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**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**April 26, 2026**

**Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC**

**“With Glad and Generous Hearts”**

**United in Christ’s love, a just world for all**

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

## April 26, 2026

**Choir Prelude**

*O Be Joyful*  
Chancel Choir  
Rob Dickason, Flute

Sleeth

**Welcome and Announcements**

### **We Approach God's Presence**

**Meditation/Bringing in the Light of Christ**

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

arr. Peary

**Responsive Call to Worship**

Victoria Augustine

We come seeking a life that is more than our own.

**We come to be formed into a generous people.**

We come to learn, to pray, to share, and to belong.

**We come with glad and open hearts.**

For when we give, joy rises among us.

**When we share, life grows within us.**

Let us worship the God of abundant life.

**Let us worship God together.**

**\*Hymn**

*Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You* (p. 7)

**\*Prayer for Transformation and New Life**

Generous God,

You have made us for connection, yet we turn inward.

You have created us for sharing, yet we cling to what we have.

**Forgive us.**

When fear tells us there is not enough,

when our lives become closed in on ourselves,

when comfort keeps us from caring,

and when we forget that joy grows through giving,

**Renew us.**

Open our hearts and our hands.

**Teach us the joy of open hands,  
the freedom of generosity,  
the courage of compassion,  
and the joy of living for more than ourselves.**

Shape us into a people who know the grace of belonging to one another-

**Who live not in fear but in trust,  
where abundance is practiced,  
and where love flows freely from one to another.**

Through Christ, who leads us into abundant life. **Amen.**

**\*Words of Grace**

God's love is not diminished when it is shared—it multiplies.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, freed from fear,  
and invited into a life that overflows with joy.

We are made new—a people of glad and generous hearts.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\*Response**

*Rejoice!*

Plumptre

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!**

**We Encounter God in the Word**

**Gospel Lesson**

John 10:1-10

*New International Version*

God is still speaking. **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*Down to the River to Pray*

Traditional/arr. Curry

**New Testament Lesson**

Acts 2:42-47

*New International Version*

The Word of God. **Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

“With Glad and Generous Hearts”

Rev. Barbara Dickason, BCC

**We Respond to God's Grace**

**Congregational Prayers**

**Silent Prayers**

**Prayers of the People and Our Lord's Prayer**

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver  
Source of all that is and all that shall be,  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God who is in heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed  
by people of the world!  
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!  
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.  
In the hurts we absorb from one another forgive us.  
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.  
From trials too great to endure, spare us.  
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.  
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and forever.  
May it be so. Amen.**

**Musical Response**

*You Are Mine*

Hass

*You Are Mine*

*Haas*

Do not be a - fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by name.

Come and fol - low me, I will bring you home; I

love you and you are mine.

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## We Share God's Love

**Invitation to Generosity**      (*Offering plates are found by each doorway for your use.*)

**\*Song of Gratitude**      *We Give Thee but Thine Own*      How/Schumann

**We give thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.**

**\*Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**Generous God,**

**Receive the gifts we offer today. Use them to nourish your people, to strengthen your church, and to extend your compassion into the world. May our giving reflect our gratitude, and our lives reflect your abundant love.**

**Through Christ, who calls us into shared life. Amen.**

## We Go to Carry the Light

**\*Hymn**      *They'll Know We Are Christians* (back page)

**\*Blessing and Benediction**

**\*Sending Blessing**      *Go in Peace*      White

**Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day.**

**Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.**

**Celebrate and share the joy! Celebrate new life!**

**Go in peace and the peace of God be with you always.**

**Postlude**      *Joyful, Joyful*      Beethoven

**Please remain seated in silence for the Postlude as the Light of Christ is carried into the world. The worship has ended; our service begins.**

Worship materials are taken from a translation of the Lord's Prayer by Rev. Jim Cotter, included in *The Prayer Book of The Anglican Church of New Zealand*, 1989

## Supporting Our Service Today

**Acolyte:** Bella Clapham      **Liturgist:** Victoria Augustine

**Welcome Table:** Marilyn Schwab      **Greeter:** Maria Groody

**Head Usher:** Dee Rogers      **Usher Team:** Nancy Bennett, Mel Burrowes,  
Phil Enscoe, Chet Hamlin, Helen Markus

## Technology Team

*(Live Streaming, Camera, and Sound Technicians)*

Gary Woodrum, Debra Mosely, Maria Groody, David Jack, Linda Newton,  
Wally Davis, Patty Fjetland, Scott Mellen, Gary and Sharon Leidheiser

The **Lord's Table** was decorated by Victoria Augustine

The **Sanctuary Flowers** are given by A Friend in Appreciation of Everyone at VUCC

The **Church Sign** was changed by Faye Newton and Lisa Sclafani

**Sunday Librarian:** Nancy Brex

**We will go to Naar Hall for the Annual Meeting immediately after worship,  
followed by lunch provided by the Church Family Life Committee.**

### Senior Minister

**Rev. Barbara Dickason**

### Music Staff

**Barbara Quinn:** *Music Director*

**Lynda Weston:** *Bella Handbell Director*

### Other Staff

**Gary Leidheiser:** *Custodian*

**Barb Quinn:** *Office Assistant*

**Church office hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9-1**

**Would you like to donate to VUCC online? Use your Smart Phone to scan the QR code on the right, and it will take you directly to our donations page. It is really easy!**



### **Mon. 04-27**

12:00 PM SpiritFed!

Noon Bible Study via Zoom (link below)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83576594637?pwd=U2024sKmOPiy3CyMqV4OarYUtofaom.1>

Meeting ID: 835 7659 4637

Passcode: 913882

**6:30 PM Bridge - Parlor**

### **Tues. 04-28**

**9:00 AM** Staff Meeting

**10:00 AM** Leadership Team—CR

**6:00 PM** Girl Scouts

### **Wed. 04-29**

**9:00 AM-12:00** Library open

**10:00 AM** Bible Study—CR

**6:30 PM** Choir Rehearsal

### **Thurs. 04-30**

**2:30 PM** VADC—CR

### **Fri. 05-01**

**8:30 AM** Men's Weekly Coffee at Panera

### **Sun. 05-03**

**9:00 AM** Choir Rehearsal—Sanctuary

**9:00 AM** Library Hour

**10:00 AM** Worship

(in situ and virtual)

**After Worship:** Fellowship Time—Naar Hall

**11:00-11:15** Library Open

## Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore you, God of glo - ry, God of love;  
 2 All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re - flect your rays,  
 3 You are giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blessed,  
 4 Mor - tals, join the might - y cho - rus which the morn - ing stars be - gan;

Hearts un - fold like flowers be - fore you, open - ing to the sun a - bove.  
 Stars and an - gels sing a - round you, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.  
 Well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean depth of hap - py rest!  
 Bound - less love is reign - ing o'er us, re - con - cil - ing race and clan.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the storms of doubt a - way;  
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flower - y mead - ow, flash - ing sea,  
 Lov - ing Spir - it, Fa - ther, Moth - er, all who love be - long to you;  
 Ev - er sing - ing, move we for - ward, faith - ful in the midst of strife,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.  
 Chant - ing bird and flow - ing foun - tain, teach us what our praise should be.  
 Teach us how to love each oth - er, by that love our joy re - new.  
 Joy - ful mu - sic leads us on - ward in the tri - umph song of life.

Henry van Dyke was a noted church leader, U.S. ambassador, Navy chaplain, and prolific writer. Many people associate this hymn with Beethoven's ninth symphony, but few are aware of the original poem by the German classicist F. Schiller (1759–1805) that inspired Beethoven.

Tune: HYMN TO JOY 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Ludwig van Beethoven, 1824  
 Adapt. and harm. Edward Hodges, 1846  
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# They'll Know We Are Christians

*Unison*

1. We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.  
 2. We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.  
 3. We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.

We are one in the Spir - it; we are one in the Lord.  
 We will walk with each oth - er; we will walk hand in hand.  
 We will work with each oth - er; we will work side by side.

And we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored.  
 And to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land.  
 And we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride.

*Refrain*

And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love.

Yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.

TEXT: Peter Scholtes; based on John 13:35

MUSIC: Peter Scholtes

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ST. BRENDAN'S  
Irregular meter

## Agenda

### MOTIONS to Approve:

1. Motion to accept 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes and Special Congregation Meeting 11/30/2025 Minutes
2. Motion to accept the Annual Report of 2025-2026
3. Motion to accept the Budget for 2026-2027
  - A. Motion to approve the change in Pastoral Relations Committee membership
  - B. Motion to approve Buildings & Grounds as one team, for the Bylaws Committee to make necessary corrections in the Bylaws, and then bring revisions to congregation for approval

#### A. **Article XI. Committees S.3. Non-voting Committees**

**A. Pastoral Relations Committee Membership:** ~~This committee shall consist of FIVE (5) members, which may include the current Moderator, one other Leadership Council member, and THREE (3) members of the congregation at large (may be one member from the Pastor Search Committee). three members from the Pastor Search Committee and two members from the congregation. be composed of three to five members of the congregation selected by the pastor(s) and approved by Leadership Council. For a newly called pastor, three members may come from the Pastor Search Committee and two from the congregation initially, serving for up to a year or until the newly called pastor is ready to begin the process of selecting their own committee.~~ This committee shall consist of five members, which may include the current Moderator, one other Leadership Council member, and three members of the Congregation at large (may be one member from the Pastor Search Committee).

B. Combine Buildings & Grounds into one team. Revision of Bylaws to be done by Bylaws Committee.

5. Motion to accept the Nomination Slate for Officers and Leadership Council Committee Chairs for 2026-2027
6. Motion to approve the three-year Strategic Plan for Venice United Church of Christ 2025-2028

Reports of Teams and Committees can be found on the church's website: [veniceucc.org](http://veniceucc.org)

(Some) Hard copies will be available at the Annual Meeting on April 26, 2026.

**Venice United Church of Christ Draft Budget  
2026-2027**

	Draft	This Year		
	New Budget 2026-2027	2025-2026 Actuals	2025-2026 Budget	%
<b>Income</b>				
Member Gifts		4,756		
Plate Offering		287,478		
Special Offerings		952		
<b>Total Gift/Offerings</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>293,186</b>	<b>300,000</b>	
<b>Other Operating Income (Rentals, etc.)</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>15,022</b>	<b>25,000</b>	
Dividend Income		9,340 *		
Realized Gain/Loss - Investment		6,526 *		
UCFunds Transfer	35,000	45,700 *		
<b>Investment Income</b>	<b>35,000</b>	<b>61,566</b>	<b>35,000</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>405,000</b>	<b>369,775 *</b>	<b>360,000</b>	<b>102.7%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Payroll</b>				
Pastor's Salary Package	106,089	103,334	103,000	
Pastor's Professional Expenses	3,650	3,929	0	
Staff Salaries (Including former employees)	103,870	77,081	74,339	
Taxes and Workers Compensation	8,804	6,902	7,200	
<b>Total Payroll</b>	<b>222,413</b>	<b>191,246</b>	<b>184,539</b>	
<b>Office Administration</b>	<b>13,600</b>	<b>13,041</b>	<b>15,000</b>	
<b>Building, Grounds, Utilities</b>	<b>55,000</b>	<b>51,357</b>	<b>55,000</b>	
<b>Financial Administration</b>	<b>75,534</b>	<b>74,097</b>	<b>70,000</b>	
<b>Leadership Team Expenses</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>3,515</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>UCC Support</b>	<b>12,419</b>	<b>12,290</b>	<b>11,290</b>	
<b>Worship Committee</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>3,189</b>	<b>6,500</b>	
<b>Church Family Life</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>750</b>	
<b>Christian Education</b>	<b>2,500</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>4,100</b>	
<b>Technology Team</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>6,795</b>	<b>10,200</b>	
<b>Total Supporting Expenses</b>	<b>181,603</b>	<b>165,659</b>	<b>172,840</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>404,016</b>	<b>356,904</b>	<b>357,379</b>	<b>99.9%</b>
<b>Under/(Over) Spent Budget</b>	<b>984</b>	<b>12,871</b>	<b>2,621</b>	
<b>Other Expense - Pastor's Onboarding Expense</b>		<b>9,906</b>		
	<b>984</b>	<b>2,965</b>	<b>2,621</b>	
<b>* Final Retained Earnings/Dividends will be finalized on April 20th, 2026.</b>				