**Union Congregational Church**

**April 7th, 2024 10:00 AM**

**Second Sunday After Easter**

As our acolyte brings the light of God into worship.

We are invited into this time of centering silence.

**Meditative Prelude James Seger, Organ**

**\*Opening Hymn *(NCH – 223)***

***“What Wondrous Love is This?”***

**Call to Worship:**

Leader: This is the good news which we proclaim to you.

**Everyone: Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!**

Leader: Walk in the light of his love.

**Everyone: Live in the light of his teachings and healing mercies.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the One Who overcame death.

**Everyone: Let us celebrate the triumph of our Lord. Amen.**

*\*Please stand if able*

**Unison Invocation:**

**Jesus, You are the Light of the World. Shine Your light in us today. Chase away the darkness of sin,**

**the darkness of fear and doubt and despair. Fill us with the light of Your truth, Your Word. Produce in us the fruit of righteousness – the evidence that Your Holy Spirit lives in us and works in us and works through us. Make us shining examples of Your amazing grace, redeeming love, and life-changing power. Amen.**

**The Gloria Patria**

**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.**

**Sharing Joys and Concerns**

Pastoral Prayers and Silent Prayers

The Lighting of Candle of Remembrance

**Congregational Response:** *(Remain Seated)*

**Hear our prayers O Lord;**

**Hear our prayers O Lord;**

**Incline thine ear to us and grant us Thy Peace. Amen.**

**Today’s Scripture Readings and Sermon**

Isaiah 43:10-13

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

**Sermon**

Reverend Scott Chase

**Gifts of the People**

**Invitation**

**Doxology**

**Response:**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above ye heavenly hosts. Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

God of all bounty and blessing, receive our lives and our gifts to be bounty and blessings to you, our church, and the world. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

**Prayer of Confession:**

**God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of Your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Your Son, Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us new life, who continues to turn us around and upside down, who continues to break down the walls of death in our own life. Forgive us, restore us and renew us. In the name of our risen Savior, Jesus the Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**Silent Prayers**

**Assurance of Pardon**

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**\*Communion Hymn *(PH - 80)***

*“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”*

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**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Minister: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to God.**

Minister: Let us Give thanks to God Most High.

**People: It is right to give God thanks and** **praise.**

**Invitation**

**Communion Prayer**

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Words of Institution and Consecration**

*(Let us wait and eat and drink together after all have been served)*

**Offering The Bread**

**Offering of the Cup**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

**We Give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our risen Savior. Amen**

**\*Hymn of Sending  *(NCH - 252)***

*“Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”*

**Benediction**

***Three-fold Amen***

**Closing:**

**“Let There Be Peace On Earth”**

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

**Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.**

**With God as our leader, united all are we.**

**Let us walk with each other, in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.**

**With every step I take let this be my solemn vow.**

**To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!**

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

Leader: Reverend Scott Chase

Ministers: All the members of Union Congregational Church

Organ: James Seger

***Steeple Lightings***

**Keeping Gods Light Shining**

**Please consider donating to keep our steeple light shining in memory or in honor of a loved one, or to commemorate a special event.**

**A contribution of $35 a month can help. To Light our Steeple for a month of dedication, contact us at**

**info@amesburyunion.org or call 978-388-0631**

**March 2024**

**Given By Carol Pennick**

**In loving memory of my husband,**

**Joseph James Pennick**

**Given by Sally Nutt**

**In memory of my parents, Joan & Harold Nutt**

**December 2023**

**Given By Laurie Kulik**

**In loving memory and celebration of Frank Kulik, on his birthday, Dec. 31st by his daughter Laurie Kulik**

**Given By Mike Vedrani**

**In Loving Memory of Pam Shea**

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