

**United Church of Christ, First Congregational
Norwich, New York
April 4, 2021 – Easter Sunday**

PRELUDE *Fugue in C Major* (Jig Fugue)
Jason Handy, organ

by Dietrich Buxtehude

WELCOME (Pastor John)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER OF THE DAY (Elizabeth Barber Breese)

Almighty God,
by the resurrection of Jesus Christ you broke the power of death
and opened the way to eternal life.
As the empty tomb stands witness to his triumph over death,
make your church to be a bold testimony to his enduring victory in life,
that all we do may proclaim to the world, "He is risen, indeed!"
Through Christ, who lives with you and the Holy Spirit
now and forever. **Amen.**

RESPONSE *Alleluia*
Meena Conant, Ericka Tyler, Mary Williams

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

CALL TO WORSHIP (Elizabeth Barber Breese and Fiora Breese)

ONE: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

ONE: This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Alleluia! Christ is risen!

ALL: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

***HYMN** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* (#233)

Charles Wesley 1739
(Tune: EASTER HYMN)

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

GREETING OF PEACE

ONE: May the peace of the risen Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

SCRIPTURE (Gary Gray and Ericka Tyler)
Psalm 118:1-2; 14 -24

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let Israel say,
"His steadfast love endures forever."

¹⁴ The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

¹⁶ the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

- ¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.
- ¹⁸ The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.
- ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.
- ²⁰ This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.
- ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
- ²² The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
- ²³ This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.
- ²⁴ This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

SCRIPTURE (Cheri Oakley and Gary Gray)
John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

ANTHEM *The Lord Is Risen Today*
Combined Choirs of UCC and BSUMC
Michael Moren, directing, Bob Oehme, piano

Words and Music by Lloyd Larson

The angel greeted the women who came to the tomb in dismay.
"Do not be afraid," said the angel, "but hear the words I say:
He is risen!" Alleluia! The Lord is risen today!
Go quickly and tell the good news.
The Lord is risen today! The Lord is risen today!"

The women ran from the graveside rejoicing in what they had heard.
They proclaimed the message the angel had shared of their risen Lord!
"He is risen!" Alleluia!

The Lord is risen today! Go quickly and tell the good news.
The Lord is risen today! The Lord is risen today!"

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.
"He is risen! Alleluia!
The Lord is risen today! Go quickly and tell the good news.
The Lord is risen today! The Lord is risen today, today!"

SCRIPTURE (Pastor John)

Acts 10: 34-43

³⁴ Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

SERMON (Pastor John)

ANTHEM

In the Garden

UCC Hand Bell Choir

(Recorded February 25, 2018)

C. Austin Miles

Arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski

PASTORAL PRAYER (Pastor John)

SPECIAL MUSIC *Canticle for Easter Day*

Arranged by Patti Drennan

Words by Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-188

Tunes: HOLY MANNA and HYMN TO JOY

Alleluia, alleluia!

Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;
Sing to God a hymn of gladness;
Sing to God a hymn of praise.

He, who on the cross a victim,
For the world's salvation bled,
Jesus Christ, the King of glory,
Now is risen from the dead.

Now the iron bars are broken;
Christ from death to life is born,
Glorious life, and life immortal,
On this holy Easter morn.

Christ has triumphed,
And we conquer
by His mighty enterprise.
We with Him to life eternal
By His resurrection rise.

Christ is risen, we are risen!

Shed upon us heav'nly grace,
Rain and dew and gleams of glory
From the brightness of Thy face;

That, with hearts in heaven dwelling,
we on earth may fruitful be,
And by angel hands be gathered,
and be ever, Lord, with Thee.

Alleluia, alleluia! Now we gain our liberty;
Alleluia to the Savior
Who has won the victory!
Alleluia to the Spirit,
Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia, alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia, Amen.

BLESSING (Pastor John)

This is our new commandment:
to love one another, as Jesus loves us.
By this everyone will know that we are Christ's disciples:
that we love one another.

POSTLUDE

Easter Bells
Handbell Choir

Michael Ryan
Hymn Tunes: LASST UNS ERFREUEN
and EASTER HYMN

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