

April 22, 2018

*Order of worship*  
Fourth Sunday after Easter

10 am

MORNING MEDITATION - *(please enter sanctuary in quiet meditation and prayer)*

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.” Matthew 5:7-8

**PRELUDE**

**OPENING WORDS**

Joe DeGrande

**\*\*\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Leader:* Good morning Lord! Open us to your new creation.

**People: As Jesus appears to us each day, let us find joy in doing God’s work, out there in this turbulent world.**

*Leader:* Being a Christian can be difficult, but let us open our minds to the Spirit and God’s Truth

**People: In simple things, in daily experiences, let us seek to find God so that we can find peace and sense of belonging.**

*Leader:* Through you, O Lord, may we see your presence and understand the meaning of the Resurrection.

**People: Let us look to Jesus Christ as our gate keeper; our guide and our teacher. Help to live in love and to abide in faith so we are able to follow and to serve with full knowledge and acceptance.**

**\*\*\*OPENING HYMN** "Christ is Alive"

UMH #318

**INVOCATION**

Joe DeGrande

*Leader:* O gracious and loving God, come into our hearts this day as you have in the past.

**People: We are grateful for the gifts that you have given us. We pray today that you might open our hearts, to listen to your Word and to fully experience your grace and love.**

*Leader:* Come into our presence as we pray, sing and worship. Help us to engage in life; not fearing the unknown but looking forward to great joys that are ours to experience in your loving hands.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Rev. David F. Hurst

*Leader:* Let us open our hearts to God.

**All: O God, help us remember to be grateful for our lives and the wondrous gifts that you have given to us. In the Easter season keep our minds open and honest to see where we are wrong. We confess that we have not always been true. While wading through the mire, we have compromised our values. Allow us to forget our sense of entitlement, our expectation to never suffer and to feel above it all. Forgive us, Lord, when we do not right our wrongs or hesitate to support those in need of our affirmations and strength. Grant us the confidence to not take the easy way out when we are challenged in life. Help us to trust that**

**in God that we are never alone! Help us to respond to God’s grace; so that we do not not envy others or resent those who seem more successful.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Rev. David F. Hurst

*Leader:* Thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of your Son, who died for our sins. Strengthen us, to follow your teachings through the love and blessing of Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**People: Thanks be to God**

**\*\*\* PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHILDREN’S TIME**

Eduardo and Children

Psalter Reading: Psalm 23 Red Hymnal pg 754

Dot Lambert

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

Rev. David F. Hurst

Pastoral Prayers:

The Lord’s Prayer

**\*\*\*Response “Glory Be to the Father”**

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;*

*As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen*

**First Lesson - John 10:11-18** (chair Bible NT pgs 103/104)

Dot Lambert

**\*\*\*Hymn of Preparation** "He Leadeth Me"

UMH # 128

**Second Lesson: 1 John 3:11-24** (chair Bible NT pg. 240)

Rev. David F. Hurst

**Sermon** Love One Another!

Rev. David F. Hurst

**Ministry of Giving**

**\*\*\*Doxology** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God the source of all gifts; Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts Praise the Spirit! Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Prayer of Dedication**

**\*\*\*PARTING HYMN:** "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

UMH # 569

**BENEDICTION [in Unison]**

**God, dismiss us with your blessing; Fill our hearts with joy and peace;**

**Let us each, our love possessing; Triumph in your redeeming grace.**

**O refresh us, O refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.**

Altar flowers this morning are given to the "Glory of God"

**This week's Meetings: Week of April 22nd**

Today, Sunday, April 22nd - Bible Study - Pastor's Office 11:30am

Monday, April 23rd - Finance / Trustee Meeting

Wednesday, April 25th - Church Council Meeting 6:30pm

(this is an open meeting to all church friends and members)

**Next week's Meetings: Week of April 29th - May 5th**

Sunday, April 29th - Bible Study - 11:30am

Monday, April 30th - Mission Committee Mtg - 3:15pm

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Cereal Drive Begins** - From today, April 22nd through Sunday May 13th - we will be collecting boxes of cereal to be donated to the Northampton Survival Center. We would like to go all the around the sanctuary at least once this year. We didn't quite make it last year, so bring in those boxes!!!!

**May / June Newsletter**

Today is the deadline for all articles for this newsletter. We are looking for updates from all committees, personal / family news you would like to share, future events being planned, etc. Please take a little time and email your info to: **christnorthampton@gmail.com**

**Altar Flowers**

There are empty Sundays available to sign up for Altar Flowers. See the Flower Chart on the Bulletin Board as you enter the library.

NOTE: If anyone would like an announcement made at the end of the church service, please be sure to email the information to the church email and Rev. David will be happy to do the announcement for you. The email address is listed below in **bold**.

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email: **christnorthampton@gmail.com** / office phone (413) 584-5935  
Web: ChristUMCNorthampton.org / Face book: ChristNorthampton  
Rev. David F. Hurst (413) 426-6031

**CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

***"Open Hearts, Open minds, Open Doors"***



**Rev. David F. Hurst, Pastor  
Music Director, Pam Kukucka**

**"Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to fulfill God's will for the transformation of the world through spiritual growth, education, worship and fellowship.  
We express our faith through others."  
*We welcome you to join us in this journey!***