**Community Congregational Church of Clinton Heights, UCC**

**April 9, 2023**

**Easter**

**Rev. Kathy Johnson**

**Welcome! Christ is Risen!**

**No matter who you are or where you on life’s journey, you are welcome here!**

**Call to Worship, from Psalm 118, A Song of Victory**

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
**All:    his steadfast love endures forever!**

One: Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
**All:    the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.**One: This is the gate of the Lord;
**All:    the righteous shall enter through it.**

One: I thank you that you have answered me
**All:    and have become my salvation.**
One:This is the Lord’s doing;
**All:    it is marvelous in our eyes.**One: This is the day that the Lord has made;
**All:    let us rejoice and be glad in it. Amen.**

**Opening Prayer: Dear Mother-Father God, Today we come to you, this day of Easter, this day of resurrection of your son. We come to worship at the feet of Jesus the Christ, who teaches us that death is not the end. Who teaches us that every Easter is a beginning, and a springtime in each of our lives. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.**

**\*Hymn – Christ is Risen**

**Children’s Sermon: New Life**

**Scripture Readings: Matthew 28:1-10**

**\*Hymn -** Ancient Words

**Sermon: History, Metaphor and Miracles**

**Prayers for others and ourselves**

**Lord’s Prayer** (using debts/debtors)

**\*Hymn – He Lives! 226**

**Offering**

**\*Doxology**

**\*Hymn – In The Garden, 227**

**Announcements**

**Commission and Benediction Postlude**

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**Manage your giving online:**

Community Congregational Church is excited to announce that you can now manage your giving online! Giving online is easy and allows you to set up automatic recurring contributions and view your complete online giving history from anywhere you have access to the Internet. Simply follow these easy steps:

1) Visit the church website at **www.clintonheightsucc.org**,

2) Click on the **Donate Now** button,

3) Click on the **Create Profile** button, then

4) Follow the onscreen instructions to create an online profile and to schedule your recurring contribution.

# **Matthew 28:1-10**

# **The Message**

### Risen from the Dead

**28 1-4**After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God’s angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn’t move.

**5-6**The angel spoke to the women: “There is nothing to fear here. I know you’re looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed.

**7**“Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.’ That’s the message.”

**8-10**The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. “Good morning!” he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Jesus said, “You’re holding on to me for dear life! Don’t be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I’ll meet them there.”

