

**Pilgrim Congregational Church,  
United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Congregation  
April 7, 2024  
Second Sunday of Eastertide**

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- ❖ **PRELUDE:** Air on a G String
- ❖ **GATHERING HYMN:** Halle Halle
- ❖ **OPENING HYMN:** Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain
- ❖ **ANTHEM:** This is the Day by Natalie Sleeth
- ❖ **RESPONSE HYMN:** Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven\*
- ❖ **OFFERTORY:** Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna! — Brian Wren
- ❖ **COMMUNION HYMN:** I Come With Joy\*
- ❖ **CLOSING HYMN:** Now the Green Blade Rises\*
- ❖ **POSTLUDE:** Festive Postlude on 'Llanfair' — Mary McDonald

*\*From The New Century Hymnal, Copyright 1995  
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***Today's service will be recorded.***

PRELUDE

Air on a G String  
Em and Dan Dobre; Madeleine and Eleanor Clark

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Reebee Girash and Sarah Jane Fuller

PASSING OF THE PEACE

ONE: Peace be with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

ONE: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

\*GATHERING HYMN

Halle Halle

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: Christ is risen.

**ALL: Christ is risen, indeed.**

ONE: God is alive..

**ALL: New birth is given.**

ONE: Hope is alive...

**ALL: A new age is dawning.**

ONE: Joy is alive...

**ALL: Redemption is here.**

ONE: Love is alive

**ALL: Death cannot harm us.**

ONE: We are alive...

**ALL: New life is within us.**

ONE: The church is alive...

**ALL: God's spirit is within us.**

ONE: God of life, we worship you.

**ALL: God of creation, we praise you.**

ONE: God of revelation, we learn from you.

**ALL: God of resurrection, we come to celebrate you.**

# OPENING HYMN

# Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain — Red Hymnal 185

185

## Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

First Tune

*Attr. to John of Damascus, c.696-c.754*  
*Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866*

ST. KEVIN 7.6.7.6.D.  
*Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900*

1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - umph - ant glad - ness;  
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ hath burst his pris - on,  
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,  
4 Neith - er might the gates of death, Nor the tomb's dark por - tal,

God hath brought his Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness;  
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath ris - en;  
With the roy - al feast of feasts, Comes its joy to ren - der;  
Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal Hold thee 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 dark, is fly - ing  
Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem Who with true af - fec - tion  
But to - day a - midst the twelve Thou didst stand, be - stow - ing

Led them with un-moist-ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.  
From his light, to whom we give Laud and praise un - dy - ing.  
Wel-comes in un-wea-ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.  
That thy peace which ev - er - more Pass - eth hu - man know - ing. A - men.

1 Come, you faithful, raise the strain Of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought his 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 'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ hath burst his prison,  
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath risen;  
All the winter of our sins, Long and dark, is flying  
From his light, to whom we give Laud and praise undying.

3 Now the queen of seasons, bright With the day of splendor,  
With the royal feast of feasts, Comes its joy 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 thee as a mortal;  
But today amidst the twelve Thou didst stand, bestowing  
That thy peace whichever more Passeth human knowing. Amen

## UNISON PRAYER

**Resurrected Christ, you have taught us how the unbelievable can be possible. When there is so much to fear in the world, we can find peace in your presence. As we worship, breathe your Spirit on us, that we may carry it with us. Help us comfort our neighbors. Help us serve a world of need. We pray this with thanksgiving for your work among us. Amen.**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. 'This', he said, 'is what you have heard from me; <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.'

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, 'Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?' <sup>7</sup>He replied, 'It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they

were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.'

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

ONE: Here ends the reading. Hear what the Spirit of God is saying to the church.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

This is the Day by Natalie Sleeth

SERMON

# RESPONSE HYMN

# Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven — Black Hymnal 243

EASTER

## Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

243

*Christopher Wordsworth, 1872; alt.*

*Matt. 28:5-8; Rom. 5:21; 6:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-22*



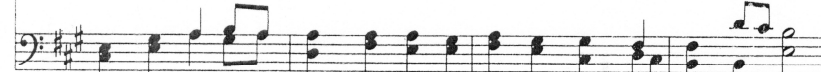
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;  
 2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born;  
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en; shed up - on us heav - en - ly grace,  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to the God of joy;



Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
 Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal on this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;  
 Rain and dew, and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of your face;  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who came death's bonds to de - stroy;



Je - sus on the cross as Sav - ior for the world's sal - va - tion bled;  
 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by God's lib - er - at - ing deed;  
 That we, with our hearts in heav - en, here on earth may fruit - ful be,  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;



But the cru - ci - fied Re - deem - er now is ris - en from the dead!  
 Now the Christ with us a - bid - ing to e - ter - nal life shall lead.  
 And by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be yours e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.



*Christopher Wordsworth, gifted nephew of poet William Wordsworth, served the Church of England successively as canon at Westminster, parish priest in Berkshire, and, finally, bishop of Lincoln. This Easter hymn is one of his most enduring.*

Tune: WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Tochter Zion, Cologne, 1741  
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

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; 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 death's bonds to destroy;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. Reebee Girash

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Reebee Girash

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Rev. Reebee Girash

OFFERTORY

Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna! — Brian Wren

\*DOXOLOGY

**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

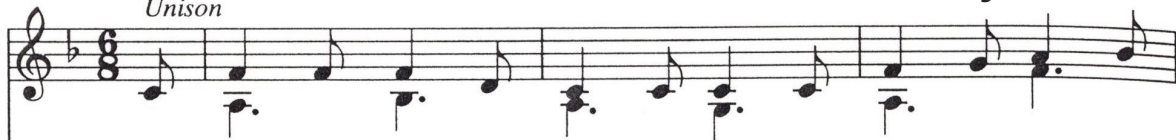
### **THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

***Our service of communion is open to all who wish to participate. The sacrament is a gift from God, and all are welcome to receive it.***

# \*COMMUNION HYMN

# I Come With Joy — Black Hymnal 349

*Unison*



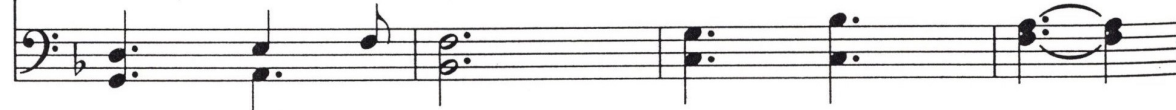
1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will



free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that  
stay, And go with joy to love the world and



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are, friends.  
Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.  
live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.



1 I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free,  
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.

2 I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
The new community of love in Christ's communion bread,  
in Christ's communion bread.

3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.

4 And thus we meet, and better know, the Presence, ever near,  
And join our hearts and sing with joy that Christ is risen here,  
that Christ is risen here.

5 Together met, together bound, in friendship we will stay  
And go with joy, to love the world and live the way we pray,  
and live the way we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE 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

COMMUNION MUSIC

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKS

**We give thanks that this has been no ordinary meal. It has been one in which we have been fed and nourished with the life of Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord. May we go from here, refreshed and eager, to share that life with others. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

# \*CLOSING HYMN

# Now the Green Blade Rises — Black Hymnal 238

EASTER

## Now the Green Blade Rises

238

John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.

Matt. 27:57–28:7; Luke 23:50–24:12

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;  
2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,  
3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;  
Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,  
Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,  
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:  
Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

*Refrain*  
Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

John M. C. Crum, an English priest who was canon of Canterbury for fifteen years, wrote these words for this ancient French Christmas carol tune when it was included in the Oxford Book of Carols (1928).

Tune: NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.10.11.  
French noel, 15th century  
Harm. Martin F. Shaw, 1928

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 dead 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,  
Jesus, who for three days in the grave had lain,  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Festive Postlude on 'Llanfair' — Mary McDonald

Thank you to our Zoom hosts,  
Sydney and Isabella Stevens.



SOURCE NOTES

*The Unison Prayer is from UCC Worship Ways. The Call to Worship is from **Life in Liturgy**, from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).*