

WORSHIP ORDER - St. John's UCC
Third Sunday in Easter
April 14, 2024

PRELUDE
"Woodland Flute Call"

Fannie Charles Dillon

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING THE PEACE

Pastor: May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ

be with you all.

People: *And also with you.*

Pastor: Let us rise and greet one another with words of peace and remain standing for our song of centering.

We greet one another with signs and words of peace.

*SONG OF CENTERING

"This is the Day"

Melody

F F#sus4 Eb Bb Db Bbm7 C7

This is the day the Lord has made; let us re-joice and be glad.

F F#sus4 Eb Bb Db C7 F (Fine)

This is the day the Lord has made; let us re-joice and be glad.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the song "This is the Day". The first staff is labeled "Melody" and includes the lyrics "This is the day the Lord has made; let us re-joice and be glad." with a blank line for a vocal flourish. The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics "This is the day the Lord has made; let us re-joice and be glad." and ends with a double bar line and the word "Fine" in parentheses. Chord symbols are written above the notes: F, F#sus4, Eb, Bb, Db, Bbm7, C7, and F.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER:

One: Out of the darkness of grief and despair
comes a message of hope. Christ is risen!

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

“Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day”

NCH#241

1 Joy dawned a - gain on Eas - ter Day, the sun shone
 2 O Je - sus, Sav - ior, Gen - tle One, come take our
 3 O Sov - ereign One, with us a - bide in this our

out with bright ar - ray; For when the A - pos - tles
 hearts to be your own, That we may give you
 joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; From ev - ery weap - on

hid in fear, the Ris - en Christ to them ap - peared.
 all our days the will - ing trib - ute of our praise.
 death can wield, your own re - deemed for - ev - er shield.

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

"All Creatures of Our God and King"

Patricia Sanders

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

METZNER 171176, 1700, REV. 1704, 1777

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.

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

"I Greet You, Sure Redeemer"

NCH#251

1 I greet you, sure Re - deem - er, with my heart,
 2 You are the source of mer - cy and of grace,
 3 You are the life, by which a - lone we live,
 4 You have the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,
 5 Our hope is all in you and you a - lone;

glad for the sav - ing love that you im - part,
 reign - ing om - ni - po - tent in ev - ery place;
 and all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive.
 no harsh - ness have you and no bit - ter - ness;
 we trust the prom - ise that your word makes known.

Who pain did un - der - go for my poor sake;
 So rule in us and our whole be - ing sway.
 Sus - tain us by your faith and by your power,
 Grant us the grace that flows in you so free
 O dear Re - deem - er, make us calm and sure,

I pray you from our hearts all cares to take.
 Shine on us with the light of your pure day.
 and give us strength in ev - ery try - ing hour.
 that we may dwell in per - fect u - ni - ty.
 that in your strength we ev - er - more en - dure.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pastor*

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

“The Strife is O’er”

NCH#242

L. 1817, c. 1897
Transl. Francis Pott, 1861; alt.

Refrain (before st. 1 and after st. 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, Christ ris - es
 4 Christ, by your wounds on Cal - va - ry from death's dread

ry of life is won; The song of tri - umph
 le - gions has dis - persed: Let shouts of ho - ly
 glo - rious from the dead: All glo - ry to our
 sting your ser - vants free, That we may live e -

has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!
 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 ter - nal - ly. Al - le - lu - ia! *to Refrain*

*BENEDICTION *Pastor*

POSTLUDE:

“March Triomphale”

Siegfried Karg-Elert

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