

**The United Church of Christ, Congregational
Burlington, MA**

EASTER SUNDAY

"We gather for worship, study, planning and mission to celebrate the life, teachings, death and living presence of Jesus Christ which frees us to love boldly and to serve gladly as God would want us to do."

April 20, 2025

10:30am

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Cross Decorating *"All are invited to come forward and decorate the cross with flowers prior to worship."*

Prelude Water Music Suite No. 2 by G. F. Handel

UCC Burlington Sax Quartet

Declaration of Good News - Isaiah 65:17-19, 24

For I am about to create new heavens
and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered
or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I am creating,
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy
and its people as a delight.
I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it
or the cry of distress.
Before they call I will answer,
while they are yet speaking I will hear.

Processional Hymn

The Strife is O'er

NCH #242 v. 1-2

Words of Welcome

***Please Stand in Body or Spirit**

***Call to Worship**

One: Easter begins in despair. Our life, our love, our hope, forever dead, bottled up in a cave.

All: Who will roll away the stone?

One: Easter takes us by surprise, early in the morning. The obstacles we expect to face are removed. Where once death and despair laid locked in time, now the bright light of hope sprouts wings to fly from emptiness. It is, at first, too good to be true.

All: Where have you laid him?

One: When faced with a miracle, our first reflex is to run.

All: Be not afraid.

One: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified.

All: He is risen; he is not here.

One: See the place where they laid him. But go your way. Tell his disciples that he goes before you into Galilee.

All: There you shall see him.

One: Suddenly the realization dawns. It may rise as quietly as the sun creeping over the horizon, or it may explode like fireworks, painting the world with color and light. We recognize the One who was dead as he comes to life in us.

All: Christ is risen, risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: And all who encounter the Risen One, whether gently roused by the sunrise or surprised by the sudden burst of joy, will rejoin the resurrection procession one by one, slipping into step, some of us singing, some of us silently soaking it in, and all of us feeling like dancing!

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen, risen indeed!

***Opening Hymn**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

NCH #233

***Opening Prayer**

Gracious Redeemer, we come to you in the morning of the resurrection. We expect to find you among the tombs, the grave places, the dead things of this world, but you are alive. The tomb cannot hold you; death cannot bind you. You lift the shroud of death and despair from our hearts and send us running with shouts of joy to proclaim the Good News of new life and hope to the ends of the earth. Grant that we might live in newness of life, that we might ourselves know the power of resurrection, now and in the world to come. In the name of the risen Christ we pray. Amen.

Passing the Peace

***Devotional Hymn**

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

NCH #230

Reflecting & Praying...

Scripture Readings Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Sermon

Constant Change

Rev. Andrew Harris

Anthem

That Easter Day With Joy was Bright by Hal Hopson

Pastoral Prayer

Committing...

Stewardship Invitation

Half of the offering will go to National Ministries of the United Church of Christ's Disaster Ministries to support victims of Los Angeles Wildfires.

Offertory

Ubi Caritas by Maurice Durufle

UCC Burlington Sax Quartet

***Doxology**

Lyrics adapted by William Abernethy; tune *NCH* #780

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done; Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication and Consecration**

Going...

***Closing Hymn**

The Day of Resurrection

NCH #245

***Benediction**

Postlude

Jupiter by Gustav Holst

UCC Burlington Sax Quartet

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CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

Adopted February 2017:

At the UCC Burlington, we cultivate a thriving environment, which empowers us to embody the beloved, diverse community that Jesus modeled for us, proclaiming that ***all are welcome, all are loved.*** We celebrate our colonial roots as we change, adapt and grow into who God is calling us to be. We respect the sanctity of each person's spiritual journey and we are blessed by the gifts that each person brings to the life of the church. We join together in faithful service and advocacy with the ongoing hope that we can make the world a better, more just, and peaceful place for everyone.

WORSHIP PARTICIPATION

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Pastor: | Rev. Andrew Harris |
| Organist: | Brian Gionet |
| Guest Musicians: | UCC Burlington Sax Quartet |
| Lay Leader: | Marcia Rich |
| Head Usher: | Dave McNeil |
| Ushers: | Chris Stahlinski and Volunteers |
| Greeter: | Volunteer |
| Flowers: | Easter Plants from the Congregation |
| Collector: | Dick Butler |
| Nursery: | Kate Smith |
| Sunday School: | Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro |

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30am for worship.
Children leave for Sunday School at 10:45am.
Nursery Care provided for the little ones.

Website: Uccburlington.org
Email: uccburlington@gmail.com
781-272-4547



EASTER PLANTS GIVEN IN MEMORY/CELEBRATION/HONOR OF:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Aline Beck | All my Loved Ones |
| Dick and Karen Butler | Our Parents and Brother |
| Joyce Carpenter | All our Loved Ones |
| Rob and Jan Costa | Friends and Family |
| Lucy Damiani | Loved Ones |
| Nancy Davis | Loved Ones |
| Eby Family | Loved Ones |
| Fong Family | Gim and Fay Fong and Ray and Mary Liu |
| Garside Family | Husband and Father -Fred, Son and Brother - Tim |
| Harris Family | Vincent Mazarella and Janet Cooper |
| Killilea Family | Our Loved Ones past and present |
| David and Barbara Leonard | Our Loved Ones |
| Kari Lynch | My Aunt Evelyn and Loved Ones |
| Jan McSheffrey | Charlie & Ruth McSheffrey and Janice Corso |
| Barbara Naddaff | Celebration |
| Raymond Family | Dear Jane |
| Marcia Rich | Loved Ones. All the good things happening in this church! |
| Stahlinski Family | Our Loved Ones |
| Sonja and Matt Tierson | Loved Ones |
| Lynn and Lee Tirrell | Great Granddaughters, Mackenzie, Olivia, Ellie |
| Nancy Todd | My Parents |
| Tredeau Family | Life of Meredith Tredeau |
| Marge Zamanian | Loved Ones |
| Joan Zink | Daughter, Jen |

PLANT/BAKE/CRAFT EVENT MAY 10TH 10-2PM



**COME AND SHOP FOR PERENNIALS, ANNUALS, FLOWERS,
BAKED GOODS, HOMEMADE CRAFTS AND MORE!
JUST IN TIME FOR MOTHER'S DAY!**

1 Cor. 15:53-57

Latin, c. 1695

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*

A seventeenth-century Jesuit collection published in Cologne, Germany, is the earliest known source of this Latin hymn. The hymn is firmly associated with this musical setting from a Magnificat by the Italian composer Palestrina.

Tune: VICTORY 8.8.8. with alleluias
 Giovanni Perluigi da Palestrina, 1591
 Arr. William H. Monk, 1861

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

*Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57**Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.*

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 unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

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*Attrib. to John of Damascus (c. 696–c. 754 C.E.)**Exod. 15; Luke 24**Transl. John Mason Neale, 1872; alt.*

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.

Little is known of St. John of Damascus, an early Greek theologian, but his writings have survived. Among these are poems that have been made into hymns and some that have been integrated into Greek Orthodox liturgy.

Tune: ST. KEVIN 7.6.7.6.D.
 Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872

The Day of Resurrection

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*John of Damascus, 8th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.*

Mark 16:1-6

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,
the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Christ who reigns e - ter - nal in res - ur - rec - tion light;
the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;
From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
We lis - ten for the teach - ings once heard so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad-ness blend,
our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
for we, too, want to fol - low and raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ a - gain has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

*A Greek canon—an extended poem of eight or nine odes, each based on a scriptural canticle—was the source of this hymn.
John of Damascus gave up a high government position to enter a monastery.*

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
Henry T. Smart, 1836