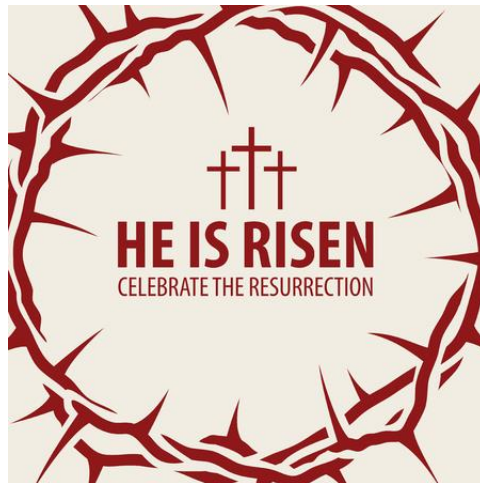


**Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church
323 South Fifth Avenue
West Bend, Wisconsin 53095**

**Sunday, April 7, 2024
9:30am**



“We are a welcoming Christian community where all can experience the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We are growing as Disciples of Christ as we teach, support, and nurture one another in ministry to our community and world.”

**Doug Fitzgerald, Liturgist
Deanna Gibeau, Organist
Dave Bertelsen, Cantor
Ellen Johnson, Lay Servant
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Pastor
Rev. Michael Morning, Guest Preacher**

“No Matter Who You Are or Where You Are on Life's Journey, You're Welcome Here”

***Note: L: denotes worship Leader ~ P: denotes People**

Pastor Clarissa: 847-721-1826; Ms. Ellen Johnson: 262-339-7673

Email: rev.cmartinelli6@gmail.com

PRELUDE:

“Our King of Peace”

Edgar Thallis

WELCOME: Pastor: Last week on Easter Sunday we sang and prayed, we listened again to one of the Easter stories and we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus Christ. I hope that was a good experience for you. I also hope though, that you and I might experience Easter, not only as a holiday, but that we might experience something more profound. What is it like to experience resurrection? Some may say that experiencing resurrection is only

something that happens when we die. They are wrong, and we miss some of the point of Easter if that's what we think! This morning, and again next week, please entertain the possibility that God is reaching out to you today so that you may see, and touch, and hear our risen Lord.

—GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE—

CENTERING MUSIC:

“Joy Unknown”

J. Smith

***GATHERED IN WORSHIP** L: We come into this church expecting God will touch our hearts and change our lives. Let us be open to the One who greets us here.

P: God, who is everywhere, welcomes us here; Our hearts are filled with joy.

L: This is a special place of meeting and inspiration. In God's awesome presence, we are glad for one another.

P: We are challenged to trust God, for our Creator gives us counsel and instructs us.

L: Let us praise our God, revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Glory and honor to the One whose Spirit we receive.

P: In Christ, we are born anew to a living hope. In the Spirit's blessing, we know true peace.

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

L: You are always before us, O God, even in the midst of grievous trials. We are tested in the fires of loss and grief. We are swayed by our doubts and fears. Assure us once more that we are not alone, that you do not abandon us. Help us in our time together to focus on the pleasant places where you lead us and on the good heritage that is ours. We are secure in your caring presence. **AMEN.**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Unison)**

God of Mercy, we find it hard to accept blame for Jesus' death, yet we know in our hearts that we often turn away from our Savior's teaching. We fail to live as resurrection people, finding joy in each day. We pursue proofs as skeptics, rather than trusting God to guide us through hearts touched in love. Forgive our indifference and narrow views of faithfulness. Lead us to the fulness of joy that you intend for all your children. Amen.

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: In the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are called by God to begin to see the world as more than what is immediately around us, but as filled with new and infinite, yet often hidden, possibilities. Let our hearts be glad and let our tongues sing, for God's mercy and love are abundant, and salvation is assured. We are forgiven, and so called to forgive others. Now we live in Christ, and this is our hope.

***HYMN:**

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” (verses 1-4)

UMH 302

—WE PROCLAIM—

***John 20:19-31 (NRSVue) (Unison)**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said,

“Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

L: The Word of God for the People of God.

P: Thanks be to God

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Come, Rejoicing, Sing!

Joseph Martin

SERMON:

Rev. Michael Morning

PASTORAL PRAYER

—INVITATION TO SHARING OUR GIFTS, TITHES, & OFFERINGS—

L: How amazing are the works of God! By God’s mercy, we are alive; in God’s presence, we are filled with hope. One way to pass this gift is to share our material wealth, that God entrusts to us. Our substance we offer in service to the risen Christ, and let us rededicate ourselves as well.

***DOXOLOGY (on screen) “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” UMH94**

***HYMN “Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise” UMH 312**

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE III UMH pp. 15-16 (WORDS ON SCREEN)

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (Unison)

Lord, we bless and praise you for nourishing us with this Easter feast of redemption. Fill us with your Spirit, and make us living signs of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Christ Is Alive”

UMH 318

—SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION—

* L: Know that God is in control and the Lord is Jesus! His resurrection says to Christians that no matter what tragedy and hardship and challenges must be confronted in the world that is seen, the unseen world of God's Kingdom now is also present, and Christ is Lord of both the seen and unseen. Christ is risen!

P: Christ is risen indeed!

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE:**

“Allegretto”

Christian Balthis

The bulletins are given by Tom and Kaonou Latham in celebration of Kaonou's birthday which was on April 5.