



Pilgrim Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Easter Sunday
April 4, 2021

Image: “Lily” courtesy of Son-Mey Chiu.
inspired by the Hymn,
“In the Bulb, There is a Flower.”
In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!

Music streamed in today’s service

Lift High the Cross - arr. Larry Shackley
Christ the Lord Is Risen Today - NCH #233
Jesus Christ is Risen Today - Pilgrim Church Choir
Halle! Halle! - Max Evrard
Let us Talents and Tongues Employ - NCH#347
Come You Faithful - NCH#230
Prelude and Fugue in C Major - JS Bach

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*Today’s service will be
recorded.*

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Prelude

Lift High the Cross

arr. Larry Shackley

Greeting

Sarah Fuller and Rev. Reebee Girash

Christ is Risen!
Christ is risen, indeed!
Hope is alive!
Hope is alive, indeed!
God's love is eternal!
Hallelujah!
Christ is Risen!
Christ is risen, indeed!

Resurrection Hymn **Christ the Lord is Risen Today** - New Century Hymnal #233

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 reply: Alleluia!

2 Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
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 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!

233

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

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

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with some words underlined to indicate syllable placement. The score is divided into four systems, each corresponding to a verse of the hymn. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The lyrics for each system are as follows:

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!

Opening Prayer

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!
Thank you, gracious and almighty God. Amen.

20:1 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.

20:2 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.”

20:3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb.

20:4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

20:5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in.

20:6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there,

20:7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.

20:8 Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed;

20:9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

20:10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

20:11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb;

20:12 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.

20:13 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.”

20:14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

20:15 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.”

20:16 Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).

20:17 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.’”

20:18 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.

The Peace

Sarah Fuller and Rev. Reebee Girash

Leader: We come to this moment,
seeking Jesus in the familiar story of our faith.
Do not meet us only now, O Living Christ,
but surprise us with Resurrection power

People: **in all the places of our lives!**

Leader: We gather to sing and pray the story we know by heart,
a story of loving triumph and powerful grace.
This story of “Alleluia!” means great joy
for the One who lives and the ones who witness to this new life

People: **in all the places of our lives!**

Leader: We rejoice and thank you for the life of your son,
resurrected by the power of your loving, vibrant Spirit.
Let this same Spirit fill us,
that we may know the truth of resurrection

People: **in all the places of our lives!**

Leader: We join our hearts in song and sing
“Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!”
for Christ is living and so are we!

People: **Alleluia indeed!**

Anthem Jesus Christ is Risen Today Pilgrim Church Choir

Children’s Message Sarah Fuller

Hymn Halle! Halle! (We recommend Dancing!!)

Sermon Rev. Reebee Girash

Hymn Halle! Halle! (again, we recommend Dancing!!)

Prayers of the People

Mission Moment and Invitation to the Offering Doug Johnston

Offertory

Doxology (#515 Red)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

or

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

God of love,

We offer our gifts of time, spiritual gifts, and financial gifts
as a sign of our love for you and the world.

We ask a special blessing on these gifts
where you meet us in our suffering, and raise us up,
so that all may come to know of your abiding love.

O God, we give these gifts as you have given them unto us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Our service of communion is open to all who wish to participate. The sacrament is a gift from God; there are no requirements of age or church membership.

Hymn Let us Talents and Tongues Employ - New Century Hymnal #347

1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy;
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

[Refrain]

*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again;
pass the Word around: loaves abound!*

2 Christ is able to make us one.
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. *[Refrain]*

3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share.
God (Immanuel) everywhere! *[Refrain]*

HOLY COMMUNION

347

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,
3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - ery - where!

Refrain (first time p, second time f)
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Tune: LINSTEAD L.M. with refrain
Jamaican folk song
Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975

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Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen indeed!

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father (Creator), 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray:

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 **Come You Faithful** - New Century Hymnal #230

1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;
God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

2 Spring has dawned on earth today; Christ has burst from prison,
And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has risen;
All the winter of our sins, long and gray, is flying
From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

3 Now the joyous season, bright with the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts, comes its joys to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.

4 Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,
Nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal;
But today amid the twelve you still stand, bestowing
Peace and joy which evermore passes human knowing.

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

*Attrib. to John of Damascus (c. 696-c. 754 c.E.)
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1872; alt.*

Exod. 15; Luke 24

1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
2 Spring has dawned on earth to - day; Christ has burst from pris - on,
3 Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim por - tal,

God has brought all Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness;
And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has ris - en;
With the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joys to ren - der;
Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal;

Loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
All the win - ter of our sins, long and gray, is fly - ing
Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem who with true af - fec - tion
But to - day a - mid the twelve you still stand, be - stow - ing

Led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
Wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
Peace and joy which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

Here is the Easter call for us today:

We will seek the risen Jesus in every time and place.

We will connect across the miles, through technology and prayer.

We will not seek comfort only in the familiar, but dare to risk newness of thought and newness of action –

We know that Resurrection makes all things new!

We will not cling to all the old, expected notions about God, Jesus, Spirit,
but go forth and celebrate this truly new Good News:

Because Christ lives, new possibilities are ever before us!

We will speak for life and justice, hope and courage, in these trying days,

Because Christ lives, we live!

While the church buildings may be closed this Easter morning,

The Church is alive, just as Christ is alive!

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen Indeed!

Alelluia!

Alleluia! Amen!

Postlude Prelude and Fugue in C Major - JS Bach

Source Notes: The prayers today are from UCC Worship Ways, including prayers by Rev. Elizabeth Dilley and Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey Guillaume.



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