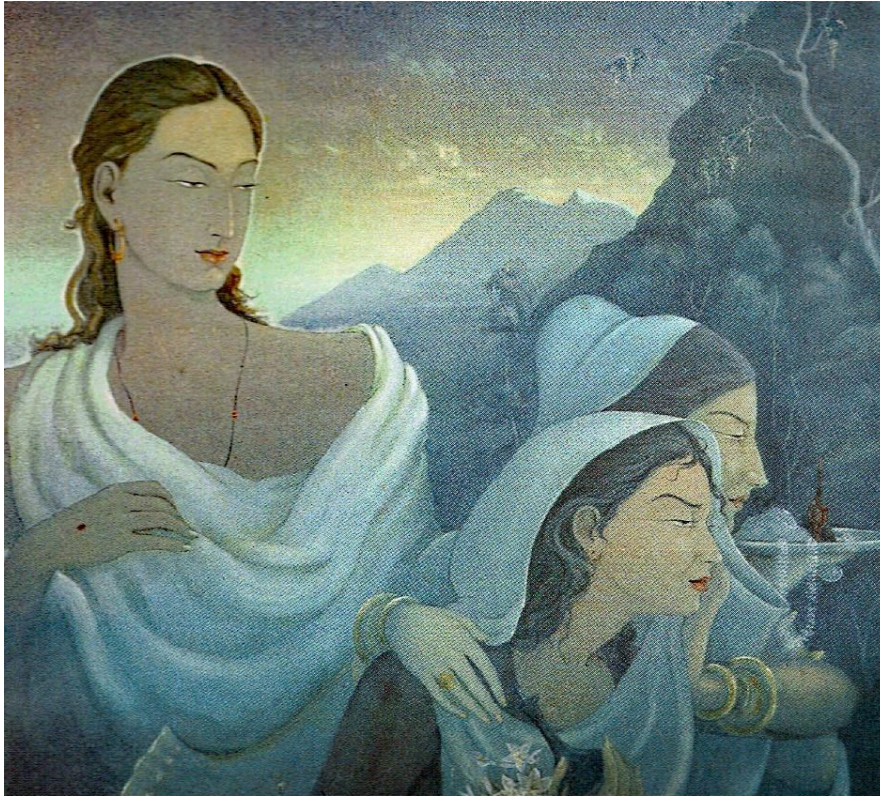


# First Congregational United Church of Christ

April 9, 2023



Painting by Frank Wesley

## 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: Jenny Delfs

Liturgist: Bruce Tyler

Gathering Music

Words of Welcome

Prelude

## **Words to Enter Worship (Based on Psalm 118)**

***People who believe in love: O give thanks to the LORD, for they is good, their steadfast love endures forever. Let Israel say, "Their steadfast love endures forever."***

***People who believe in resurrection: The LORD is our strength and might, God has become our restoration.***

***People who believe in Christ: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."***

***People who believe in God: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.***

## **Opening Hymn #233 Christ the Lord is Risen Today**

- 1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Mortal tongues and angles say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!
- 2 Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!
- 2 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!  
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!
- 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Chris, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

## **Words of Lament**

**Resurrecting God, in our world the forces of discord are great. People who are different are being forced back out of the public eye; stories of slavery, genocide, and non-traditional families are being banned; and power and wealth are replacing love and compassion as the keys to your kingdom. We need resurrection, Almighty God, of justice, of love, and of your church. We need to not be afraid, so we may go and**

**tell the story of Jesus, the Beatitudes, and how you are loved! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **Time of Silence**

### **Words of Poetry & Lighting the Candle of Peace**

**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.**

*Women Walking... By Rev. Enno K. Limvere*

*They gathered the cloth, spices and oils,  
their hearts broke, and their blood boiled,  
setting off before the sun would rise,  
hoping to escape the soldiers' eyes.*

*The world was still, and a soft wind blew,  
it was warm, over the morning dew,  
conversation was a few scattered words,  
they walked in silence by the waking birds.*

*They arrived at the tomb, ready to care,  
for the one they loved, whose body's bare,  
upon the cold rock, in a grave so bleak,  
the one so strong, seemed now so meek.*

*"Do not be afraid" said the celestial being,  
The one who died, arises to you freeing  
all the world from death, and evil laid,  
Then he appeared, and said, "Go and tell! Do not be afraid!"*

## **Passing of the Peace**

### **Scripture Readings**

**1<sup>st</sup> Scripture** Colossians 3:1-4 (The Message)

**3** <sup>1-2</sup> So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.*

<sup>3-4</sup> Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your *real life—even though invisible to*

*spectators—is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture** Matthew 28:1-10 (New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition)

**28** After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

**Children’s Message** Greetings!

**Choir Anthem** “Lord of the Dance”

**Message** “Do not be afraid!”

**Musical Reflections**

**Communion Hymn #332** As We Gather at Your Table

- 1 As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's victory known.
  
- 2 Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;

may we still behold your image  
In the world you died to save.

- 3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us,  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.

## **Communion**

### **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**

## **News of God at Work in our Congregation & Community**

## **Our Time of Giving**

## **Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;*

*Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Alleluia, alleluia*

*Praise God for all that love has done;*

*Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.*

*Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.*

## **Closing Hymn #243 Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven**

- 1 Alleluia, alleluia!  
Hearts to heaven and voices raise.  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
sing to God a hymn of praise.  
Jesus on the cross as Savior  
for the world's salvation bled,  
But the crucified Redeemer,  
now is risen from the dead.

- 2 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 God's liberating deed  
Now the Christ with us abiding  
To eternal life shall lead
- 3 Christ is risen, we are risen;  
Rain and dew, and gleams of glory  
From the brightness of your face;  
That we, with our hearts in heaven.  
Here on earth may fruitful be,  
And by angel hands be gathered,  
And be yours eternally.
- 4 Alleluia, alleluia!  
Glory be to God of joy;  
Alleluia! to the Savior,  
who came death's bonds to destroy;  
Alleluia! to the Spirit,  
fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia, Alleluia!  
to the triune Majesty.

## **Benediction**

## **Sending Music**