimonovic

Becky Weber
Mark & Karen Woodling

IN MEMORY OF

Natoma Canfield
Louise Bauer
Alex Harnocz
Mr. & Mrs. Arthur R. Dunger
Don Canfield
Jack & Jean Post
Daniel Collins
Our Parents
Our Parents
Jack Hofstetter
Brian Howard
Carl Jessie
Our Parents
Sue & Darwin Lindsley
Loved Ones
Phil's sister, Pam Bottesch
Jacob & Veronica Funk
Loved Ones
Husband, Brother and Parents
Our Parents
Jay Simmons
My Parents
Dragisa & Anka Vilimonovic,
Marko Stepanovich
Dave Weber
Our Parents

NAME OF DONOR

Bobbie Collins
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IN HONOR OF

Gayle McCormish
Mom & Dad
Yeager, Murray and Dye Families

THE PILGRIM MESSENGER

MARCH 31, 2024

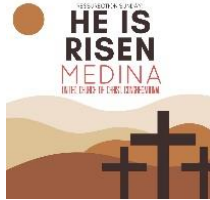
**“WELCOMING, LOVING, SERVING, WHERE GOD HAS NO LIMITS.
MORE THAN CHURCH ON SUNDAY!”**

Live streaming of the Sanctuary service is available at www.uccmedina.org/live

March 31 thru April 7, 2024 WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sun EASTER SUNDAY

7:00 am Sunrise Service
@ Spring Grove Cemetery Chapel
8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
11:30 am Easter Egg Hunt



Mon CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED Cook for Cups

5:00 pm Youth Book Club

Tues 8:00 am Men's Breakfast

Wed 10:30 am Quilters
6:00 pm Gathering Band Rehearsal
6:15 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm Evangelism Team Meeting
7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thurs

Fri Youth Group Lock In

Sat Youth Group Lock In

Sun 8:15 am Chapel Worship
9:00 am Gathering Worship
9:45 am Children's Choir
10:30 am Sanctuary Worship
(livestreamed)
11:30 am Third Grade Bible Class
4:30 pm Youth Group

Worship Highlights: 7, 8:15, 9 & 10:30 am

Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
and Mark 16:1-8

Sermon: "They Said Nothing"
Rev. Dr. Luke Lindon

EASTER OFFERING MARCH 31st

This year's Easter offering will support our Shepherd's Fund, which assists local community members who need a helping hand. Many members of the community come to the Church in need of gas for their cars, food, laundry money, hotel stays and help with their utilities and other bills. The office staff provides a list of local agencies that support their needs and some monetary assistance. Any money collected during our Easter service will build up the Shepherd's Fund so we can continue to help our neighbors.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 31st After the 10:30 service
On Easter Sunday, after the 10:30 service, we will have a quick Easter Egg Hunt for the children. The children should bring their Easter Basket or a bag so they can add a few more eggs to their collection. We will have the hunt in the grassy area by the pergola. Hope to see you then.

NO JESUS VIBES ON EASTER

There will be no Jesus Vibes on Easter Sunday. Children will stay upstairs with their families during the service.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Are you considering joining the church? Are you a seasoned member who might need a refresher, have questions, or just want to welcome those considering membership? On Monday, April 22nd at 2 and 7 pm, we'll have a membership class where the moderators and Pastor Luke will meet with you and talk life and church and give a tour of our grounds. So come on out and talk church. Sharing life, unscripted. Whether brand new or a 50-year member, all are invited!

COFFEE HOUR

Please consider hosting coffee hour one Sunday. Signups for April and May are still available in the East Room hallway. If no one signs up to host, we will not have coffee hour, so would you please consider hosting one Sunday?

NALOXONE TRAINING

The church is hosting a Naloxone training for anyone interested on **Thursday, April 11th at 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall**. Training will be provided by the Medina County Health Department. They will provide overdose/naloxone information, demonstrate how to use, and answer any questions. This is being offered to anyone in the congregation for free who could benefit from this knowledge. After the training, anyone who is interested may take a kit home.

Please contact the church office at 330-725-4559 or office@uccmedina.org if you would like to attend.

NEW BIBLE STUDY

The Miracle of the Moment Bible Study will begin meeting on **Mondays at 2 and 7 pm, April 15-May 20**. No need to read ahead, but you are welcome to! We'll present the books. We'll read a few together. For all ages and abilities.

April 15: Poetry of the Present featuring Hafiz, Jane Kenyon, Mary Oliver and more!

April 22: How to Be Here as Church, meet our new members and talk church.

April 29: Children's Books in the Present

May 6: How to Be Here by Rob Bell

May 13: Be Here Now by Ram Dass

May 20: Wild Hope by Donna Ashworth

LADIES AND GIRLS TEA

The Ladies and Girls Tea will be held on **Saturday, April 27th from 12 pm – 2 pm** in our Fellowship Hall. The menu will include scones, tea sandwiches, fruit, fancy sweets, and of course, tea. Tickets will be sold every Sunday in the East Room after the services from April 7th through April 21st. The price is \$15 for ladies and \$10 for girls under 10.

We are excited to share that the program will be "First Ladies Tea" presented by Women in History from Lakewood, Ohio. Think of what will happen when First Ladies of the United States have tea together and share their stories. You won't want to miss this...

Once again, we are in need of teacups and teapots. Please let us know if you can share your items and how many of each are available.

If you have questions, please contact Beth Hari, Darlene Fazekas or Becky Weber.

MEN'S BREAKFAST - NOTICE

The next Men's Fellowship breakfast will be on **Tuesday, April 2nd**. We will meet at the same time at Buehler's on River Styx Dr. at 8 a.m.

LITURGIST SIGN-UP

Check out the bulletin board in the East Room hallway to sign up to be a liturgist during the 10:30 Sanctuary service. The new sign-up sheets are up for April – June.

DONATIONS FOR APRIL

April's donation of the month is laundry detergent. Many friends in the community struggle to get their clothes clean because of the time and financial burden of going to the local laundromats. Many outreach locations have a washer and dryer but, keeping detergent available is difficult because the need is great! At the local food pantries one of the most popular items to ask for is detergent! If you can help, please place a detergent jug or pods in the donation of the month bin! Thank you for considering!

OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA) NOTES

Dan Daubner's reflection on why UCC Congregational in Medina should become Open and Affirming:

I've had a difficult time writing why I chose to be on the Open and Affirming committee. I have had some of my children decide that they didn't want to be considered Christians due to the way many Christians view their way of life, when their way of life is only them being their true selves. To me, being Open and Affirming is obvious and I do not understand the reasons why a church would not be Open and Affirming.

I feel our Church has always lived as if we are already Open and Affirming. So the question becomes why should we adopt the Open and Affirming designation and not just continue living like we do?

Adopting the Open and Affirming covenant within our church community is a profound declaration of our commitment to inclusivity, love, and equality. By embracing Open and Affirming, we are not only aligning ourselves with the core values of the United Church of Christ but also taking a bold stand for justice and compassion.

Firstly, embracing Open and Affirming reflects our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every individual. It sends a powerful message of welcome to members of the LGBTQ+ community who may have previously felt excluded or marginalized within religious spaces. By affirming their identities and embracing them as beloved members of our congregation, we create a sense of belonging and acceptance that is essential for spiritual growth and community support.

Moreover, adopting the Open and Affirming covenant is an act of solidarity with those who have been historically oppressed and discriminated against based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. It aligns us with the teachings of Jesus Christ, who preached love, acceptance, and inclusion for all. As a church, we have a moral obligation to stand against discrimination and advocate for the full inclusion and equality of all God's children.

Additionally, embracing Open and Affirming can help our church grow and thrive in new ways. By creating a more inclusive and diverse community, we open ourselves up to new perspectives, experiences, and talents. We become a stronger, more vibrant congregation as we embrace the richness of diversity within the body of Christ.

Adopting the Open and Affirming covenant is not just a symbolic gesture; it is a tangible expression of our commitment to living out the values of love, acceptance, and justice in our faith community. It is an opportunity for us to embody the radical hospitality of Jesus Christ and to create a more inclusive and welcoming space for all who seek to journey with us in faith.

Questions/comments? Email ONA@UCCMedina.org

Your Open and Affirming Task Force: Dan Daubner, Vicki Marty, Lily Wolff, Brad Rice, Pam Branscome, Alan Parkhurst, and Mike Sferro.

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: 9 am – 3 pm MONDAY THRU THURSDAY; FRIDAY 9 am – 12 pm

March 31, 2024
Easter Sunday

Mark 16:1-8

“Now What?”

The gospel story this morning begins with two women setting out to perform a routine task. These women, along with their companions and good friends have had a most disconcerting week. First they saw Jesus - the one who is to them teacher and healer and leader - welcomed into the city of Jerusalem, only to see the crowd and those closest to him turn on him, and then to witness his excruciating death. Now these two women – these two Marys – are heading toward the tomb to perform the distressing but necessary task of anointing the body of their friend who has died. A difficult task, yes, but a routine one.

Coming to the tomb to complete their task they find not, as they had expected, the heavy stone and the body of their teacher but instead a young man in white, an angel who gives them instructions that the text tells us they are too frightened to repeat.

Although some verses were added later, most scholars agree that the gospel of Mark originally ended here.: "So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." Not only does this verse fail to provide proper narrative closure, writes preacher Tom Long, it also lurches to an awkward grammatical stop. A more literal translation would read, "To no one anything they said; afraid they were for..." It is almost as if the author of this gospel of Mark had suddenly been dragged from his writing desk in mid-sentence

Perhaps they were afraid because they realized in seeing the impossibly heavy stone moved easily away, in seeing the empty space where the dead body they had come to anoint was supposed to have been should have been that Jesus really was who he said he was. He was not only a teacher or a healer or a leader and their friend, but the Christ. And if that is true, and they really are going to follow him, it means the Marys' lives are going to be anything but routine from now on.

So, for a while they said nothing, as this new reality took root in their souls. But they couldn't keep silent forever. We know that, because although those two first witnesses said nothing to anyone, here you are on Easter morning twenty centuries later and half a world away, telling their story. It was a story too powerful, too holy, and too good to keep silent.

Happy Easter! This is your story now! And that awkward ending? It's not the end. It's just the beginning.