

# 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.*



*Easter Day*  
*Resurrection of the Lord*

*The Lord's Day*  
*Easter Day*  
*Resurrection of the Lord*  
*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

The women had a reasonable expectation! Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome reasonably expected a body, a dead body, conveniently waiting for them in a tomb. The women had an unreasonable expectation! This devotedly loyal trio of disciples unreasonably expected someone to be conveniently waiting at the tomb to roll the stone away from the entryway. Well, how good it was that the reasonable expectation went unheeded, and the unreasonable expectation became a moot point. The Gospel of Mark declares that Jesus was raised and that everyone who visited his tomb that day fled in amazement and terror, fear seizing one and all! The good news is that the other Gospel writers take up the slack, fill in the blanks, and finish the story with much more satisfying conclusions! The Lord is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

### 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

This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**The stone has been rolled away, rolling away all the doubt and despair that comes with the deep darkness of death!**

This is the Lord's doing! How marvelous it is in our eyes, for we have been raised with Christ to seek the life-giving things from above!

**May our glad songs of victory be heard throughout all creation! The Lord is our strength, our might, our salvation! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Let us worship God!

## The Choral Introit

*Alleluja*  
Chancel Choir

Gordon Young

## The Collect

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of resurrection power, on this high and holy festival Easter Day, we have come to worship the One who through Christ Jesus, your glorious son, overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life; grant that we, who celebrate with joy this feast of resurrection in Christ, be raised from death to life by your life-giving presence; 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 Processional Hymn, No. 216 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* EASTER HYMN

\*The Litany of Praise

Alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good! The steadfast love of God endures forever!

**Let all the faithful declare, "God's steadfast love endures forever!"**

Give glory to God with glad songs of victory, singing joyfully in the sacred places of the righteous!

**The gates of the Lord are open that we may enter through them, giving thanks to God!**

Rejoice in the One who hears our prayers and has become our salvation! It is the Lord's doing!

**This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! 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 Confession<sup>1</sup>

The apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, "I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received, that Christ died for our sins . . ." In the reality of Jesus' death and the mystery of Christ's resurrection, we come to this time of prayer, bringing all our faults and failures to the door of the empty tomb. In the awe and mystery of resurrection, and in the silence and stillness of our moments together, let us confess before the Holy.

The Silent Confession

The Corporate Confession<sup>2</sup>

Let us pray to the Lord,

**Resurrecting God, it is difficult for us to worship the source of love until we become loving ourselves. We cannot authentically live until we admit the many ways we have wallowed in death. We cannot know forgiveness until we honestly face any wrong we may have done and any good we may have neglected. We admit before you now the anger and spite we have sometimes carried in our hearts, the doubts and fears we have allowed to paralyze us, the misplaced priorities that have led us away from your will and way. Help us break down the barriers we have erected so we can experience the new life of resurrection hope in our lives.**

The Assurance of Pardon<sup>3</sup>

Beloved faith community, hear the good news of Easter Day, the good news of Resurrection of the Lord! God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right finds forgiveness and acceptance. The One who came to embody love among all people is ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. In the name of Jesus, we are forgiven, and we are made safe and secure in the arms of God, risen to new life in Christ. Praise God, whose grace is extended to each one of us on this high and holy feast day, this festival of resurrection. Alleluia indeed!

**Thanks be to God!**

The Anthem

*Christians, Celebrate and Sing!*

arr. Lloyd Larson

Chancel Choir

The Witness from the Christian Scriptures

ACTS 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears God and practices righteousness is acceptable to God. You know the message God

sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power! How he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name!”

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

The Responsorial Psalm (insert)

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

Ursula Charaf, cantor

The Witness from the Gospels

MARK 16:1-8

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed! But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed! You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified! He has been raised! He is not here! Look, there is the place they laid him! But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you!” So, they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid!

The Gospel for today!  
**Thanks be to God!**

The Sermon                    *An Empty Tomb! A Not So Empty Promise!*                    Timothy W. Shirley

The Hymn for Easter, No. 228    *The Day of Resurrection!*                    LANCASHIRE

The Service of Holy Communion

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. 229 *That Easter Day with Joy was Bright* PUER NOBIS NASCITUR

\*The Extinguishing of the Altar Candles

\*The Procession of the Light

\*The Benediction and Blessing

The Music for Reflection

\*You are invited to stand as you are able.

Lector: Barbara Helmick

Ushers: Joe and Joy Turpin

*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  
in honor of this high and holy Easter Day.***

<sup>1-3</sup> Reprinted by permission United Church Press from *Taught by Love*, by Lavon Bayler. Copyright 2002 by the Pilgrim Press.

Today's scripture lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, Updated Edition.

All music and text is reprinted through permission of either copyright licenses:

OneLicense Annual Reprint License: A-738560; expires March 20, 2025

CCLI Copyright License 1562668; expires October 31, 2024

#### **CHURCH STAFF**

*Timothy W. Shirley, Pastor*

*Debbie Brown, Church Administrator*

*Sharon Breit, Director of Christian Education*

*Lori Lee Hunter, Director of Music*

*Linda Brainard, Pianist*

*Norma Yaeger, Pianist*

*Christine Clough, Cleaning Service*

#### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

*President, Donna Adams*

*Vice President, Mark Johannsen*

*Steve Burrill*

*Trisha Moore*

*Cathy Palmer*

*Deb Stolze*

*Clerk, Norma Yaeger*

*Pastor Parish Relations, Tobi Johannsen*

*Women's Fellowship, Sharon Breit*

*Sanctuary Arts Group, Patti Roberts*

*Facilities, Donna Adams*

*Finance, Paula Hendrickson*

*Gifts and Endowments, Bill Marshall*

*Safety and Security, Carlton Schroeder*

*Scholarship, Ursula Charaf*

*Service Support Team, Joy Turpin*



# First Congregational United Church of Christ

105 North First Street ~ PO Box 1385 ~ Eagle River, Wisconsin 54521

Website: [eagleriverucc.org](http://eagleriverucc.org) Church Office: 715-802-8501 Email: [office@eagleriverucc.org](mailto:office@eagleriverucc.org)

Timothy W. Shirley: [timwshirley@gmail.com](mailto:timwshirley@gmail.com)



First Congregational UCC - Eagle River, WI

March 31, 2024