



**CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



April 4, 2021

9:55 am

Welcome to worship! We are glad to join together for worship in person and online. Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. This morning, we will be celebrating the sacrament of communion. We hold that the communion table is open to any and all who desire a closer relationship with Christ. To prepare for this sacrament at home, we invite you to gather communion elements from what you have at hand, some bread or crackers and some juice or water.

**PRELUDE**

**RINGING OF THE CHIMES**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Barry Shelley

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen, indeed!**

Leader: Hope is alive!

**People: Hope is alive, indeed!**

Leader: God's love is eternal!

**People: Hallelujah! Let us give thanks for what God has done!**

**OPENING PRAYER**

God of grace and power, we come rejoicing in Christ's empty tomb. We come trusting in the good news that tells us Christ is with us. For the Risen Christ is living proof that You care about our lives, O God. The Risen Christ offers us glimpses of hope, even in our tears and even among our fears. The tomb is not silent. It speaks. It proclaims! It is a promise of eternal life!

**People: Thank you, gracious and almighty God. Amen.**

**HYMN**

'Christ The Lord Is Risen Today'

No. 216

*(scroll down to music)*

## A TIME FOR ALL AGES

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)*

God of resurrection grace, help us in our pain, despair, and fear so that we are not prone to follow the path of hopelessness. Help us to, instead, be like the Risen Christ and rise up, as a brave and holy people, living beyond our pain, despair, and fear by remaining hopeful in your steadfast love. Help us, we pray. Amen.

## WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

### SCRIPTURE

#### John 20:1-18

Early in the morning of the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. She ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don't know where they've put him." Peter and the other disciple left to go to the tomb. They were running together, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to arrive at the tomb. Bending down to take a look, he saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. Following him, Simon Peter entered the tomb and saw the linen cloths lying there. He also saw the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head. It wasn't with the other clothes but was folded up in its own place. Then the other disciple, the one who arrived at the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. They didn't yet understand the scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to the place where they were staying.

Mary stood outside near the tomb, crying. As she cried, she bent down to look into the tomb. She saw two angels dressed in white, seated where the body of Jesus had been, one at the head and one at the foot. The angels asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

She replied, "They have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they've put him." As soon as she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus.

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she replied, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned and said to him in Aramaic, "Rabbouni" (which means *Teacher*).

Jesus said to her, "Don't hold on to me, for I haven't yet gone up to my Father. Go to my brothers and sisters and tell them, 'I'm going up to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene left and announced to the disciples, "I've seen the Lord." Then she told them what he said to her.

### SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

### HYMN

'Now The Green Blade Rises'

No. 230

*(scroll down to music)*

### PASTORAL PRAYER

### ANTHEM

'Joy In the Morning'

Natalie Sleeth

## CALL FOR OFFERINGS

On this day we remember that Mary Magdelene arrives at the tomb with the intent to anoint the crucified body of Jesus and, astonished, she finds an empty tomb where Jesus once laid. Now what? God's angels and the Risen Christ meet Mary Magdelene in her sorrow, and speak hope into her heart. For the resurrection narrative reveals that love is alive and moves among us! The Risen Christ helps us to remember that despair is not the end of our journey. The Risen Christ also speaks of God's ever-present love, and gives the church resurrection hope. In that, as an Easter People, we manifest God's never-ending love in the world by the giving of our time, talents, and financial resources. For it is with Christ's limitless and restorative love, that we humbly and graciously offer back to God a portion of what God has given us.

[www.brocktonucc.org/donate/](http://www.brocktonucc.org/donate/)

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of love, we offer our gifts of time, our spiritual gifts, and our financial gifts as a sign of our love for you and the world. We ask a special blessing on these gifts where you meet us in our suffering, and raise us up, so that all may come to know of your abiding love.

**People: O God, we give these gifts as you have given them unto us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.**



## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION

Leader: Christ is risen!

**People: Christ is risen indeed!**

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

**People: We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God whose grace endures forever.

**People: It is right to give our thanks and praise!**

Leader: This table is open to all who seek nourishment from God's eternal abundance. This table does not belong to any single one of us, or only to this beloved community - this table is God's table, extending beyond this place and throughout the entirety of time and space. This table is grace, and love. This table is welcome and acceptance. Come to the table and join in this meal not because you must, but because you have been invited extravagantly by the one who created you. Let us pray,

## COMMUNION PRAYER

C G7 Am F G C

San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra! Mi  
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you! My

F G7 C Am F G7 C

co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San - to e - res Señ - or!  
heart knows how to say to you: Ho - ly are you, Lord!

### REMEMBERING THE STORY

In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises, and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did; for our benefit.

On the night before Jesus died, he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup and poured it out saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me."

In sharing this meal we live out the mystery of our faith - Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again! Let us pray,

### PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Almighty God, bless this bread and this cup, the wheat and the grape, the farmer and the harvest, the seed and the sower. These simple elements are shared in community, so that we may taste and see your goodness and become one body in Christ. For it is through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, that all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forevermore - and it is in Christ's name that we pray together saying...

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father (Creator) who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE POURING OF THE CUP

### SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

*\*Communion will be shared with pre-sealed communion kits. Worship participants may remain where they are seated to participate in communion.\**

Leader: The body of Christ,

**People: The bread of life.**

Leader: Take and eat.

Leader: The lifeblood of Christ,

**People: the cup of blessing.**

Leader: Take and drink.

### **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** *(in unison)*

Leader: Almighty God, we thank you for this feast of life. Fed by your love, and strengthened by your life; we humbly accept your call to go into this world to live with hope and to share your joy.

**People: You commission us to feed as we have been fed, to forgive as we have been forgiven, and to love as we have been loved. Thank you for your nourishment here and throughout our lives. Amen.**

### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

‘Light the Bright Seraphim’

Handel

### **BENEDICTION**

May God’s abiding love and hope give us new life. May God’s unmerited grace and mercy keep us hope-filled. And may God’s restorative justice bring to us all, perfect peace. For Christ is risen! Praise God!

**People: HALLELUJAH!!!**

### **POSTLUDE**

#### **Participating in Today’s Worship Service:**

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Ann-Marie Illsley, Associate Pastor

Murray Kidd, Music Director

Sylvia Berry, Accompanist

Alisa Cassola, Soloist

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter



<sup>1</sup>Rev. Dr. Harvey-Guillaume, Sheila. “Easter Day - April 4.” *United Church of Christ*, 11 Mar. 2021, [www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-day-april-4/](http://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-day-april-4/).

<sup>2</sup>Dyer, Sonya. *Prayer for Easter Morning*, 26 Feb. 2012, [re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/prayer-for-easter-morning.html](http://re-worship.blogspot.com/2012/02/prayer-for-easter-morning.html).

*Descant*

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, A - le - lu - ia!

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,  
2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,  
3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done,  
4. Soar we now where Christ has led,

Fol - low - ing our Head, A - le - lu - ia!

All cre - a - tion, join to say,  
Where, O death, is now your sting?  
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won,  
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,

A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia! A - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,  
Je - sus died, our souls to save,  
Death in vain for - bids him rise,  
Made like him, like him we rise,

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.  
MUSIC: *Lyn Davidica*, 1708; desc. Charles H. Webb

EASTER HYMN  
77.77 w. alleluias

Desc. © 1965 Shawnee Press, Inc.

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, A - le - lu - ia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth re - ply,  
Where your vic - to - ry, O grave?  
Christ has op - ened par - a - dise.  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,

# Now the Green Blade Rises

230

*Unison*

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
 2. In the grave they laid the love by hatred slain,  
 3. Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,  
 4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
 think - ing that Je - sus would not wake a - gain,  
 who that for three days in the grave had lain;  
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
 raised from the dead, the ris - en Christ is seen;  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

Love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

WORDS: John M. C. Crum, 1928  
 MUSIC: French carol

Words © 1928 Oxford University Press

NOËL NOUVELET  
 11 10.10 11

♩-72-80