

ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Third and Jackson Streets

Decatur, Indiana

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(* Please stand either in body or in spirit.

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year C

May 4, 2025

Third Sunday of Easter

Revelation 5:11-14

" Through worship, we embody and enact eternity."

Gathering Music: "One True God"

The Welcome and Announcements: Kacie Shaffer, Liturgist

(Visitors: Please sign the Friendship Folder)

The Prelude: "We're Marching To Zion"

Please take a moment and quiet your minds and open your hearts as we focus ourselves in preparation for worshipping God.

The Light appears: The Acolytes serve

The Church Bell rings:

*The Call to Praise: (Please Rise) Liturgist

You'd think, by now, we would get used to him showing up like this

Left Side: inviting us to cast the net deeper and wider

Right Side: showing us the way to abundance is leaning into new possibilities.

We are starting to open ourselves to these hauntings,

Left Side: encouraging us to share what we have and watch it multiply

Right Side: showing us the way to flourishing is together

We are learning to recognize this ghost asking about love

Left Side: calling us to tend and nourish each other

Right Side: showing us the way to new life is new solidarities

You'd think, by now we would get used to Jesus in our midst

Left Side: welcoming us to the worship that is love in action

Right Side: showing us the way to transformation is mutual belovedness.

**All: Let us worship God, because we know in our bones,
everywhere we turn, it is the Lord!**

*Hymn of Praise: "God Will Take Care of You" No. 47

*Invocation: Liturgist

Is it you, Jesus? Are you really here? Is the message you gave us really true? Did the story turn out like you said? Can we trust it is you in the distance when the night is long and our nets empty? Will there be more if we share? Can we find you when we eat together? Do we love you when we feed each other? Amen.

*Passing the Peace of Christ: Liturgist

Please pass the peace through our words and through our actions in a world that desperately needs to see the results of following the Prince of Peace.

May the Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you

*Prayer for Transformation and New Life: (Unison)

Generous Creator, forgive us when we believe the lies that scarcity tells us:

if they just worked harder...I've earned everything I have...there won't be enough if I share...I have to protect what's mine...safety comes from holding on to what I have...I can't count on anyone but myself...

Gracious Redeemer, teach us to cast our nets differently.

(Pause for a minute of Silent Reflection)

*Words of Grace:

Rev. Kahler

The Abundant Spirit opens before us the ways of flourishing:
the impulse to share is our birthright in dignity and justice belong
to us all there is more when we contribute to each other's whole-
ness together, we keep us safe flourishing for all is possible
together.

Praise God who loves us into thriving new life!

The Scripture Reading:

Acts 9: 1-6

Liturgist
Pew Bible pg. 951

The Choir Anthem:

“Heavenly Medley”

The Chancel Choir

Time For The Children:

Prayers of the People:

The Morning Prayer: Spoken and Silent

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily
bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the
kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

The Prayer Response:

The Chancel Choir

Scripture Meditation:

Pastor

Scripture Reading Revelation 5:11–14 Rev. Kahler
Pew Bible, Pg. 1075

*The Sermon Hymn: “Rejoice, The Lord Is King” Pg. 228

The Sermon: “A Vision Of Worship”

The Moment of Offering: Liturgist

The Invitation To Generosity: Liturgist

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

For the bread broken and shared, for the nourishment of each other,

We dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Thanks be to God.

For dignity and belovedness, for the blessing of together,

We dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Thanks be to God.

For the abundance of love that the world cannot take away.

We dedicate ourselves and our offerings. Thanks be to God.

The Moment of Offering: Ushers serve

The Offertory Music: "Open My Eyes"

*The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen**

*The Hymn Of Commitment: “Take My Life” No. 379
Vs. 1,4,5,6

*The Benediction:

Beloved community, do you love God?

Yes, you know that we love God.

Feed God's lambs.

Beloved community, will you keep loving God?

Yes, you know that we will keep loving God.

Tend God's sheep.

Beloved community, are you blessed by God's love?

**The God who knows everything knows that we are
blessed by God's love.**

Then go forth from this place to live and love abundantly
setting a table for all in the midst of injustice growing relationships
of justice, dignity and mutual belovedness^[SEP] sharing what
you have so that all may flourish.

Thanks be to our risen and rising up God!

Building Up a New World – Cast the Net: Service Prayers for Easter 3C was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema, who serves as Join the Movement toward Racial Justice Curator with UCC National Ministries.

*The Moment for Silent Prayers

Chimes

*The Worship Leaders exit

*The Light is carried forth

Acolytes serve

*The Postlude:

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Each of Us
Rev. Allen Kahler
Barb Engle
Jan Miller
Maggie Bolinger
Stacey Smith
Lisa Krueckeberg

A Minister of Christ
Minister
Congregation President
Board Secretary
Office Secretary
Church Treasurer
Financial Secretary

Shelly Nussbaum

Music Director/Church Organist

Kacie Shaffer

Custodian

Justin Shaffer

Building Manager

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Lois Isch, Jerry Hill

Door Greeters

Brenda Strickler, Confirmands

Ushers

Scott Strickler

Money Counter

Acolytes

Confirmands

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We welcome all members, visitors, and guests to our worship service this morning. Visitors are asked to take a few moments to sign the Friendship Folder located in each pew and place in the offering plate.

Please join us in the dining room after worship for a time of fellowship and cookies, coffee, and punch.

Today's altar flowers are presented by Dave and Myra Gaunt in honor of Br3ennan and Wanda Miller's wedding anniversary May 1st.

Our Operation Help for May will be **cereal**. Please place your donations in the tubs in the dining room and West vestibule.

We offer our condolences to the family of Marilyn Fruchte, who passed away on Saturday, April 26. Services were conducted by Pastor Allen on Wednesday.

The Big Reveal for this year's SPIRIT Pals will be this afternoon at 1 p.m. Pizza will be served after Confirmation Class. Following lunch, the secret pals will reveal their identities to the young people. Thank you to all who have participated this past school year.

Pastor Allen will be in Indianapolis from May 13th to May 15th for Transitional Pastor Training. He and Shannon will then be taking a few days of vacation and will return to Decatur on May 22nd.

Our road clean-up day will be Saturday, May 10th. We will meet at McDonald's at 8 a.m. for breakfast, followed by clean-up at 9 a.m. on 900 N. Everyone is invited to come for breakfast, even if you are not planning to help with the clean-up. Don't forget to wear old clothes and bring gloves.

Looking Ahead

Today, May 4: Confirmation 11:30 a.m.

 SPIRIT Pal Pizza Party 1 p.m.

Wednesday, May 7: Bell Choir Practice 6 p.m.

 Chancel Choir Practice 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 10: Adopt-A-Road 9 a.m.

Sunday, May 11: Mother's Day

 Official Board Meeting 11:30 a.m.

Tuesday, May 13- Thursday, May 15: Transitional Pastor Training,
 Indianapolis

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 pastor: arkinpastor59@gmail.com

Last week's Worship Attendance:41 Offering: \$10,280.00

Needed each week: \$4045.87