

We Respond to God's Word

NO. 2023-15
April 9th, 2023

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

God of amazing surprises, the story of Easter is ever new. Suddenly we are aware of your presence with us. We had lost touch with you. Our minds were full of worries and distractions, set on things of this earth. Our spirits felt the grip of death. Jesus seemed a legend from the past, not a real person who shared our common lot. But today, you awaken something new within us. We hear the cry, Christ is risen, and we want to respond. Dry our tears and call our name. We need the good news of Easter. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

*After each prayer request:
Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our Prayer.*

PRAYER SONG

This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!

UMH 487

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY

UMH 95

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison

By your hand, O God, we have been blessed with life, with food, with refreshment, with hope. Day by day you are saving us, healing our brokenness, calling forth our gifts, granting us strength to serve with Christ as a part of your revelation to the world. Thank you, God, for times of resurrection. Thank you for this day of celebration. We dedicate ourselves anew with our offering. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

*CLOSING HYMN *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* UMH 302 (vs. 1 & 2)

*BENEDICTION

Pastor Jenny Lee

*POSTLUDE

Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

- *Please take a seed plant home with you as a way of sharing life. If you want to share yours, such as seeds or seed plants, please bring them to the church and share them with others.*

Worship Resources "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler.

Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

The 2023 Parish Ministry Theme:
"Fill My House" (Luke 14:23)

Easter Sunday



Grantsburg-Central,
Since 1897



Atlas, Since 1887



St. Croix Falls,
Since 1859

SUNDAY SERVICE:

9:00 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service

10:00 AM at Atlas (10:15 AM, Sunday School)

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.upperstcroixparish.org

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
April 9th, 2023
Easter Sunday

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The light of Christ rises in glory, overcoming the darkness of sin and death.
Christ is our light!

Christ is our light. Amen!

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

Leader: Grace and peace to you from Jesus Christ our Lord.
My brothers and sisters in Christ: On this most holy morning in which Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we gather as the Church to watch and pray. This is the passover of Christ, in which we share in Christ's victory over death. Our Lord Jesus Christ is risen!

All people: Jesus is risen. Hallelujah!

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

God calls us from the valley of dry bones.
Come, listen for a word from our God.

We hear God calling us in a far distant voice.

We had nearly forgotten God's care for us.

The Spirit breathes life into our dry bones.

God offers hope when we have lost our way.

Our souls wait for the refreshment God offers.

Our spirits are filled with great expectation.

Christ came as a light to all the world.

Christ comes among us today to light our way.

We hear the teacher calling for us.

Christ unbinds us that we may see and believe. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Thine Be the Glory* UMH 308 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

God of life, through Jesus Christ you have bestowed upon the world the light of light. Sanctify this new fire, and grant that our hearts and minds

may also be kindled with holy desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, that we may attain to the feast of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME (G)

UMH 191 (vs.1)

Sacrament of Holy Baptism (A)

Candidate: Lila Joelle Tooze

(See insert)

Parents: Shane Tooze and Danichell Wilson (Tooze)

Godparents: Ceanna Schmidt and Adam Schmidt

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

John 20:1-18

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes. 11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, 12 and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Easter Morning"

Pastor Jenny Lee

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

COMMENDATION AND WELCOME

Pastor: People of the household of faith, I commend this child to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase her faith, confirm her hope, and perfect her in love.

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts and our service, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

BLESSING

The Sacrament of Baptism



Candidate: Lila Joelle Tooze

**Born: February 22nd, 2022
in St. Croix Falls, WI**

Baptized: April 9th, 2023
at Atlas United Methodist Church
Luck, Wisconsin

Parents: Shane Tooze and Danichell Wilson (Tooze)
Godparents: Ceanna Schmidt and Adam Schmidt

BAPTISM OF LILA JOELLE TOOZE

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERVICE

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES AND PARENTS/GODPARENTS

Candidate: Lila Joelle Tooze

Parents: Shane Tooze and Danichell Wilson (Tooze)

Godparents: Ceanna Schmidt and Adam Schmidt

Pastor: Having experienced God's love in the world, in the Christian community, and in your family, I now charge you to seriously consider the commitment you are about to make before God and these friends and family in Christ.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: On behalf of the whole Church, I ask you:
Do you reject the evil powers of this world,
and repent of your sin?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you
to resist evil, injustice, and oppression
in whatever forms they present themselves?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Do you, in presenting this child for Holy
Baptism, confess your faith in our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Do you accept as your duty and privilege to live
before this child a life that becomes the Gospel;
to exercise all godly care that she be brought
up in the Christian faith, that she be taught the
Holy Scriptures, and that she be learned
reverent attendance upon the private and
public worship of God?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Will you nurture this child in Christ's Holy Church,
that by your teaching and example she may be guide
to accept God's grace for herself, to profess her faith
openly, and to lead a Christian life?

Parents: We will.

Pastor (to the Godparents): Thank you for coming and joining
in the baptismal covenant and celebration.
Recognizing that there are many persons who touch
the lives of children, do you promise to give your time
and yourself to this child, supporting her in her faith
journey?

Godparents: We do.

Pastor (to the people): Do you, as Christ's body, the Church
reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your
commitment to Christ?

People: We do.

Pastor (to the people): Will you nurture one another in the
Christian faith and life, include this child now
before you in your care, and surround her with a
community of love and forgiveness?

People: We will.

APRIL CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.



LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

April Collection:

Toothbrushes, toothpaste & paper towels.



Easter Special offerings" 10 % of offerings goes to support Ukraine.



GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY!

Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"



APRIL SHOWERS

Let's shower the church with needed supplies.

Toilet bowl cleaner, Dusting spray, Multi-surface disinfectant spray, Bleach – 1 gal, Room deodorizer (solid, not spray), Hand soap - pump, Hand sanitizer - pump, Distilled water 1 gallon (for piano), 9V Batteries, D Batteries, Paper towels, Toilet paper, Kool-Aid or Crystal Light, Lysol Lime & Rust, Coffee-regular, Ziplock bags-sandwich, quart and gallon.

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



Food Shelf
(Communion Sunday)

Sailor Hat Offering:



March's Sailor Hat offering will go to support UMCOR.

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers

All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

Pianist
Liturgist
Acolyte(s)
Snow Removal
Fellowship
Counter
Cleaning
Sunday School

Toni Koons
Volunteer Needed
Willow Nyland
Tom Goepfert
Ad council members
Volunteer Needed
Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Younger/Older
LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis



Atlas:

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Acolyte(s)
Cleaning
Sunday School

Sharon Asp
Sue Olson
Volunteer Needed
Copelan Grimes
Volunteer Needed
Younger/Older
Cheryl Olson/ Colleen Adams-Schween

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Money Counter
Bell Ringer
Flowers

Sharon Asp
Jim Andrews
Jasmine /Karen Sciacca
Peter Gionis
Jim Sciacca
Ladies of the church



Carol Alderman 4/14
Olivia McNally 4/14

If you know anyone's birthday or anniversary is missing, please let pastor Jenny know.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **Online Zoom Services are scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00 and 11:15 am.** The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page.
Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFlIZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page.
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

This Week's Calendar:

Today: Easter Sunday
Christ is risen, Hallelujah!

Sunday Worship Services:

- 4/9: Easter Sunday
9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom
10:00 am Atlas (10:15 am Sunday School)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls with Zoom
- 4/11 11:00 am-1:00pm, Pastor Jenny volunteers at Loaves & Fishes in Luck
- 4/12 1:00 pm UMW Meeting (G)
6:00-8:00 pm Youth Worship Night at Wood Lake Camp
- 4/13 9:00-10:00 am North West Clergy Meeting via Zoom
7:00-8:30 pm Provisional Elder Mentoring Meeting via Zoom
- 4/15 4:30-6:30 pm Youth volunteers at Feed our Starving Children in Coon Rapids, MN (A)

PLEASE NOTE: WHEN WRITING A CHECK PLEASE MAKE IT PAYABLE TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL CHURCH. WHEN THE OFFERING IS MAILED IN WE ARE THEN ABLE CREDIT THE APPROPRIATE CHURCH. THANK YOU!



Pastor Jenny will be on vacation April 18th-20th, and 25th-27th. She will not be in the office the third and fourth weeks of April.

Ad Council Meetings:

April 16th (SCF); April 20th (G); April 21st (A)

Next Sunday (April 16th) Volunteers:

Central:

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland
Snow Removal	Tom Goepfert
Fellowship	Volunteer Needed
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School	Younger/Older LuAnn Martell/Barb Loomis

Atlas:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher	Sue Olson
Acolyte(s)	Chase Steffen
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Younger/Older Josie Grimes/Jamie Steffen

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Jasmine/Karen Sciacca
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Flowers	Ladies of the church



Breakthrough Prayers: Please pray for Baby Herely Koser (SCF) and Baby Lila Tooze (A) and their families as they are dealing with health issues.



Today Lila is initiated through baptism into the faith community and into a covenant relationship with God and God's people.

April 9th, 2023
John 20:1-18

Pastor Jenny Lee, Ph.D.
Upper St. Croix Parish UMC



Easter Morning

I want to start with something funny that I found on an internet site: A priest talked to his ten-year-old catechism class and asked, “Who can tell me something about Easter?” A little girl raised her hand and said, “That’s when they hide all the eggs.” The priest said, “Yes, but that’s not the religious meaning, right?” Another girl raised her hand and said, “Easter, that’s when I always get a chocolate rabbit.” Once again, the priest said, “That’s nice, but that isn’t the religious meaning, is it?” Finally, little Johnny raised his hand and said, “Father, I know. On Good Friday, Jesus was crucified.” And the priest excitedly said, “Yes.” And Johnny said, “And the next day, he was placed in a cave behind a big boulder.” And the priest grew more excited that one of the children seemed to know. Then, Johnny said, “On Easter Sunday, the boulder rolled back, and Jesus came out.” And the priest couldn’t contain himself any longer, happy that he had reached at least one child, and he said, “Yes, yes, then what happens?” And little Johnny said, “And if Jesus sees his shadow, we will have six more weeks of winter.”

What kind of imagery comes to mind when you think of “Easter”? For kids, it might be an Easter egg hunt or chocolate rabbit candies, like in the story. For some of you, it might be lilies, greeneries, or spring flowers. And others may think of Jesus’ resurrection, hope, spring, etc. We just went through holy week, which is Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and now today is Easter morning.

I want to share some of my memories of Easter morning. I have two great memories of Easter morning. Back in Korea, my whole family attended the Easter morning service where my father was baptized; the other was the first Easter service I attended in the United States.

Back in Korea, my outstanding memory of Easter morning is the one where my whole family attended the Easter service. On Easter morning in 1994, my father was baptized. It was not only the baptism of my father, which was amazing, but it was a transformative event for my entire family. My father’s baptism resulted in my family’s religious change. My father was expected to continue the family religion followed by my ancestors and grandparents, which was Confucianism. However, my father decided we would no longer follow our ancestor’s worship, and then he destroyed our family ancestor’s temple. After my father’s baptism, my father asked me to be the family spiritual leader, which meant I would coordinate and lead the affairs in a Christian manner, for the whole family, such as home services, birthday services, ancestors’ memorial services, and more—Easter morning led my family toward our new faith journey. It was, for me, hope, a new day, and a bright future. I could do what I wanted even though I was a woman. My mother used to pray for my family that my family members would attend church services sitting in a pew together. Whenever my mother went to church, she used to pray, touching her pew, that my whole family would sit there together. That Easter morning was the day my mother’s prayers came true. I miss my family every Easter morning. I encourage you to

touch your next pew and pray that your family members will sit with you for service. God may answer you. May your prayers come true!

The second memory I wanted to share with you was the one where I had no church to attend for Easter service the first year I was in the United States. I prepared for planting a new church with five young adults, having a prayer meeting and service at someone's house. We looked for a church for Easter service instead of having a service at home. Finally, we attended an American congregation church, Central United Methodist Church, in Skokie, IL, for Easter service. Five young adults and I attended that church service on Easter morning in 2008. The congregation's hospitality was exceptional. We joined their fellowship after service, and each of us got a spider seed plant as a gift for Easter. It was a symbol of sharing new life. It was inspiring for me. After that, we rented the church for our new church. That church is still there, and began in August 2008. The church now has more than 150 members and was chartered last year. Also, I still raise that spider plant. When I moved here to Wisconsin, I took it with me. I met the risen Jesus Christ through the congregation, bringing me hope, a new life, a new church, and a bright future on that Easter morning.

What does Easter morning mean to you? Today's scripture shows several disciples on the first Easter morning. We see Mary Magdalene, the first person to come to Jesus early in the morning. It was still dark. She was the first person to see the risen Christ and the first witness to his resurrection. We find two other disciples, Peter and the other disciple, who might be John. They came to Jesus because Mary Magdalene told them Jesus' body was gone. They saw an empty tomb, but they were just back home. However, Mary Magdalene stayed there crying to see Jesus. Finally, Jesus came to her.

What are you looking for this Easter morning? I hope you find Jesus, hope, new life, and a bright future. Please share your hope and a new life as sharing seeds or seed plants. Easter is why Christians believe in eternal life, resurrection, and hope. Easter morning is when Jesus came to us in a new way. He has risen for you. Hallelujah! Thanks be to God. Amen!