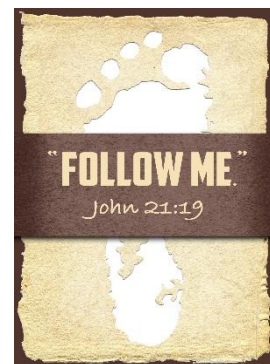


**The United Church of Big Rapids  
May 4, 2025  
The Third Sunday of Easter**

❖ *You are invited to stand*



**Choral Introit**

**Welcome**

**Announcements**

**Prelude**

*I Know Whom I Have Believed, by Lloyd Larson*

❖ **Call to Worship**

Leader: Brothers and sisters, if you lift your net and it is empty, come here!

**People: We'll cast it out again into Christ's abundance.**

Leader: If you open your eyes but do not recognize the Holy One, come here!

**People: We'll find the Risen Christ here among us.**

Leader: If your life is filled with mourning, come here!

**People: Christ is leading advance of joy.**

Leader: Come here, sisters and brothers!

**People: To give blessing and honor and glory to God!**

❖ **Unison Invocation**

**Merciful God, you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgement, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your loving kindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen**

❖ **Words of Assurance**

❖ **Hymn #104**

*Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! tune: Hymn to Joy*

## Scripture Lesson

### Old Testament Lesson

### Psalm 30

<sup>1</sup> I will extol thee, O Lord; for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

<sup>2</sup> O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

<sup>3</sup> O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

<sup>4</sup> Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

<sup>5</sup> For his anger is but for a moment; his favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes in the morning.

<sup>6</sup> As for me, I said in my prosperity, "I shall never be moved."

<sup>7</sup> By your favor, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face; I was dismayed.

<sup>8</sup> To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:

<sup>9</sup> "What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

<sup>10</sup> Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!"

<sup>11</sup> You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

<sup>12</sup> so that my soul may praise you and not be silent. O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

### Gospel Lesson

### John 21:1-19

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. <sup>2</sup> Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and the two others of his disciples. <sup>3</sup> Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

<sup>4</sup> Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

<sup>5</sup> Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "no." <sup>6</sup> He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. <sup>7</sup> That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. <sup>8</sup> But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

<sup>9</sup> When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. <sup>10</sup> Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have caught." <sup>11</sup> So Simon Peter went aboard

and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. <sup>12</sup> Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. <sup>13</sup> Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. <sup>14</sup> This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

<sup>15</sup> When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" he said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything: you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." <sup>18</sup> Very truly, I tell you when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup> (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

Leader: This is what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

*Breakfast on the Beach - Rev. Devon Herrell*

**Sharing of our Joys & Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Choral Amen**

**Call to Offering**

**Chancel Choir Anthem**

*Anthem for Communion, arr. Jay Althouse*

❖ **Prayer of Dedication**

**Gracious God, like the disciples who followed Jesus and cast their nets, we come before you today offering what we have. Take these gifts, bless them, and use them to bring abundance where there is need. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

### *The Great Thanksgiving*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

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

Leader: .... Guide us all through the promise of Jesus, your light, who teaches us to pray:

**People: Our Father/Creator, who is in heaven, hallowed be thy name; Thy kingdom/kin\_dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom/kin\_dom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### *Sharing of the Elements*

### *Prayer after Communion*

Leader: Let us pray -

**People: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ, we pray, Amen.**

## Hymn #507

*I Come with Joy, tune: Dove of Peace*

## Benediction

## Choral Benediction

## Postlude

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come, arr. Barbara Boeryje*



**Welcome to our visitors today!** We're glad you chose to worship with us! Please be sure to sign the attendance sheet with your name and email/address in the pew in front of you. We like to keep up with those that visit us.



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Give to the Pantry!** Project Starburst continues to have a high demand for food. The Mission Commission's "Give to the Pantry" program has identified canned vegetables as the "food of the month" for May. With the demand, any non-perishable food item is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued, generous support.

**Hope House Free Medical Clinic** is looking for a clinic manager, a 20-hour-a-week position. They are seeking a person with strong Christian faith and values and a healthcare background. For more information, check with the church office.

**How about a night out for dinner?** If you eat out on May 8 at Applebee's, you will be supporting Project Starburst. Twenty percent (20%) of sales between 4:00 pm and 9:00 pm will go to Starburst. This is a great way to support the pantry, give the food preparer in your household a night off, and have some great food. In this time of high demand, every penny raised counts!

**Altar flowers and Fellowship time hosts are needed!** The sign-up sheets for May and June are posted on the office window and are quite empty. Would you be interested in providing flowers or making coffee? No prior experience is necessary! Please sign up on an available date!

**Our book study** for May is a fun read by Rachel Held Evans – *"A Year of Biblical Womanhood."* Sessions will begin on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 pm in the Parlor. You can purchase the book from many online sellers. If you need help in finding a book, contact the office.

**Pub Theology** will meet on Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at Crankers. Bring a friend and join the conversation!

**Save the Date!** Our annual outdoor worship service has been scheduled for July 13 at Northend Riverside Park. Watch for additional details – coming soon!

**Contacting the church office** - You may contact the office at any time via email, [secretary@unitedchurchbr.org](mailto:secretary@unitedchurchbr.org) or you can call **231-527-9567** between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday with questions or concerns. This phone number also accepts messages outside of regular business hours. You can also mail the office at 120 S. State Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307. You can also find information about our church on our website: [www.unitedchurchbr.org](http://www.unitedchurchbr.org) or by visiting our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/UnitedBigRapids](http://www.facebook.com/UnitedBigRapids).

**Pastor Devon's contact information** – If you need to contact Pastor Devon, you may contact her by phone for pastoral care needs at 231-629-2302. You may also reach out via email: [devonherrell@gmail.com](mailto:devonherrell@gmail.com). Pastor Devon does have another full-time job, so in-person meeting time is limited. She is generally in the office on Thursdays from 9:00 am – 11:45 am. You may contact the church office to set up an appointment.

**Financial Information** – The Governing Board and Treasurer are sharing this data monthly with you. If you have questions, contact Amy Buse, Treasurer, or a member of the Governing Board.

	Expenditures	Income
March 2025	\$ 22,438.35	\$ 35,630.37
Year-to-Date (Jan-Mar 2025)	\$ 63,152.00 *	\$ 85,664.31

\* The March income includes a \$23,000 donation from an estate.



**The choir thought you would like to read the words to their anthem today:**

"Anthem for Communion"

Words by: Samuel Kinner

Music by: Robert Lowry

Arranged by: Jay Althouse

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Lord, Jesus Christ, You have prepared a feast for our salvation.  
Now in Your presence we have come, and at Your invitation.

For in this house we are Your guests, as weary souls with sin oppressed.  
We come to You for needed rest, for comfort and for pardon.

We eat this bread and drink this wine, Your precious word believing.  
A gift of life, a cup of grace our lips are now receiving.

Lord, Jesus Christ, now hear our plea, grant that this sacrament may be  
Your gift of love that sets us free, our solace and salvation.

Though reason cannot understand, our faith this truth embraces.  
Your body, Lord, is everywhere, at once in many places.


Yet, Savior, You are not confined to any habitation.  
For You are present in this house, and with this congregation.  
Amen.




## The United Church of Big Rapids

Our vision is to honor all children of God through following the way of Jesus Christ.

Our mission is to celebrate all creation as an active presence in our community, engaging in transformational worship and nurturing families and relationships, as we cultivate Jesus' justice and love.



The United Church of Big Rapids is a union of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. It is a congregation that worships together, seeks opportunities to serve others, encourages one another to grow in intellect and spirit, strives for social justice, and fully embraces Jesus' call to love one another as God loves us.



Because we believe God's whole creation is good, blessed, and sacred, we are an open and affirming community of faith. We celebrate persons of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, family structures, faith backgrounds, abilities, and economic circumstances.

As valued members of this congregation all persons are invited to equally participate in the full life of the church - worship, sacraments, ministry, fellowship, leadership, responsibilities, sorrows, blessings, and the continued presence of Jesus Christ.



Ministers .....	The Body of Christ
Worship Lead.....	Rev. Devon Herrell
Administrative Assistant .....	Julie Cole
Organist .....	Paul Heidemann
Chancel Choir Director .....	Linda Rinehart
Chancel Choir Assistant Director.....	Katie McInnis
Bell Choir Director.....	Judy Tressler
Custodian .....	Larry Carnes
Nursery Attendant .....	Michell Kamptner
Moderator.....	Marshall Henry
Sanctuary Sound .....	Wayne McKay
Sound Board .....	Mike Rinehart
Liturgist .....	Kathleen Keys Singh
Ushers.....	Maxine McKay, Bill Peters, Nancy Peters
Livestream Team.....	Amy Buse, Adam Jewell, Aleah Ritzema, Wayne McKay
Technical Advisors .....	Amy Buse & Paul Heidemann

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