

Many: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: We run to the tomb to see for ourselves.
And it is true. Christ is risen!

Many: Christ is risen, indeed!

We hear a voice call our name,
and we know our risen Lord
is with us now and always.

**All: Christ is risen!
Christ is risen, indeed!
Thanks be to God!**

One: O God of all our days, we come this morning with eager anticipation.
We seek to know you, to see you, to touch you.
Open our hearts, that we might experience you anew.
Open our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses to your resurrection.
May we, with shouts of joy, proclaim your steadfast, liberating love
to all people, everywhere. Amen.

SONG OF GATHERING

“Chris the Lord is Risen Today”

NCH#233



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!

The Liturgist invites the congregation to be seated.

First Reading

Read by Liturgist

Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to Cornelius and the other Gentiles: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he 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."

Choir Anthem

"The Day of Resurrection"

Richard Shephard

INVITATION TO COMMUNION - Rev. Nathan Dannison

Invitation to Confession - Rev. Dannison

SILENCE IS OBSERVED

ALL: Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

One: In the name of Jesus Christ who brings peace and hope, your sins are forgiven. Rejoice! You are loved! AMEN.

INVITATION TO CHRIST'S TABLE

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Blessing of the Elements

Pastor: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God!

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High!

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray....

Words of Institution

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

This Sunday, Communion will be served by intinction. Please come forward down the center aisle, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup and receive both as you return to your seat. If you are unable to come forward, you will be served at your seat. There are gluten free crackers available on each plate.

COMMUNION HYMN

"I Come With Joy"

NCH#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.

CHILDREN'S BLESSING / NEW MEMBER COVENANT

Joining this Sunday: Ashley Womersley

Introduction of New Member - Bill Newsom

Commitments to Christ, Community, and Action

To the congregation:

Pastor: If it is your intention to welcome these new sisters and brothers in Christ, will you please stand?

Congregation to New Members:

We, the members of St. John's United Church of Christ, welcome you with joy into our communion and fellowship. We pledge to you our support, our help and our prayers, that you may evermore increase in the knowledge and love of God. We promise, with God's help, to walk with you in Christian love, to aid you as we can, and to bind ourselves together in the common task of building here upon this earth the realm of God.

Celebration of New Members by Acclamation

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18

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. 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." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 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. 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." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 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." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). 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.'" 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.

Sermon: "A Cosmic Hinge point"

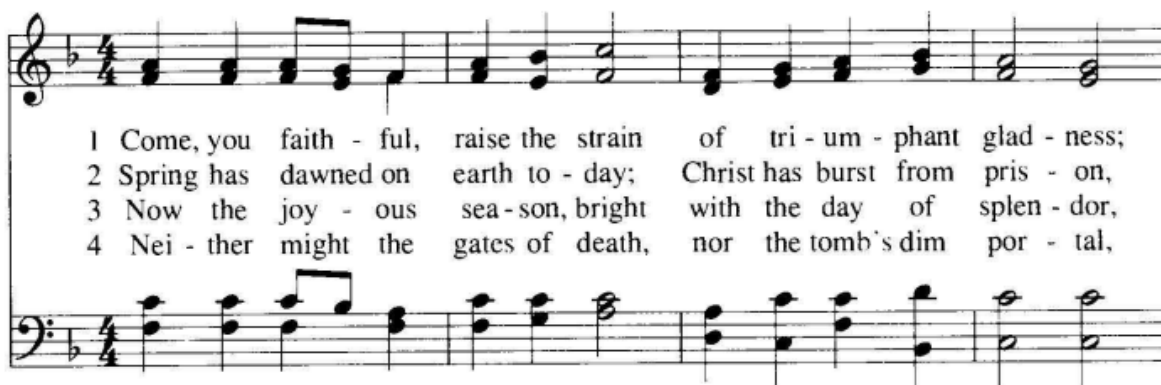
Rev. Nathan Dannison

The Liturgist invites the congregation to rise in body or spirit and sing the next hymn

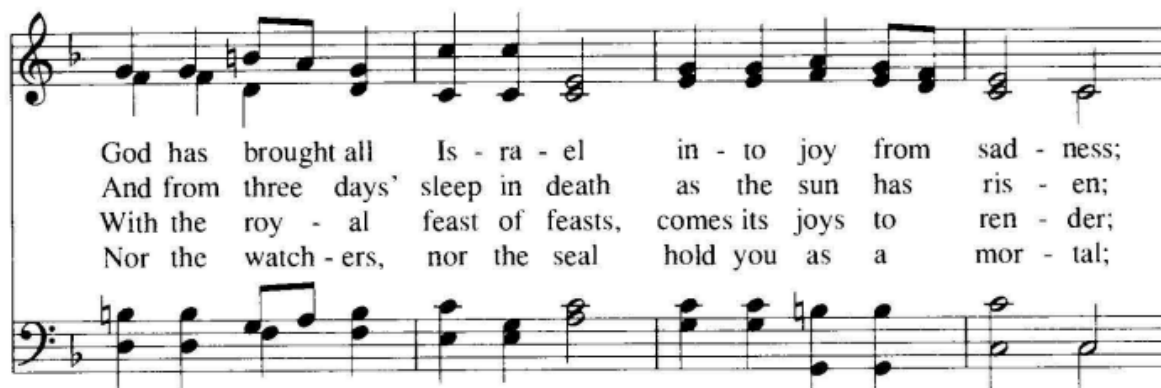
*SONG OF RESPONSE

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

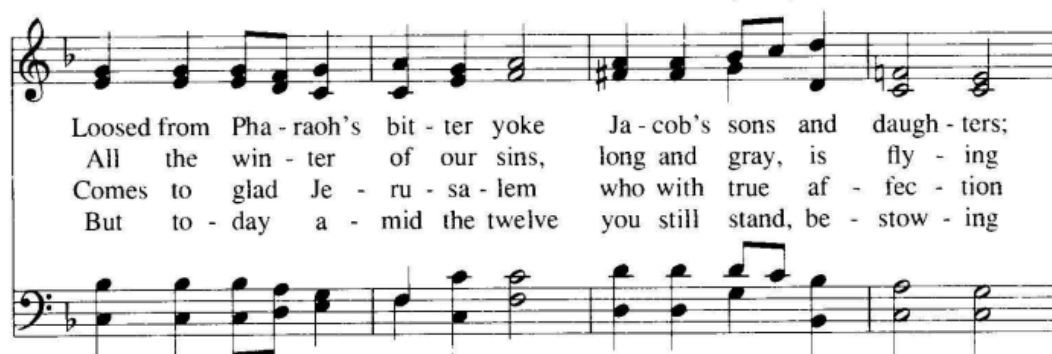
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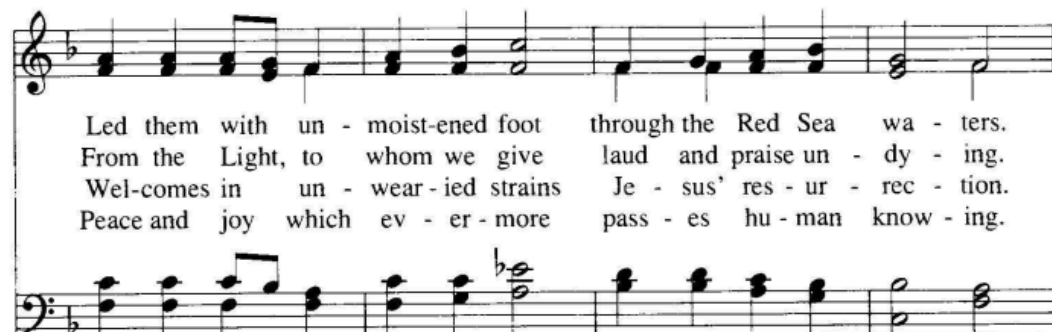
1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
 2 Spring has dawned on earth to - day; Christ has burst from pris - on,
 3 Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim por - tal,



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.

Pastor: ... We pray to you, our mother, using the words he gave us,
Saying together,

People: **Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread;
and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING *Pastor*

Ushers will come forward to receive the offering.

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOR

OFFERTORY

Easter Doxology

Praise Je - sus Christ, who rose from death! Praise to the Source of life and
breath! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise to the Spir - it, ho - ly
dove, Giv - er of life, of peace, of love. Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is
ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

*CHARGE

Liturgist

Liturgist:

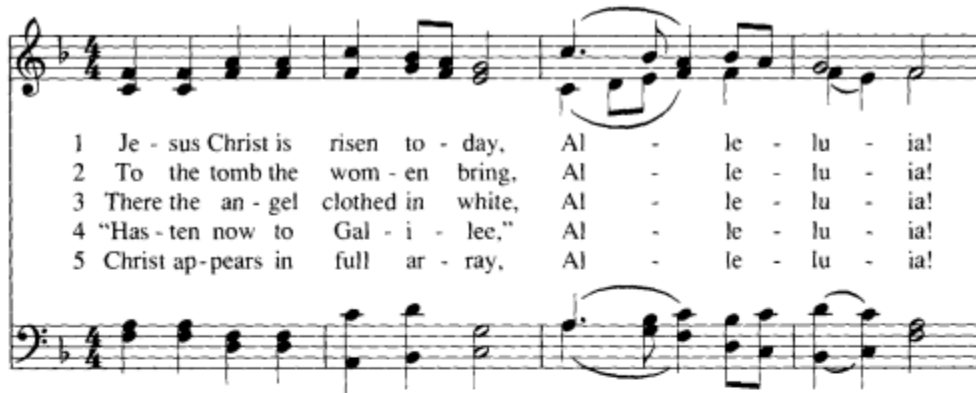
Go out into the world
and trust in the faithfulness of God.
Speak truth. Embody compassion.
Live simply. Love recklessly.
Transform the world through the power of hope.

People:

*We go in peace to love and serve God
in the name of Jesus Christ.*

*SONG OF PARTING
"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

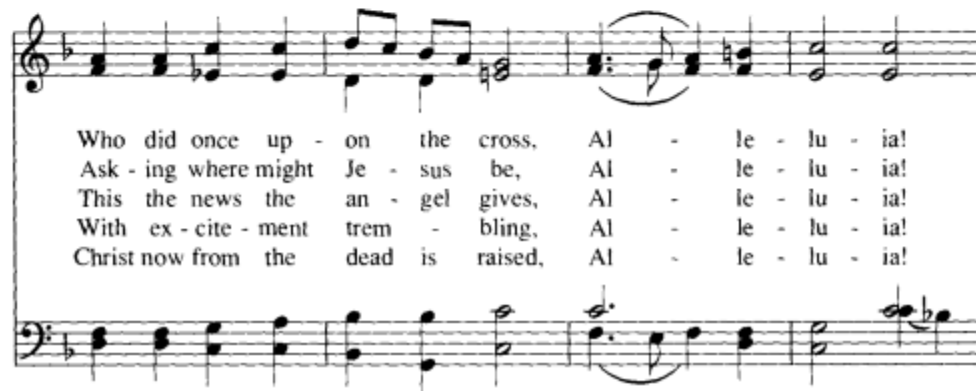
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1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 To the tomb the wom - en bring, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 There the an - gel clothed in white, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 "Has - ten now to Gal - i - lee," Al - le - lu - ia!
5 Christ ap - pears in full ar - ray, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Spic - es rich, an of - fer - ing, Al - le - lu - ia!
Tells the news with great de - light, Al - le - lu - ia!
"Tell the oth - ers what you see!" Al - le - lu - ia!
Sing with joy this Pas - chal day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Ask - ing where might Je - sus be, Al - le - lu - ia!
This the news the an - gel gives, Al - le - lu - ia!
With ex - cite - ment trem - bling, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ now from the dead is raised, Al - le - lu - ia!

*BENEDICTION *Pastor*

POSTLUDE:
"Toccata from Symphony #5"

Charles Marie Widor

**Indicates that you are invited to rise and body and spirit.*