



# First Congregational United Church of Christ March 31, 2024

## Sunday of Easter

Partners in Ministry: All who are a part of this church

Pastor: **Rev. Enno K. Limvere**

Musician: **Linda Noble**

Peace Candle Lighter: **Jenny Delfs** Liturgist: **Maurice Zimmer**

Greeter: **Barbara Chiles** Usher: **Bruce Tyler**

Coffee- Hour Host: **Steve Aldrich**

---

## Gathering Music

## Words of Welcome

## Prelude

**Canticle for Easter** #700 Psalm 118

**Opening Hymn** # 233 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today([CLICK HERE](#))

## Words of Thanksgiving

**God of Creation, we thank and praise you for the world in which we live. We give thanks that you are present in our world and in our breathing. You are the incarnational God who comes to us in Jesus and through beauty of the earth. You are with us in all the seasons of your world and all the seasons of our lives. Grant us rebirth and resurrection of all good things, in this life and the next. 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 peacemakers 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

Hymn #238 Now the Green Blade Rises

### Scripture Readings

**1st Scripture** Mark 16:1-8 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Bible)

16:1 When the Sabbath was over, Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought perfumed oils so that they could anoint Jesus. 2 Very early, just after sunrise on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb.

3 They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" 4 When they looked, they found that the huge stone had been rolled back.

5 On entering the tomb, they saw a young person sitting at the right, dressed in a white robe. They were very frightened, 6 but the youth assured them: "Do not be amazed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, the One who was crucified. He has risen; he is not here. See the place where they laid him. 7 Now go and tell the disciples and Peter, 'Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee, where you will see him just as he told you.'"

8 they made their way out and fled from the tomb bewildered and trembling; but they said nothing to anyone, because they were so afraid.

---

---

**Children's Message** Resurrection

**Choir** Joy Comes Back

**Message** For they were afraid...

**Musical Reflections**

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

Our Father, Mother God, you are in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your 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 yours 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** NCH #785

*We give you but you own,*

*What-e'er the gift may be,*

*All that we have is yours a-lone*

*,  
We give it grateful-ly.*

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

**Benediction**

**Sending Music**



# Opening Hymn #233 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1.Christ the Lord is risen today Alleluia!  
Mortal Tongues and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, glad heavens , and earth replay: Alleluia!

2.Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting?  
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

3.Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ we rise, Alleluia!  
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

4.Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies , Alleluia!

## **RETURN TO BULLETIN**

Easter Hymn 7.7.7.7. with alleluias  
Arr. from Davidica, LONDON, 1708  
Word Alterations Copyright 1992 the Pilgrim Press.



# Hymn # 238 Now the Green Blade Reses

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;  
Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the death has been:  
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

2. In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,  
Thinking that their Love would never wake again,  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:  
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

3. Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,  
Jesus, who for three days in the grave had lain,  
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:  
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

**RETURN TO BULLETIN**

NOEL NOUVELET 11.10.10.11  
French noel, 15th century  
Harm. Martin F. Shaw, 1928  
Words and harmonization  
Copyright 1928, Oxford University Press.



## Closing Hymn #243 Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts of 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 blend;  
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; shed upon us heavenly grace,  
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 to the God of joy!  
Alleluia to the Savior who came deaths bonds to destroy;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.

Tune: WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D

Tochter Sion, Cologne, 1741

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

Word alterations Copyright 1993 The Pilgrim Press.

**RETURN TO BULLETIN**

