

# Christ United Methodist Church

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, May 2, 2021



## Pastor Laverne Larson

Office:

300 NORTH MILL STREET  
MERRILL, WISCONSIN 54452  
715-536-4676

MerrillChristUMC@frontier.com  
Pastor's Number: 608-606-4648

### WELCOME TO WORSHIP!

Welcome to worship, whether it be in person, on Facebook, or in your car. Drive-in worshipers, don't forget to pick up your bulletins on the cart and drop off your offering. Kids, we have special bags for you as well, so make sure you get one. Online worshipers, thank you for sending us your offering in the mail or EFT. We appreciate all of your offerings to God, and the support of this church. Instead of ringing the church bells to start worship, would those of you in the parking lot give us 3 honks of your horn please. Thank you.

**Our pianist today is Mary Waid.**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Christ showed us his love by becoming a humble servant. Let us draw near to God with a humble heart and confess our sin in the truth of God's Spirit.

**Most merciful God, we confess that often our spirit has not been that of Christ. Not only have we failed to love you with our whole heart, we have failed to love one another as Christ loves us. As we come before you with a humble and contrite heart, we ask you to forgive our sins in Jesus' name.**

Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ. But Christ suffered and died for us, was raised from the dead and ascended on high for us and continues to intercede for us. Therefore, since Christ died for us while we were yet sinners, we have nothing to fear. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

**Glory and praise be to God!**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Loving God, we cannot deserve the sacrifice of Jesus Christ made on our behalf. We resist the role of servant as beneath our dignity. We wonder why we should stoop down before people who may deny and betray us. We confess under the shadow of the cross that our faith wavers before threat, and our love is limited by self-interest. We want to serve without sacrifice or inconvenience. Convict our hearts that we might love and serve others the way Jesus does so that you may be glorified. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

## Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father, through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in the one holy catholic\* and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

\*universal

## SCRIPTURE

John 13:1-17, 34-35; Philippians 2:1-11

## SERMON

“Where Faith Meets the Road”

**OFFERING - don't forget to drop off your offering or mail it to the church 300 N. Mill St, Merrill, WI 54452, or use EFT.**

## \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God, we celebrate the love we only dimly comprehend – your love for us in Jesus Christ. We have vowed to serve you, to minister to one another in Christ's name, and to pass on the love we have received. Remembering all you have done for us, we humbly present these our tithes and offerings to you that you may bless them and multiply them for the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

## JOYS & CONCERNS

## PERSONAL PRAYER

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER – see attached

## HOLY COMMUNION

## INVITATION

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing in milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading. Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

### PRAYER

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Pastor Laverne will be leaving our Charge in June.** If you are interested in contributing to a farewell gift for Pastor, please mark your check or envelope "Pastor's Gift" and send it to the office or put it in the collection plate with your offering. Thank you.

Now that we are back to worshiping in person **we need people to assist with the worship services** as ushers and liturgists. If you are interested in helping, please sign up on the clipboard at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you.

Christ UMC has been searching unsuccessfully for a **new custodian**. We had hopes for a few candidates, but nothing has worked out. If you are not able to take this position, please ask family members and friends if they would be interested in taking on this very part-time job of about 4 hours a week. For more information, you can contact any SPPRC member, Tom Fox, Jim Korducki, or Rhonda Bengtson, Pastor Laverne, or SPPRC chair, Rene' Daley.

**Free Summer Lunch for Kids and Teens:** Christ UMC will be participating in the Free Summer Lunch for Kids and Teens again this year. The other churches involved are Our Saviour's Lutheran, St. Stephens UCC, Trinity Lutheran and St. John's Lutheran. The program will run from June 7-August 27. CUMC will be the point of distribution for the meals each day, just like last year. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to help with Wednesdays. If you can help, please let Norma Schroder or Sandy know. Thank you.

### **John 13:1-17, 34-35**

It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love. The evening meal was being served, and the devil had already prompted Judas Iscariot, son of Simon, to betray Jesus.

Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" Jesus answered, "A person who has had a bath needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not everyone was clean.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. . . . "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

### **Philippians 2:1-11**

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.