



First Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

“Christ Is Risen!”

Easter

April 4, 2021

10:30 a.m. Facebook Live Service

*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
Angela Spialek, Office Administrator
Nicole Finney, Child Care
Sue Sackett, Custodian
Rev. John Baumgartner, Pastor Emeritus

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.

MOMENT FOR CENTERING

GREETING

One: Christ is Risen!

Many: He is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!

INTRODUCTIONS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

BELLS/CHIMES

INTROIT

“Jubilate Deo”

(Judy Nielsen)

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ is Risen!

Many: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Hope is alive!

Many: Hope is alive, indeed!

One: God’s love is eternal!

Many: Hallelujah! Let us give thanks for what God has done.

OPENING HYMN #233

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

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

GATHERING PRAYER

One: God of grace and power, we come rejoicing in Christ’s empty tomb. We come trusting in the good news that tells us Christ is with us. For the Risen Christ is living proof that You care about our lives, O God. The Risen Christ offers to us glimpses of hope, even in our tears. As the tomb is not quiet. It speaks. It proclaims! It is a promise of eternal life!

Many: Thank you, gracious and almighty God. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ANTHEM

“Coronation”

(Brandon Frost & Chuck Byam)

FRESH PERSPECTIVES

Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 25:6-9 NRSV (pg. 639)

GOSPEL LESSON

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

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

Many: Thanks be to God.

SUNG RESPONSE #17

“To You O God, All Creatures Sing”

**Sing your praises, Alleluia
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

HOMILY

“Christ is Risen!”
(Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage)

MUSICAL REFLECTION

“Jesus is Lord”
(Judy Nielsen)

WELCOMING OUR NEW MEMBER

CHUCK BYAM

INTRODUCTION

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER

Pastor: Do you seek to live with an open heart, to celebrate God’s presence, to love and serve others and to seek justice in our world?

Chuck: I do!

Pastor: Are you ready to commit yourself to this congregation, to its ministry, its fellowship, and its mission?

Chuck: I am ready!

Pastor: Will you join those who have come before you and those who will come after you in the journey of faith, sharing our path and passions?

Chuck: With the grace of God, I will!

Pastor: Rich, as Chuck’s sponsor, will you commit to supporting Chuck as he seeks to live out his calling to serve God, and will you help him to join fully into the life of our church community?

Rich: With the grace of God, I will!

Pastor: Members and Friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ, will you receive Chuck Byam into your hearts and lives? Will you be his partners in the Gospel? Will you shoulder his burdens, and will you walk with him into God’s future?

Many: **With God as our witness, we will. Thanks be to God for the covenant that binds us together in the Body of Christ!**

Pastor: Chuck Byam, you are joyfully received as a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ!

PRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP

MOMENT OF THANKSGIVING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Since our services are posted publicly on Facebook, we ask that you either leave people unnamed in your prayer requests [ex: prayers for a friend who is in his last stages of life] or that you obtain permission from anyone you wish to name in prayer.)

OFFERING MOMENT

*Please give what you can by mail or through prayers.
If you have any questions, please reach out to Lynn Hart hartacre3@aol.com*

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

One: Christ is risen!

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

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

CALL TO CONFESSION:

One: Please join me in prayer.

Many: **God of resurrection grace, we know that, in our pain, despair and fear, we are prone to follow the path of hopelessness. This can cause us to be frozen in inaction, to isolate ourselves, or to lash out at others. Help us to, instead, be like the Risen Christ, and rise up, as a brave and holy people, living beyond our pain, despair, and fear by remaining hopeful in your steadfast love. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

One: God hears our prayers of grace and mercy, and raises our countenance from despair, into resurrection joy! God meets us in our human suffering, comforts us in our tears, and offers to us new hope.

Many: **Hallelujah! Thanks be to God.**

SANCTUS

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Glory be to you, O Lord.
Blessed is the one who comes,
Who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION BLESSING AND LORD'S PRAYER

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

One: Let us pray.

**Many: O Christ, we thank you for this feast of life. Fed by your love,
and strengthened by your life; we humbly accept your call to go
into this world to live with hope, and to share your joy. You commission
us to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, and love
as we have been loved. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN #17

“To You, O God, All Creatures Sing”

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

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

“In the Lord I'll be Ever Thankful” (sung once)

**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.**

POSTLUDE

“Easter Parade - adaptation”

(Chuck Byam)

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- **To You, O God, All Creatures Sing**
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SUNDAY ROSTER

Liturgist – Troy Arient

Fresh Perspective – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Homily – Rev. Dr. Laura Miller-Purrenhage

Virtual Coordinator – Chad Frost

Music Coordinator – Brandon Frost

Pianist – Chuck Byam

Organist – Judy Nielsen

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!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing

4 To you, God, day af-ter day, earth in

Unison

1 To you, O God, all crea-tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery -
 2 Your wind that blows the tem-pest by, your clouds that sail a - cross the
 3 Your flow-ing wa - ters, crys - tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to
 4 To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery

ev-ery way sings your prais - es, al-le - lu - ia! As fruit, fra - grant

(Harmony) *(Unison)*

thing sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your burn-ing sun with gold-en
 sky sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your morn-ing ris - es with a
 hear, sing your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia! Your fire, . . . boun-ti - ful and
 way, sings your prais-es, al-le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra-grant

flower show forth glo - ry and power, sing - ing prais - es, al-le -

(Harmony)

beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais-es,
 song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais-es, al-le -
 bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais-es,
 flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais-es,

lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

(Unison)

lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

5 Now we who are of ten-der heart,
 for-giv-ing oth-ers, take our part,
 sing your prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!
 To you we lift our pain and care,
 re-ceive the bur-dens that we bear,
 sing-ing prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

6 In you, a kind and gen-tle death
 pre-pares to hush our fi-nal breath,
 sing-ing prais-es, al-le-lu-ia!
 Christ goes be-fore us to re-new
 the way that leads us home to you.
 Hear our prais-es, al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

Isaiah 25:6-9

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

John 20: 1-18

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. **2** 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." **3** Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. **4** The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, **7** and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. **8** Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; **9** for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. **10** Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; **12** 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. **13** 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." **14** When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. **15** 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." **16** Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). **17** 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.'" **18** 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.