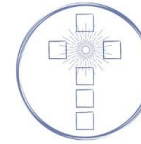




**RESURRECTION STORIES:  
Unlock Yours**  
The Season of Easter



*Serve & Enrich*  
Zion United Church  
of Christ

*The 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter: Calmed*

**Prelude**

*Just a Closer Walk*

**A Mother's Day Blessing**

**\*\*Hymn**

*Faith of Our Fathers, 530*

**Gathering**—In the Gospel of Matthew, the very last words Jesus says to his disciples are these: “Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” There is life and peace in that promise. In this “Age of Anxiety,” as followers of Christ, we are called to be healers and hope-givers as we embody Christ’s presence in this world. In our worship this day, may you be reminded that Christ is with you always, to the end of the age.

*Easter Centering Song: “Because He Lives,” 447*

**God sent his Son,  
they called him Jesus;  
he came to love, heal, and forgive;  
he lived and died to buy my pardon,  
an empty grave is there to prove my  
Savior lives.**

**Because he lives I can face tomorrow;  
because he lives, all fear is gone;  
because I know he holds the future,  
and life is worth the living just because  
he lives.**

**Prayer**—Ever present God, we are grateful that you meet us right where we are. Speaking our language and giving us the blessed assurance that you are with us. We look forward to the glory that awaits us, trusting that Christ will guide us to our heavenly home.+

**The Lord's Prayer** (unison)—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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Choir**

*For All My Days*

## Exploring God's Word for All Ages

## *An Ancient Story of Resurrection*

**Question:** What brings you calm?

**Story of Resurrection** based on Matthew 28:16-20

*Collin Bennington*

*Reader:* Again the disciples gathered in Galilee, this time at the mountain where Jesus had directed them to go.

*Pastor:* Whether at sea level or on the mountaintop, we follow Jesus.

*Reader:* They saw Jesus and worshiped him, yet they doubted.

*Pastor:* We recall our own experiences of deep devotion and yet we are aware of times of great doubt. Both are essential elements of engaged faith.

*Reader:* Jesus instructed the disciples to go and make disciples, baptizing in the holy names and teaching as he had taught.

*Pastor:* In spite of our frailty at times, Jesus invites us to be a part of the ministry of serenity, bringing good news to those who suffer.

*Reader:* Jesus offered reassurance with his parting words: "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

*Pastor:* When our own lives are in turmoil and when we see those around us struggling, we can offer comfort to others and tender compassion to ourselves—seeking calm in Divine presence.

*Reader:* This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.

*Pastor:* Thanks be to the Living Word.

**We Hear God's Word**—*Romans 15:4-7, 13 (NRSV)*

*Collin Bennington*

<sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. <sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Meditation**

*Calmed*

**Hymn**

*We All Are One in Mission, 552*

**We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving**

**Invitation**—From the abundance of God’s generosity, all are invited to offer a portion of our gifts. May these offerings help fulfill our hope to be Christ’s love and light in the world.+

**Opportunities to Live Resurrected**

**May Benevolence**—Strengthen the Church

**\*\*Offering Song:** “I Love to Tell the Story” (pew card)

**The Savior of our stories  
has brought his peace to you;  
now go and tell the story,  
for others need it too.  
To ev'ry one who's hurting  
ring out the gospel call;**

**proclaim that Christ is risen  
and grants his peace to all.**

**I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.**

**We Give Thanks**—Faithful God, we thank you for every gift. We delight in returning a portion of what we have been given back to Christ’s church. Your generous love and care for all creation knows no bounds. Like Christ who offered himself, let these offerings symbolize the fulfillment of your love by bringing a healing balm of hope, peace, and justice to everyone, everywhere. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.+

**Hymn**

*We Are Called to Be God's People, 580*

**Benediction**—And now, may you go into the world, extending empathy in all the ways you discover you can, for yourself, for others, for the world. And may the God who created you to be calm and at ease, the Christ who showed you what compassion and care looks like, and the Spirit who is transforming your life even now, be with you now and evermore. Amen.+

**Postlude**

*Andante*