

# Welcome!

First Congregational Church of Webster Groves  
United Church of Christ



***Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.***

**April 12, 2020**

# EASTER



# SUNDAY

*We respond to God's call by welcoming everyone regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, race, gender identity, sexual orientation or socio-economic background.*

*To proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, we affirm that all may share in the full life, ministry, fellowship, responsibilities and blessing of our congregation.*

*No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. David Denoon, *Pastor*

### TOLLING THE BELL

### LIGHTING THE CANDLES

#### PRELUDE

*Improvisation with Bird Calls*

L. Burke

#### OPENING WORDS

Matthew 28:1-10

Tracey Harris, *Student Minister*

<sup>1</sup> After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

<sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Holy One, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> The angel's appearance was like lightning, with clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of the angel the guards shook and became like dead men.

<sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you."

<sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.

<sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

#### ACCLAMATION

Rev. Denoon

Minister: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

#### GATHERING HYMN

*This Easter Celebration*

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

(Jennifer Jones, Terree Rowbottom, Mark Cereghino, David Denoon) *Tune: AURELIA*

This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.

We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.

We're distant from our neighbors – from worship leaders, too.

No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room  
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.

Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see –  
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.

We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be  
a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.

In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,  
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

**PRAYER OF APPROACH**

*A Prayer of the Iona Community* Merrimon Boyd, Student Minister

Almighty God, through the rising of your Son from the grave you broke the power of the grave, you broke the power of death, and condemned death itself to die. As we celebrate your great triumph may we also make it the model of our living.

**Help us to identify in our lives all that should rightly die – redundant relationships, tired habits, fruitless longings. Resurrect our lives of faith, hope, and love as surely as you raised Jesus Christ from the grave.**

The vacant cross and the empty tomb vindicate your claim that the love which suffers is the love which saves. So fill your people with joy and your church with celebration...

**...that the world may know that your holy Child Jesus is not a dead hero we commemorate, but the living Lord we worship to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be our praise forever. Amen.**

**NOT FOR CHILDREN ONLY**

Tracey Harris, *Director of Christian Education*

**SHARING THE WORD**

*From the Epistles*

Erick Falconer, *Coordinator of Youth Ministries*

1 Corinthians 15:50-54

New Revised Standard Version

<sup>50</sup>Flesh and blood cannot inherit the commonwealth of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup>Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

*Response*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

**Thanks be to God.**

**ANTHEM**

*The Trumpet Shall Sound*

G. F. Handel

(Dr. Leon Burke, III, bass)

**MESSAGE OF THE DAY**

*“That ‘Dead Shall Be Raised’ Thing”*

Rev. Denoon

**PRAYER HYMN**

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

Charles Wesley, alt.

(Jennifer Jones, Terree Rowbottom, Mark Cereghino, David Denoon)

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs highs, Alleluia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

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!

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*We Lift Our Joys and Concerns to God*

*Please remember the following as you pray, today:*

*Joyce Berger*

*Marshall Brooks*

*The Rev. Dr. Paul Davis, in rehab after a bout with poor health*

*Margaret Gustafson*

*The Rev. Jack Newsome*

*Becky Scott*

*Jaymie Woodsmall and all health care workers*

*first responders, and delivery and grocery workers*

*people living with COVID-19*

*people who are isolated and alone*

*Prayer of the Day*

*Prayer of Our Savior*

**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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

#### **RITUAL FOR THE REMEMBRANCE OF BAPTISM**

*Introductory Words (Responsive)*

Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

**For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.**

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

*Blessing the Water*

Let us pray:

We thank you, God, for the gift of creation called forth by your saving Word. Before the world had shape and form, your Spirit moved over the waters. Out of the waters of the deep, you formed the firmament and brought forth the earth to sustain all life.

In the time of Noah you washed the earth with the waters of the flood, and your ark of salvation bore a new beginning. In the time of Moses your people Israel passed through the Red Sea waters from slavery to freedom and crossed the flowing Jordan to enter the promised land.

In the fullness of time, you sent Jesus Christ who was nurtured in the water of Mary's womb.

Jesus was baptized by John in the water of the Jordan, became living water to a woman at the Samaritan well, washed the feet of the disciples, and sent them forth to baptize all the nations by water and the Holy Spirit.

*Pouring the water:*

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water that by it we may be reminded of our baptism into Jesus Christ and that by the power of your Holy spirit we may be kept faithful until you receive us at last in your eternal home.

Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

*Confession of Faith*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, do you believe in the kinship of all people as children of God? **I do.**

Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Way and the Truth and the Life? **I do.**

Do you believe in the clean heart, and will you live the unworldly life in the service of love as Jesus taught and exemplified? **I will, with the help of God.**

Do you accept Christ's Spirit, and Christ's teaching? **I do, God helping me.**

*Renewal of Baptismal Vows*

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil and renew your commitment to Jesus Christ? **I do.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and community, in the breaking of bread, and in prayer? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being? **I will, with God's help.**

*Distribution of Water*

*Wade in the Water*

Spiritual

*Covenant*

As the body of Christ, let us say together our covenant...

**We who are called of God into this Christian community covenant together: to seek to know the will of God, to experience the joy and struggle of discipleship, to proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, and to work for peace and justice among all people. We trust God's promise of grace and forgiveness and the presence of the Holy Spirit in our trials and rejoicing.**

*Benediction*

Rev. Denoon

**POSTLUDE**

"Hallelujah!" (from *Messiah*)

G. F. Handel

(Jennifer Jones, Terree Rowbottom, Mark Cereghino, Leon Burke)

**DISMISSAL**



**FIRST  
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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

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