

Resources for Easter: Commissioning, Pentecost, & Calling

For your leadership team

Reflections for each week of Easter:

Easter Sunday

Christ is risen – Alleluia! Let us respond by sharing what we have been given. *In what ways are you called to offer your gifts for the good of the community?*

2nd Sunday of Easter

The risen Jesus gives his heartbroken disciples the gift of peace and the gift of the Holy Spirit. *God calls us to announce the Good News of God's love to a world broken and in need. Where is there brokenness & need in your community?*

3rd Sunday of Easter

Jesus's actions of blessing, breaking, and giving of bread opened the disciples' eyes at Emmaus. *How is Christ calling you to action in the church and in the world?*

4th Sunday of Easter

God has been good through the ages, providing an abundance of good things for God's children. Our cups overflow. *Pray Psalm 23 this week, holding the grieving, the lost, and the lonely in prayer.*

5th Sunday of Easter

When Jesus calls us to believe in him today, he's telling us that we can trust the goodness of God in our lives. *How has God called you to trust in the past? How might God be calling you to trust today or tomorrow?*

6th Sunday of Easter

The love of Jesus inspires us and makes us able to share generously the gifts we have received from God. *What are some of your hidden gifts and talents?*

7th Sunday of Easter

We're drawn together in a community of prayer through the ministry of this church. *How are you supported by colleagues to continue the work of the church? What are their gifts?*

Pentecost Sunday – Strengthen the Church

When the disciples received the gift of the Holy Spirit, they didn't keep it to themselves: they burst out into the world to share the good news about "God's deeds of power!" *How might your congregation be called to connect beyond the walls of your church, your denomination, or the boundaries of your community?*

(adapted from the UCC's resource, [**"God Calls, and We Respond"**](#))

Illuminating Easter: The Resurrection

Pray [*visio divina*](#), [*lectio divina*](#), and read a reflection on John 20:1-23, with *The Saint John's Bible*.

Illuminating the Encounter: Call of the Disciples

What would happen if your congregation searched for *disciples* rather than *volunteers* for your ministries? Using *The Saint John's Bible* illumination of the Calling of the Disciples (John 1:35-51), reflect and pray about how Christ is calling your congregation to leadership.

For your congregation

Practicing Easter through our Gifts & Callings

Easter calls us to rejuvenate our lives as a community of disciples. Here are some practical examples inspired by *Living Your Discipleship* by Kathleen A. Cahalan and Laura Kelly Fanucci:

- **Follower:** Everyone has at least one "call story" to share. Organize a small group to share stories of how you were called to join *this* community.
- **Worshiper:** Easter is a time when we are called to joyful worship – the tomb is empty! Christ has risen! But we don't always internally *feel* this Easter joy. How do the prayers and rituals of your community lift and support you in answering the call to be a worshiper?
- **Witness:** We are called to be bearers of God's light for one another and for the world. Gather an intergenerational group for an evening of witness sharing – you'd be surprised by the holy encounters of children, teens, and the elderly!
- **Neighbor:** Who do you think of when you hear the word "neighbor"? What about the word "enemy"? How might God be calling you to show love toward an "enemy" this Easter season?

- **Forgiver:** We are called to forgiveness year-round. In Easter, we use the symbol of water to hearken back to the renewal, cleansing, and sending of our baptism. Whom are you called to forgive or to seek forgiveness from today?
- **Prophet:** Our callings can be “edgy,” “uncomfortable,” and push us out of our comfort zones. What are some ways that your congregation is called as a community to be prophetic? How might you answer God’s call?
- **Steward:** Perhaps in Lent you practiced stewardship of your time, self-care, others, or the environment. How is God calling you to be a steward in your daily life, beyond Lent? What local resources could you tap into to do so?

Preaching Vocation in Easter

Resurrection Changes Everything.....*To Bless Our Callings* p. 182

I Tell You the Truth.....*To Bless Our Callings* p. 182

Christ and Our Callings.....*To Bless Our Callings* p. 182-183

Vocational Hymns for Easter

Christ is Alive! Text: Brian Wren; Tune: TRURO, LM

Stanza 3: Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service Text: Albert F. Bayly; Tune: BEACHSPRING

Stanza 1: Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need, who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy’s perfect deed, we, your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart, consecrating to your purpose every gift that you impart.

Now the Green Blade Rises Text: JMC Crum; Tune: NOEL NOUVELET

Stanza 4: When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been: Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Lord, You Give the Great Commission Text: Jeffery Rowthorn; Tune: ABBOT’S LEIGH

Stanza 1: Lord, you call us to your service: “in my name baptize and teach.” That the world may trust your promise, Life abundant meant for each. Give us all new fervor, draw us closer in community: With the Spirit’s gifts empow’r us for the work of ministry.