

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational  
Norwich, New York  
April 18, 2021**

**PRELUDE** *Sunset to Sunrise*  
Bob Oehme, organ

By Gilbert M. Martin  
Based on the southern hymn-melody KEDRON

**WELCOME** (Pastor John)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Linda Oehme)

**PRAYER OF THE DAY** (Melodie Posner)

Almighty God, your power makes the lame walk  
and the dead rise to new life.  
We give you thanks for the love poured into our world  
through Christ Jesus,  
who opened our minds to understand what you have made,  
whose appearance among his followers brings peace,  
and who creates faith through touch and taste.  
Show us Jesus, even now,  
through the mystery of your threefold presence,  
one God, abiding now and forever. **Amen.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (Melodie Posner)

The bread of life opens our eyes.  
**The word of life opens our ears.**  
The risen one shows us God's own brokenness,  
**and by those wounds we are healed.**  
Peace be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**HYMN** *We Live by Faith and Not by Sight* (#256)

Henry Alford, 1944  
Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK by Samuel McFarland, 1816  
Harmonization by Richard Proulx, 1986

**CHILDREN'S TIME** (Linda Oehme)  
The Lord's Prayer

**CONGREGATIONAL GREETING OF PEACE**

ONE: May the peace of the risen Christ be with you.  
**ALL: And also with you.**

**SCRIPTURE** (Melodie Posner)

Psalm 4  
Answer me when I call, O God of my right!  
You gave me room when I was in distress.  
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.  
<sup>2</sup> How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?  
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? *Selah*  
<sup>3</sup> But know that the LORD has set apart the faithful for himself;  
the LORD hears when I call to him.  
<sup>4</sup> When you are disturbed, do not sin;  
ponder it on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*  
<sup>5</sup> Offer right sacrifices,  
and put your trust in the LORD.  
<sup>6</sup> There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!  
Let the light of your face shine on us, O LORD!"  
<sup>7</sup> You have put gladness in my heart  
more than when their grain and wine abound.  
<sup>8</sup> I will both lie down and sleep in peace;  
for you alone, O LORD, make me lie down in safety.

**SCRIPTURE** (Bob Oehme)

Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."<sup>37</sup> They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.

**ANTHEM** *I Will Rise*

Words and Music by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves,  
Louie Giglio and Matt Maher  
Arranged by Jay Rouse  
Orchestrated by Rolin R. Mains

There's a peace I've come to know,  
Though my heart and flesh may fail.  
There's an anchor for my soul,  
I can say, it is well.

Jesus has overcome  
And the grave is overwhelmed.  
The victory is won,  
He is risen from the dead.  
And I will rise when He calls my name,  
No more sorrow, no more pain.  
I will rise on eagles wings,  
Before my God, fall on my knees and rise; I will rise.

There's a day that's drawing near,  
When this darkness breaks to light  
And the shadows disappear  
And my faith shall be my eyes.  
Jesus has overcome  
And the grave is overwhelmed.  
The victory is won, He is risen from the dead.  
And I will rise when He calls my name,  
No more sorrow no more pain.  
I will rise on eagle's wings,  
Before my God, fall on my knees and rise;  
I will rise.

And I hear the voice of many angels sing:  
"Worthy is the Lamb!"  
And I hear the cry of every longing heart;  
Worthy is the Lamb!  
[repeat]

I will rise when He calls my name,  
No more sorrow, no more pain,  
I will rise on eagle's wings,  
Before my God, fall on my knees and rise;  
I will rise.

**SCRIPTURE** (Bob Oehme)

1 John 3:16-24

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister<sup>al</sup> in need and yet refuses help?

<sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

<sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

**SERMON** (Pastor John)

**INTERLUDE** *Interlude from "Cantata No 30"*

Bob Oehme, organ

by J.S. Bach

Arranged by Joseph Prentiss

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** (Pastor John)

Prince of Peace,  
as Christ Jesus showed his wounded hands and feet  
to the terrified apostles,  
reveal to your church, and to people of prayer in every faith,  
the wounds of our neighbors, the fears of individuals and families,  
and the avenues toward healing;  
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Author of life,  
we beg for peace among nations,  
peace throughout communities,  
peace within families.  
Guide leaders and voters,  
legislatures and parliaments,  
judges and juries.  
Teach diplomacy and let our ways be formed  
so that all creatures, plants, and people may have plenty;  
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Light in our darkness,  
let your brightness burn in places shrouded in violence.  
Reveal the pains that are hidden in secret.  
Unveil the needs of our own hearts  
so that we may know the power of vulnerability.  
Your Son was raised to life even from the grave.  
Show us again that life comes from death;  
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Healer of our every ill,  
we pray for all who are in need,  
for refugees of war and all who are displaced by storms,  
for rescue workers and medical teams,  
for those whose bones are weary,  
for those who show us the power of community  
to give hope to the frightened,  
and for all who have asked for our prayers;  
hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

You command us to bring to you our deepest desires, O God,  
and we pray now for those persons and concerns  
that lie on our hearts, spoken aloud or in silence. . . .

Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your abundant mercy, O God,  
we commend into your care all for whom we pray,  
and our own lives;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**BLESSING** (Pastor John)

The Lord bless and keep you,  
shine upon you with grace and mercy,  
and give you what is needed for each new day.

**POSTLUDE** *Fanfare and Recessional*  
Bob Oehme, organ

Robert Lau

---

Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #735996-A. All rights reserved.

Prayers, Call to Worship, Blessing are reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion* © 2015

---