



# First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**“Rolling Back the Stone”**  
**April 12, 2020**  
**Easter Sunday**  
**10:30 a.m. on Facebook Live**

*Following Jesus, our mission is to serve God  
by building an inclusive community where uplifting worship  
and relevant messages deepen spirituality  
and inspire acts of justice, service, and compassion.*

***Our Church's Mission Statement***

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage, Pastor  
Jeannette Len, Office Administrator  
Sue Sackett, Custodian  
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus  
Nicole Finney, Child Care

Judy Nielsen, Organist  
Darlene Banks, Bell Choir Director  
Brandon Frost, Choir Director  
Chuck Byam, Choir Accompanist

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## Welcome to First Congregational United Church of Christ!

*As you look over the bulletin, please notice that you are invited to read aloud **bold** text,  
and an asterisk (\*) indicates to please stand, as you are able.*

*Our hymns are not announced, but are printed in the bulletin,  
so feel free to locate them ahead of time. Helpful worship notes and information on the church  
can be found in the brochure by the hymnals.  
Guests and visitors – a special welcome!*

### GREETING

One: Christ is Risen!

**Many: Christ is risen, indeed!**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BELLS/CHIMES

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: They said that he was dead and they put him in a tomb.

**Many: But we have rolled back the stone, and the tomb is empty!**

One: They said that he was gone and that his words and messages were meaningless.

**Many: But he appeared to Mary, he appeared to his disciples, and he is with us now!**

One: They said that their power—political power, violence, anger—had defeated him.

**Many: But he stood back up and is still standing today!**

One: They said that death had conquered him, that it would conquer us all.

**Many: But there is nothing, neither life nor death, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature or virus, that shall be able to conquer us, for Christ has conquered all!**

One: He is Risen!

**Many: Hallelujah! Amen!**

### \*PASSING OF THE PEACE

### FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

### SUNG BLESSING #325

“Child of Blessing”

**Child of joy, our dearest treasure,  
God’s you are, from God you came.  
Grow to laugh and sing and worship,  
Live as one who bears Christ’s name.**

### SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:1-6 NRSV (pg. 719)

### GOSPEL READING

John 20:1-18 NRSV (pg. 988)

One: Words from the past, made new for us today.

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

**Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!**  
**Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!**  
**Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!**  
**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

SERMON

“Rolling Back the Stone”  
Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

*(Why Easter Parade? Let me tell you why. – Chuck Byam)*

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Easter Parade”

\*COLLECT PRAYER

One: Please join me in prayer.

**Many: Beloved Jesus who defeated evil and death, we turn to you now in our time of darkness and fear. Let the hope of your story, the light of your grace, and the love that is you fill our hearts that we may go back into the world refreshed and renewed. Amen.**

HYMN #233

*(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)*

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

*(see Worship Notes on page 2 of the welcome brochure)*

ANTHEM

“You Raise Me Up, with Be Still, My Soul”  
*(Chuck Byam on piano, Brand Frost singing)*

OFFERING

*(Please give what you can when you can, by mail or by prayers.  
If you have question please reach out to Lynn Hart, hartacre3@aol.com)*

\*DOXOLOGY/SONG OF PRAISE

OLD 100TH

\*DEDICATION PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

**Many: Beloved God, please take these gifts, sent from near and far, and help us use them to serve you. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN #240

*(please feel free to sing loud and strong from your place at home)*

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

\*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I’ll be Ever Thankful” (sung twice)

**In the Lord I’ll be ever thankful  
In the Lord, I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.**

BELLS/CHIMES

POSTLUDE

“Happy Trails.....Until We Meet Again!”

**Worship Resources for this Sunday:**

- Unless otherwise listed all hymns and responses come from the New Century Hymnal

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**SUNDAY ROSTER**

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage - Preacher

Brandon Frost - Choir Director

Chuck Byam - Choir Accompanist

Tony Arient - Liturgist

**Jeremiah 31:1-6****New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

**31** At that time, says the LORD, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. <sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, <sup>3</sup> the LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore, I have continued my faithfulness to you. <sup>4</sup> Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again, you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. <sup>5</sup> Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. <sup>6</sup> For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the LORD our God."

**John 20:1-18****New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

**20** Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes.

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

## Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

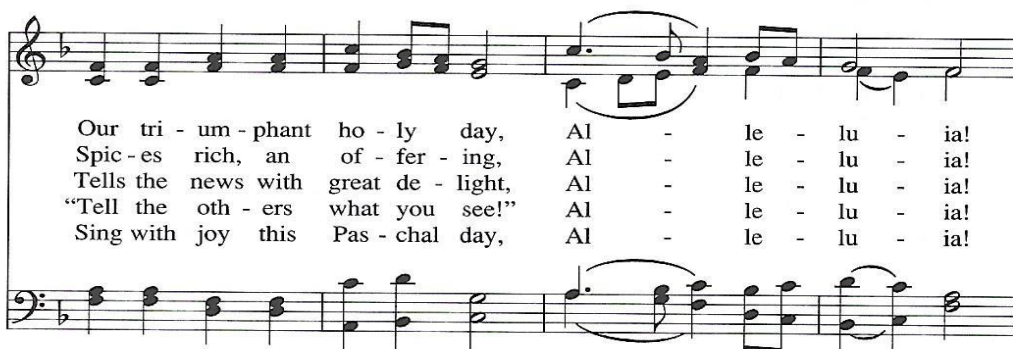
Matt. 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-10

St. 1 transl., Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

St. 2-5 transl., The New Century Hymnal, 1994



1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 To the tomb the wom - en bring, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 There the an - gel clothed in white, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 "Has - ten now to Gal - i - lee," Al - le - lu - ia!  
 5 Christ ap - pears in full ar - ray, Al - le - lu - ia!




Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Spic - es rich, an of - fer - ing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Tells the news with great de - light, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 "Tell the oth - ers what you see!" Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Sing with joy this Pas - chal day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ask - ing where might Je - sus be, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 This the news the an - gel gives, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 With ex - cite - ment trem - bling, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ now from the dead is raised, Al - le - lu - ia!

*Unison*



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Sav - ior come to set us free, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 That the Sov - ereign glo - rious lives, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Off they run, good news to bring, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ho - ly Trin - i - ty be praised, Al - le - lu - ia!