

First Congregational United Church of Christ

*Empowered by the Holy Spirit and with the help of God,
we open our doors and hearts to all, in service and love as modeled by Jesus Christ.*



*Third Sunday of Easter
The Season of Eastertide*

*The Lord's Day
Third Sunday of Easter
The Season of Eastertide
Nine o'clock in the Morning*

The Worship of God

Worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by God's holiness; the nourishment of the mind with God's truth; the purifying of the imagination by God's beauty; the opening of the heart to God's love; the surrender of the will to God's purpose—all of this gathered up in adoration.

~William Temple

The Prologue

Garrison Keillor once said, "Easter is a time when Christians ask themselves, 'Do I really believe all this stuff? And if I do, why do I live like this?'" This is the third Sunday in Eastertide, when we should be asking ourselves not just about what we believe about the Resurrection, but about what difference it makes in our lives. This is what the followers of Jesus had to conjure in their minds within the days between the Resurrection and Ascension. After all, we too are followers of Jesus!

The Proclamation

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

An Ancient Easter Acclamation

The Call to Worship and Welcome

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

And also with you.

The Music for Contemplation

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

The Gathering

With gladness of heart, come one and all to worship the holy and righteous One, the author of life whose grace and peace is upon us all!

In this sacred setting divine light radiates from the face of the Holy, shining upon us all, the goodness of God filling this sacred setting!

As offspring of the Holy One, siblings one and all, we come bearing witness to the power of resurrection in our midst, longing to be fed as children of God!

Nourished by the God of our ancestors, of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Holy One opens our minds to the divine knowledge revealed in the word of God!

Let us worship God!

The Introit, No. 69 (*Chalice Praise*) *Come and Fill*

Taizé Community

The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

Holy and righteous God, as your children assembled in this sacred setting, we have gathered with joy and wonder to worship the author of life, the One whose face is always shining upon us; feed us with your word today, emboldening us with your resurrection power; open our minds to new understanding that we might live for you, full of the grace and peace that only comes from God; all this we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the holy and still speaking Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

*The Opening Hymn, No. 215 *Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

ST. KEVIN

*The Litany of Praise

The holy and righteous One hears us when we call, listening when we are in distress!
The author of life is gracious, hearing our prayers, setting apart the faithful as prized, precious possessions of the Holy, blessed as the very children of God!

The Holy One hears us when we call, faithful to all who trust in God!

The Lord shows us what is good, the eternal light of God's face shining upon the faithful!

God has put gladness in our hearts, granting us peace and safe sanctuaries of rest and renewal, refreshing and restoring our souls!

The Holy One feeds us with good things, opening our minds that we might understand the word of God! Praise the Lord!

*The Gloria

GREATOREX

*Glory to the Creator, and to the Christ, and to the Comforter!
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end! Amen! Amen!*

The Call to Confession¹

In his preaching, the disciple Peter reminded his listeners that no one can escape the collective guilt that allows innocent people to suffer. The mob action that sent Jesus to the cross was fed by fears and anger that we are often reluctant to claim. Yet we too, in our own ways, reject the Holy One by our neglect if not by deliberate intent. As beloved faith community, we are invited to confess the times we have failed God and one another, even as we seek the forgiveness of the Divine. In the silence and stillness of our moments together, let us confess before the Holy.

The Silent Confession

The Corporate Confession²

Let us pray to the Lord,

Author of life and love, we are disturbed and distressed by the evil that surrounds us. It is hard to view certain people as your children: murderers, abusers, those who cheat others and profit at their expense. It is easy to feel victimized by the behavior of others. Why should we confess our faults and failures when there is so much evil beyond our influence? Yet we know that sometimes we do not abide in the gracious love of God. We sin when we turn away from sisters and brothers who are also beloved by the Holy One, however they may differ from us. We seek the forgiveness of God promised to us, including the health that only comes from above.

The Assurance of Pardon³

Beloved faith community, hear the good news of Eastertide! Forgiveness is proclaimed to all who seek it. New life in Christ awaits all who desire it. The peace of God dwells in us when we honestly examine ourselves, exposing our wounds to the healing love of God that is graciously corrective, always revealing any self-deceit within us. Beloved faith community, we are accepted by God whose will for us is a joyous freedom in Christ Jesus.

Thanks be to God!

The Time for the Children

Patti Roberts

The Witness from the Epistles

I JOHN 3:1-7

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God, and that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now! What we will be has not yet been revealed! What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness! Sin is lawlessness! You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins! No one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous!

Listen to what the Spirit of the still speaking God is saying!

Thanks be to God!

*God of all righteousness, hear when we pray,
In our distress be our hope and our stay!
Long we have suffered revilement and shame,
Great God of mercy, we call on your name!*

*Angry, yet silent, we know there will be
justice according to holy decree!
Never to answer corruption in kind,
But in your promise true peace will we find!*

*When those around us our faith would confound,
May we rejoice in your gifts that abound!
Peace and assurance all discord withstand,
Safely we rest in the palm of your hand!*

The Witness from the Gospels

LUKE 24:36b-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you!” They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet! See that it is I myself! Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have!” And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering. And he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled!” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem! You are witnesses of these things!”

The Gospel for today!
Thanks be to God!

The Sermon

Is There Any Food?

Dale Bishop

The Hymn for Eastertide, No. 530 *I've Got Peace Like a River* PEACE LIKE A RIVER

The Concerns of the Church

The Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father 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 Receiving of Our Gifts

The Offertory

*The Doxology

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise Christ all creatures here below!
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore!
Praise triune God whom we adore!*

*The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Closing Hymn, No. 575 *Come and Find the Quiet Center* BEACH SPRING

*The Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

*The Procession of the Light

*The Benediction and Blessing

To our guests! At your choosing, we invite you to join us in a long-standing tradition at First Congregational United Church of Christ as we form a circle, joining hands and singing together our Fellowship Song.

*The Fellowship Song *Let There Be Peace on Earth* WORLD PEACE

*Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.
With every step I take, let this be my joyous creed.
To take each moment and live each moment in peace, eternally!
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.*

The Music for Reflection

*You are invited to stand as you are able.

Lector: Mark Holperin

Ushers: Susan Krivichi and Carlton Schroeder

*The color for Easter Day, the Resurrection of the Lord,
and for the Season of Eastertide is White, symbolizing purity and victory, and
reminding us of Jesus' victory over death on the cross and his glorious resurrection.*

***The flowers adorning the Chancel for worship today are given
by Barbara and Tom Helmick in memory of Larry and Jean Janesh.***

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First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

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