



CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, BROCKTON, MA



April 7, 2024

10:00 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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Moriah Park

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

'Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness'

No. 253

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

Leader: As we join in worship this day, we might feel like the disciples, overwhelmed by grief. After all, the state of the world is so uncertain now.

Many: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, "Peace be with you."

Leader: We might feel like Thomas, looking for physical signs that the unbelievable could be true. After all, nothing like this has ever happened before.

Many: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, "Here are the marks on my body."

Leader: Can we really believe that Jesus is here again?

Many: Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on us. Christ's peace is with us. We don't need to be afraid.

Leader: Our resurrected Christ calls us to worship, and we receive the peace of Christ.

Many: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER¹

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE¹**

ALL: God, we confess that we too might be like Thomas. As we are overwhelmed by the world's grief, it's natural for us to be cynical. It's hard to believe that hope is possible when hope is hard to find. But when we stop believing in hope, we also stop believing liberation can be possible. When we stop working to tear down injustice and discrimination, we stop others from experiencing the peace we have found in you. Forgive our unbelief, calm our fears, and help us be instruments of your peace. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE¹**

Leader: Beloved, Jesus comes to us with grace, telling us we can believe. Because we believe, we can also be empowered to do the work of justice. Yes, the world is heavy. No, the work will never be done. But because we know Christ's peace, we can share it with others.

People: We believe in the grace and peace of Christ. We are forgiven. Alleluia!

***SUNG RESPONSE**

'Breathe on Me, Breath of God' (vs. 1&2)

No. 254

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

***HYMN OF PREPARATION**

'Spirit of the Living God'

No. 259

SCRIPTURE

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

¹⁹ On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

²¹ Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." ²² And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

²⁴ Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "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."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

²⁸ Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

²⁹ Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

³⁰ Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. ³¹ But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Alex Green

During this time, we invite you to embrace the transition from hearing the word to gathering ourselves in prayer by taking a moment for quiet reflection either in your pew, or by coming forward to light a candle to give light to the prayer(s) on your heart that have no words to be expressed.

Come and Light a Candle...



PASTORAL PRAYER

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.

CALL FOR OFFERINGS¹

OFFERTORY

‘En prière’

Fauré

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

‘Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service’ (vs 4)

No. 461

PRAYER OF DEDICATION¹



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***At Christ Congregational Church we serve communion at an open table, which means ALL are welcome to participate. This means a few things:**

1. None of the cups for communion contain wine.
2. People of all ages are welcome to receive communion.
3. People of all faiths are welcome to receive communion.
4. People of all gender identities and sexual orientations are welcome to receive communion.
5. The communion table belongs to God, not to this church, and it is God who invites you to eat and be nourished.

INVITATION

PRAYER OF PRAISE

Leader: God be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them to God.

Leader: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

ALL: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Let us pray. Holy God, we praise and bless you for creation and the gift of life, and for your abiding love which brings us close to you - the source of all blessing.

With the faithful in every place and time, we praise with joy your holy name...

ALL: Holy holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.

REMEMBERING THE STORY & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things.

ALL: In the strength Christ gives us, we offer ourselves to you, eternal God, and give thanks that you have called us to serve you. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE POURING OF THE CUP

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing we participate in the new life Christ gives.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS

Today's communion will be served with members of the congregation coming forward to receive the elements at the table. We invite you to proceed down the center aisle when dismissed by a Deacon, receive the bread and consume it, then receive a cup and consume it, and leave your cup with the Deacon holding a tray as you return to your seat by the side aisles. Those who may have trouble coming forward to receive communion can let a member of our Deacons team know and we will be happy to bring the elements to you in your seat.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(together)*

ALL: We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

HYMN

'Go, My Children, with My Blessing'

No. 431

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

'Walk on Tears'

Alex Green

Participating In Today's Worship Service:

Rev. Jeffrey Kardisco, Senior Pastor

Alex Green, Music Director

Susannah Thornton, Soloist

Dani Kardisco, Christian Education Director

David Wilcox, ASL Interpreter

¹Nault, Rev. Jacob. "Easter 2b – April 7." *United Church of Christ*, United Church of Christ, 21 Mar. 2024, www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter-2b-april-7/.

253 Spirit, Come, Dispel Our Sadness

Unison Eb Ab Eb Ab Bb Eb Ab

1. Spir - it, come, dis - pel our sad - ness; pierce the clouds of
 2. Let your fire heal our dis - sen - sions, let your flame re -
 3. Au - thor of the new cre - a - tion, come, a - noint us

Eb Bb Eb Cm Ab Eb Ab Bb

na - ture's night; come, O Source of joy and glad - ness,
 fine our goals, let your peace re - solve our ten - sions,
 with your power. Make our hearts your hab - i - ta - tion;

Eb Ab Eb Bb Eb Eb

breathe your life and spread your light. From the height that
 send your dove to soothe our souls. Let your wind flow
 with your grace our spir - its shower. Hear, O hear our

Ab Eb Bb Eb Cm Gm Ab Bb

knows no mea - sure, as a gra - cious shower de - scend,
 fresh with - in us, sweep - ing clean all hate and strife
 sup - pli - ca - tion, bless - ed Spir - it, God of peace!

WORDS: St. 1, 3, Paul Gerhardt, 1648; tr. John Christian Jacobi, c. 1725, alt.;
 st. 2, Jane Marshall, 1975
 MUSIC: Joshua Leavitt's *Christian Lyric*, 1830; harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

PLEADING SAVIOR
 87.87D
 ♩=52-56

St. 2 © 1975 Hinshaw Music, Inc.; harm. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc.

Eb Ab Eb Ab Bb Eb Ab Fm Eb Bb Eb

bring - ing down the rich - est trea - sure we can wish, or God can send.
 from our hearts; O come and win us for a more a - bun - dant life.
 Rest up - on this con - gre - ga - tion with the full - ness of your grace.

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
 2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
 4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.
 un - til with thee I will one will to do and to en - dure.
 un - til this earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 but live with thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: Edwin Hatch, 1878, alt.
 MUSIC: Robert Jackson, 1888

TRENTHAM
 SM

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

The first system of music consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in 4/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me." The piano accompaniment is in the bass clef, providing a harmonic foundation with chords and moving bass lines.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

The second system of music continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me." The musical notation follows the same structure as the first system.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

The third system of music features a vocal line with a treble clef and a piano accompaniment with a bass clef. The lyrics are: "Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me." The piano accompaniment uses a more sustained, chordal texture.

Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me.

The fourth system of music concludes the piece with a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a-fresh on me." The system ends with a double bar line.

WORDS and MUSIC: Daniel Iverson, 1926

LIVING GOD
75.75.875

461 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

1. Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of
 2. Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry
 3. As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-
 4. Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear

hu-man need, who up-on the cross, for-sak-en,
 cry for bread; still the cap-tives long for free-dom;
 veal-ing light in its height and depth and great-ness
 name we go to the child, the youth, the a-ged,

of-fered mer-cy's per-fect deed: we, your ser-vants, bring the
 still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep com-
 dawns up-on our quick-ened sight, mak-ing known the needs and
 love in liv-ing deeds to show; hope and health, good will and

wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart, con-se-crat-ing
 pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your
 bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear, stir-ring us to
 com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give, that your ser-vants,

WORDS: Albert F. Bayly, 1961, alt.
 MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson, 1978

BEACH SPRING
 87.87D

Words © 1961 Oxford University Press, Inc.; harm. © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, reprinted by
 permission of Augsburg Fortress

$\text{♩} = 64-70$

to your pur-pose ev-ery gift that you im-part.
 Spir-it kin-dles still to save and make us whole.
 tire-less striv-ing your a-bun-dant life to share.
 Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know, and live.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing 431

1. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone;
 2. Go, my chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure,
 3. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me;

wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own;
 here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure;
 grow in love and love by serv-ing, joy - ful and free.

in my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for
 here you heard my Son's dear sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er-filled you, here his ten - der com - fort

ev - er, go, my chil-dren, with my bless-ing you are my own.
 glo - ry, go, my chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure,
 stilled you; go, my chil-dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free.

WORDS: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1983
 MUSIC: Traditional Welsh melody; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

AR HYD Y NOS
 84.84.888.4