



# Chester Bethel UMC

April 20, 2025 9:30 AM

## **Sharing in Worship Leadership this morning:**

Preacher: Rev. Kelly Conner  
Guest Organist: Christian Lyons  
Guest trumpeter: Steve DeMond  
Greeter: Nancy Storer  
Usher: Dora Greer  
Worship Leader: Yvonne Kaciuban

*Special thanks to our guest  
trumpeter, Steve DeMond!*

## **Prayer Joys and Concerns:**

H=Health; L=Loss; LT=Long Term; O=Other

Ken Donahoe (H); Joseph Glasgow (H); Dora Greer (H); Bill Hazel (H); Linda Lyons (H); KFK (O); Jean Andrews (H); Andrew R.(O); Bill and Doreen Jones (H); Mary Ann Box (H); Darene Hazel (H); Ramona Harlow (LT); Jane Dean (H); Holly Dorner (H); Donna McCormick (H); DeBrock Family (O); Allison (H); Kim Nally; Amy (H); Gail Kracyla (H); Dominic King (LT); Jill Brownback (LT); Nancy Walker (LT); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (LT); all peoples impacted by war (LT)

*Please add prayer requests and updates to the list in the Narthex*



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Service Live-Streamed on Facebook  
Website: <http://www.chesterbethel.org>

**Reverend Kelly Conner**  
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April 20, 2025                      9:30 AM  
Easter Sunday Celebration of the Resurrection

PRELUDE – *Bursting forth from Night to Glorious Day!*– Lyons

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

Leader: Hold your head high, Christ has risen!

People: Death has been conquered!

Leader: Christ has restored us to new life.

People: All that is broken has been made whole.

All: **Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?**

Leader: By the power of God, the cross could not defeat Christ!

People: **The tomb could not hold him!**

Leader: Carry forward God's healing.

People: Carry it to a world where truth and justice triumph over evil and oppression.

Leader: We have been called out of death and into new life!

All: **Rejoice! Life bursts through death. Jesus Christ is alive for evermore!**

\*OPENING HYMN – “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”  
UMH #302

SCRIPTURE READING THROUGH PRAYER

“Easter Litany of Confession” based on Luke 24:1-12<sup>2</sup>

Leader: But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared.

All: **We anoint the death of our dreams, even before we allow them a chance to live.**

Leader: They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.

All: **We give up on hope so easily, on the expectation that God will do something incredible.**

Leader: While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.

All: **God speaks through the strangers we encounter, but we don't hear; we don't want to be challenged by a new word.**

Leader: “Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here, but has risen.”

All: **We seek life from the death of the past. We hold to that which breathes only in our memory; to mistakes long past; to hurts long inflicted; to strings attached to forgiveness.**

Leader: “Remember how Jesus told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified and on the third day rise again.”

All: **Too often torn and scattered, we feel unworthy of the healing of God's grace or the promise of restoration.**

Leader: Then they remembered Jesus' words; and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

All: **We forget the promises of God, even those whispered just moments ago. We want proof before we'll believe, before we'll be faithful.**

Leader: Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.

All: **We don't risk enough to trust the messengers in everyday appearance. We don't dare ourselves to understand.**

Leader: But these words seemed to the apostles an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

All: **We think our problems too big for God! We act like frightened disciples – unwilling to allow God into our crowded lives, and unwilling to make room for the One who creates and creates again.**

Leader: But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from original used in worship at Mulberry Street United Methodist Church, Easter Sunday 2012. Posted on <http://mastersdust.com/tag/easter-litany/>. Accessed via [re-worship.blogspot.com](http://re-worship.blogspot.com).

<sup>2</sup> Adapted from original written by Rev. Scott A. Ressman: <https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/04/easter-litany-of-confession.html>.

All: **We are too often like Peter: we deny God; we fail to share the miracle; we keep the Good News to ourselves. Forgive us, God, for our disbelief – for seeing an empty tomb and thinking it a cruel trick; for discovering a discarded burial cloth and yet still holding to death; for hearing words of life but keeping them to ourselves. Restore us even in our unbelief. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>3</sup>

SCRIPTURE READING 2 Luke 24:13-35

SPECIAL MUSIC – *Easter Medley, arr. Lyons*

RETURN OF THE ALLELUIA

St. Augustine of Hippo is believed to have famously written, “We are Easter people, and ‘Alleluia’ is our song. Let us sing ‘Alleluia’ here and now in this life, even though we are oppressed by various worries, so that we may sing it one day in the world to come, when we are set free from all anxiety.”

And after having figuratively laid our alleluias to be buried with Christ this Lent, they are raised anew this morning!

RESPONSIVE LITANY<sup>4</sup>

Leader: Rejoice! There is great news! Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen, indeed!**

Leader: Let all the earth proclaim the joy!

People: **Let all heaven show forth in praise.**

Leader: Alleluia!

People: **Alleluia!**

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC – *Because He Lives, arr. Schrader*

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE – “In the Garden” UMH #314

INVITATION TO THE HOLY COMMUNION TABLE

\*THE PEACE

One: The Lord be with you.

Another: And also with you!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER HOLY COMMUNION

**Holy, gracious, God: here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love; we have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence; we accept you into our bodies, into our lives. Together, at this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer. And we give you thanks. Amen.**<sup>5</sup>

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*You may place your cash or check offering into the plates we pass around at this time or mail your tithes and offerings to the church office. Thank you for working as Christ’s hands and feet in the world!*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION – “Transform the World”<sup>6</sup>

OFFERTORY

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Written by Nancy Townley, posted on the *Worship Connection* page of the **Ministry Matters** website. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/>. Accessed via re-worship.blogspot.com.

<sup>5</sup> Adapted from original posted by Joanna Harader on her Spacious Faith blog. <http://spaciousfaith.com/>.

<sup>6</sup> Written by Laura Jaquith Barlett, and posted on *Ministry Matters*. <http://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/2528/worship-elements-april-12-2015>

**\*DOXOLOGY**

UMH #94

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

**\*CLOSING HYMN – “He Lives”**

UMH # 310

**\*BENEDICTION – “Witnesses”** (based on Luke 24:36-48 and John 20:19-31)<sup>7</sup>

**POSTLUDE – *Victory in Jesus* - Eugene M. Bartlett**

*\*Standing as you are able*

*Music licensing CCLI #1642131, Streaming license CCLI #20705544*

**Announcements**

- Allison David, CEO of the Claymont Community Center will be here on April 27 to tell us about their Programs.
- Are you organized, good with numbers, capable of faithful oversight of the Finance Committee, and willing to serve for a limited period? Please see or call (302.249.6157) Pastor Kelly to discuss.
- Milli Burke is retiring from faithfully delivering our donations to CCC Food closet. We thank her for her years of dedicated work. We will continue to support the CCC with food, hygiene products and socks. A representative from the Food Closet will pick up donations; let's keep them well supplied with these vital supplies! It's essential to keep providing food to our area Food Pantries as Federal funding for food has been severely cut.

**Dates To Remember**

- April 27**-Sunday speaker from the Claymont Community Center
- May 6 – SPRC meeting at 3:30
- May 13 – Trustees meeting at 6 PM
- May 14 – Admin Council meeting at 6 PM

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<sup>7</sup> Copyright © John van de Laar, Sacredise website. Accessed via re-worship.blogspot.com.