



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



April 16, 2023

9:55 am

AN ASTERISK IN THE BULLETIN INDICATES THAT ALL FOR WHOM IT IS COMFORTABLE SHOULD RISE FOR THAT PART OF THE SERVICE

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

'Thine is the Glory'

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue Koza

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

'Morning Has Broken'

No. 53

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: Thomas said, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe." We are in a liminal space, confused between brokenness and new opportunities.

ALL: Dear God, fill us with the power of Resurrection to embrace newness.

Leader: We are hiding like the disciples behind closed doors with fear and doubts, waiting for your appearance.

ALL: Come into our midst now, penetrate into our closed hearts bringing your peace.

Leader: Refresh us, O God, and empower us.

ALL: As we worship today, blow into us your gentle spirit.

OPENING PRAYER¹

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

Dani Kardisco

***HYMN**

'This Is a Day of New Beginnings'

No. 518

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹ (in unison)

Loving God, we confess that many times, we are more doubters than believers. We doubt your love for us when we see the oppression, sickness, death, violence against nature, and hatred against each other. Help us to recognize these outcomes of our selfishness, greed, and the evil spirit of dominance.

Through the death and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, help us to understand your sacrificial love for us so that we will love one another. Help us to learn from the courage of Jesus to take up the cross to stand against oppression. Enlighten us as we celebrate resurrection to rise again and again to annihilate injustice and to create peace in this world. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE¹

SONG OF PREPARATION

'Day by Day'

No. 599

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-25

It was still the first day of the week. That evening, while the disciples were behind closed doors because they were afraid of the Jewish authorities, Jesus came and stood among them. He said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven; if you don't forgive them, they aren't forgiven."

Thomas, the one called Didymus, one of the Twelve, wasn't with the disciples when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We've seen the Lord!"

But he replied, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands, put my finger in the wounds left by the nails, and put my hand into his side, I won't believe."

SERMON

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco

IMPROVISED MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Anton Faynberg

During this time, we invite you to take a moment for quiet reflection either in your pew, or by coming forward to light a candle to give light to the prayers on your heart that have no words to be expressed.

Come and Light a Candle...



PASTORAL PRAYER¹

Leader: Why is it, O God, that we doubt your power when we see unexpected deaths? Why is it we doubt our abilities when uncertainty strikes us? Why is it, O God, we ask many questions to which we find no answers. God of resurrection...

ALL: Receive our prayers and help us to befriend our fear and doubts.

Leader: We pray for those who live in perpetual fear due to the experience of tragic incidents in their lives. We remember those who live with depression, feeling alone and walking through the darkest valley. Help us to believe the resurrected Lord is with us, traveling through these difficult periods and helping us to process all our fears and doubts. God of resurrection...

ALL: Receive our prayers and help us to befriend our fears and doubts.

Leader: We pray for those who are afraid to open their doors due to the fear of war, living as undocumented refugees, those unable to pay their bills, fear of embarrassment, and many who feel insecure due to threats and violence surrounding them. Open our eyes to see the presence of the resurrected Christ in the midst of this chaos, sharing our pain. God of resurrection...

ALL: Receive our prayers and help us to befriend our fears and doubts.

Leader: We pray for those who are alienated and insulted because of their physical and emotional disabilities, gender and sexual orientation, economic status, race, and made to believe that they are inferior to others. Help us to see that the resurrected Christ is a disabled Christ with wounds in his hand and body giving us the courage to embrace our bodies and beings and celebrate it. God of resurrection...

ALL Receive our prayers and help us to befriend our fears and doubts.

Leader: We remember all those loved ones who have died and rested in peace in our presence. We celebrate everything that they have taught us about life: to face challenges boldly, learn from failures, be ardent in faith, question the unknown, accept the mysteries, love the present, and in creating paths for us and future generations. God of resurrection...

ALL: Resurrect in us the hope of life as Jesus did for his disciples and the many who lived in this world taught us. So that we may continue to proclaim your peace and new life.

Leader: O God, we lift these prayers along with the prayer that are on our hearts with no words to be expressed as we say together the prayer that Jesus taught us saying...

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*in unison*)

Our Creator (Father) who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kin-dom 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 Kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM

'O Sons and Daughters'

Plain Chant

CALL FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

'Now the Green Blade Rises'

French Carol

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

'Majesty'

**ALL SING: Majesty, worship His majesty. Unto Jesus be all glory, honor, and praise.
Majesty, kingdom authority flows from His throne unto His own; His anthem raise.
So exalt, lift up on high the name of Jesus.
Magnify, come glorify Christ Jesus, the King.
Majesty, worship His majesty, Jesus who died, now glorified, King of all kings.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***HYMN**

'Crown Him With Many Crowns'

No. 234

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

Participating in Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor
Anton Faynberg, Organist/Pianist
Alisa Cassola, Soloist
David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter
Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

Wesley, Rev. Vinod. "Easter 2a - April 16." *United Church of Christ*, 3 Apr. 2023,
<https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-2a-april-16/>.



Today's Altar Flowers are in
loving memory of Sally Cutting,
given by Bob Cutting and
Sharron MacMullen

Morning Has Broken

C Am Dm G Dm G C

1. Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing, black-bird has
 2. Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from heav - en, like the first
 3. Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing born of the

Em Am Em F G C Am F C

spo - ken like the first bird. Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the
 dew - fall on the first grass. Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet
 one light E - den saw play! Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery

Am G C G Am Dm G7 C

morn - ing! Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word!
 gar - den, sprung in com - plete - ness where God's feet pass.
 morn - ing, God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, 1931
 MUSIC: Gaelic melody; arr. Dale Grotenhuis, 1985

BUNESSAN
 55.54D

Words © 1957 Eleanor Farjeon, used by permission of Harold Ober Associates;
 arr. © 1987 CRC Publications

This Is a Day of New Beginnings 518

Unison

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
 4. In faith we gath - er round the ta - ble

time to re - mem - ber and move on,
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,
 step from the past and leave be - hind
 to taste and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,
 can make for us a world of dif - ference,
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978, rev. 1987
 MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984

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BEGINNINGS
 98.98

♩=50-54

Day by Day

Day by day, day by day,

O, dear Lord, three things I pray:

to see thee more clear - ly, love thee more dear - ly,

fol-low thee more near - ly, day by day.

day by day, by day, by day, by day.

ritard.

* Small notes only on repeat

WORDS: Attr. Richard of Chichester (13th century), alt.
MUSIC: Stephen Schwartz, 1971

GODSPELL
Irr.

Music © 1971 Range Road Music Inc., Quartet Music, Inc., and New Cadenza Music Corp.

Crown Him with Many Crowns 234

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.
 2. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
 3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,

Hark! how the heav - en - ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save;
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
 those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 his glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high,
 His reign shall know no end, and round his pierc - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match - less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra - grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Matthew Bridges, 1851, and Godfrey Thring, 1874
 MUSIC: George J. Elvey, 1868

DIADEMATA
 SMD

