

First Congregational United Church of Christ

April 17, 2022



Photo by eberhard grossgasteiger

Easter Sunday

Ministers: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: Rev. Enno K. Limvere

Musician: Linda Noble

Choir Director: Ann Russ

Peace Candle Lighter: Sandy Stover

Liturgist: Carol Winter

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

Words to Enter Worship (Based on Isaiah 65:17-25)

People who enjoy snow: God declares, "I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. Be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating."

People who are planting now: "I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people, no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there in it an infant that lives but a few days."

People who wait until June: "Or an old person who does not live a lifetime. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit them; they shall not plant and another eat."

People who go to the farmer's market: "Before they call, I will answer, while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox. They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

Words of Lament

Merciful God, the world is filled with death. Our nations are corrupt. Earth is slowly dying because of pollution and greed. It seems that every step forward humanity takes forward, it is followed by two steps back. We are in need of hope that there is a future. We are in need of courage to make it so. Awaken, O God, and awaken us to the love that never ends, to the story and the power of resurrection, and to the Spirit that is creating still to make all things new. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Words of Blessing (based on Psalm 118)

One: The LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation. I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the LORD.

Many: Open to me the gate of the LORD, God's people shall enter through it. I

All: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my recovery.

One: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

Many: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

All: This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace

Peace Poem and Introduction

It is a custom in our congregation to light our Peace Candle during worship, as a witness to the Prince of Peace and our communal intention to be peace-makers as a Just Peace Church.

Instructions for living a life:

By Mary Oliver

*Pay attention.
Be astonished.
Tell about it.*

Passing of Peace

Scripture Readings

1st Scripture Luke 24:1-12

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in, they did not find the body. ^[a] ⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women ^[b] were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men ^[c] said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ^[d] ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Children's Message: He is not here

Message: An idle tale

Musical Reflections

Joys and Concerns, Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, Mother God, 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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

Our Time of Giving

News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community

Sending Music

Benediction

