

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

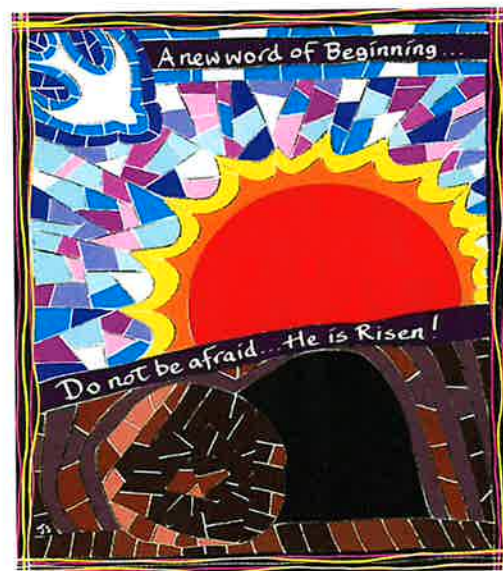
**EASTER**

*"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 5, 2026**

**10:30am**

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*By John Stuart*

***We believe God calls us to love unconditionally, following the example of Jesus Christ.***

***Recognizing that all people are equal in the sight of God, we seek to be an inclusive and respectful community for persons of every color, age, sexual orientation, gender, ability and economic means.***

***In our calling to express the love and welcome of Christ, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person, and declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation.***

***We strive to respond to the needs of our town and world with practical deeds of love.***

***We welcome individuals and families of every configuration into the full life and ministry of this church, and invite you to join us on our faith journey!***

## Gathering....

### Cross Decorating

#### Prelude

Coffeehouse Brass

Ian Behrstock, Trumpet, Russell Jewell, Trombone, Alisha Lopez, Marrero-Trumpet,  
Jim Messbauer, Trombone

#### Declaration of Good News - 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 him and practices righteousness 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."

#### \*Opening Hymn

Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

NCH #243

#### \*Call to Worship - Inspired by Psalm 118

One: O give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good; God's love abides, endures, and prevails forever!

**All: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!**

One: In distress, I call. In grief, I cry. In despair, I come. The Holy One answers. The Holy One comforts. The Holy One comes.

**All: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!**

One: God, my refuge and confidence, surrounds me with strength and victory!  
Exalt God's holy name!

**All: Alleluia! The resurrection life comes to us. Christ is risen!**

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**\*Please rise in body or spirit.**

## Passing the Peace

## Words of Welcome

## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

\*Devotional Hymn

The Day of Resurrection

NCH #245

## Reflecting...

### Scripture 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's 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 touch 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**

Before and After

Rev. Andrew Harris

**Anthem**

When Mary Came with Rich Perfume

-Borghild Jacobson & Kenneth T. Kosche  
sung by the Choir with the Coffeehouse Brass

**Praying...**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Offering...**

**Invitation of Offering**

*Half of our morning offering will go to Bridge Over Troubled Waters, an agency and shelter providing services for homeless, runaway, and at-risk youth in Boston.*

**Offertory**

Coffeehouse Brass

**\*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**

**Sending...**

**\*Closing Hymn**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

NCH #233

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Coffeehouse Brass

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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.

### **April 5, 2026 Easter Service 10:15am**

Pastor:	Rev. Andrew Harris
Organist:	Aline Beck
Lay Leader:	Marcia Rich
Music:	Coffeehouse Brass
Head Usher:	Dave McNeil
Usher:	Chris Stahlinski
Greeter:	
Easter Plants:	The Congregation
Collector	Marcia Rich
Nursery:	Kritika Agarwala
Sunday School:	Deb Raymond-Donna Ferro
Coffee Hour	No coffee hour today!

We are pleased to welcome the Coffeehouse Brass bringing wonderful music this Easter, thanks to your generous contributions to the Special Music Fund.

Join us for Bible Study on Wednesday afternoons 2-3pm in the conference room and/or on Zoom. Check the website for the link. [Uccburlington.org](http://Uccburlington.org)

Crafting for a Cause meets every Thursday afternoon 1-3pm in the conference room. Even if you don't knit or crochet, come and enjoy the conversation!

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> is our annual Plant and Craft Sale from 10-2pm. Come and shop for perennials, annuals, vegetable plants and wonderful crafts just in time for Mother's Day.

\* \* \* \* \*

Rev. Andrew Harris, Pastor

Aline Beck, Organist

Deb Raymond, Director of Christian Education

Bobbie Killilea, Administrative Assistant

[Uccburlington.org](http://Uccburlington.org) / 781-272-4547

## 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!

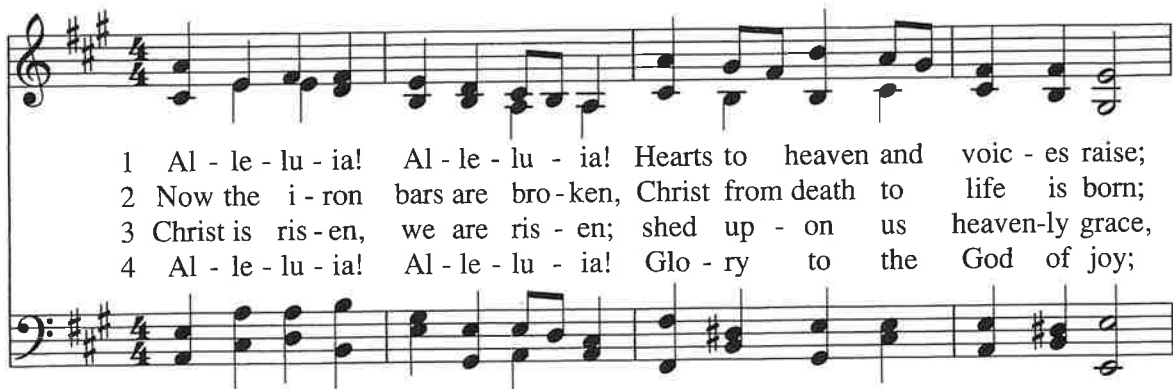
Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

*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.*

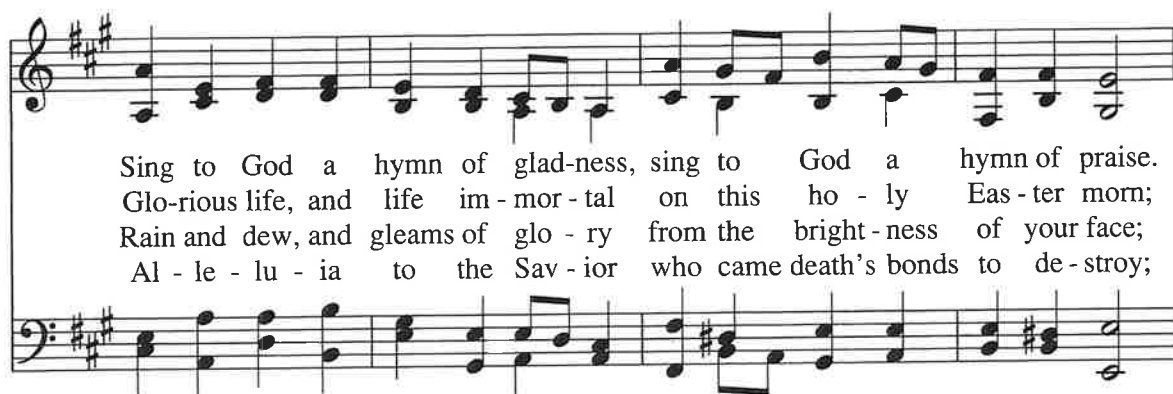
Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias  
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

## Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

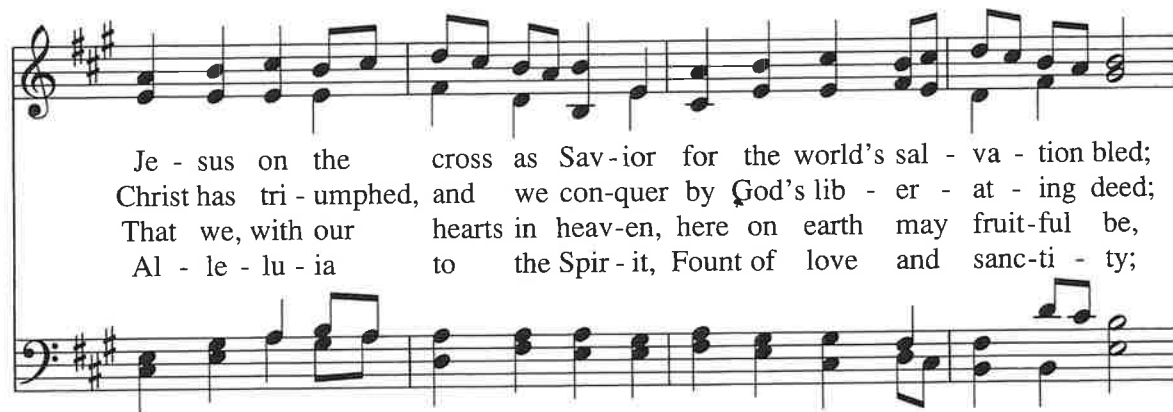
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*Christopher Wordsworth, 1872; alt.**Matt. 28:5-8; Rom. 5:21; 6:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-22*


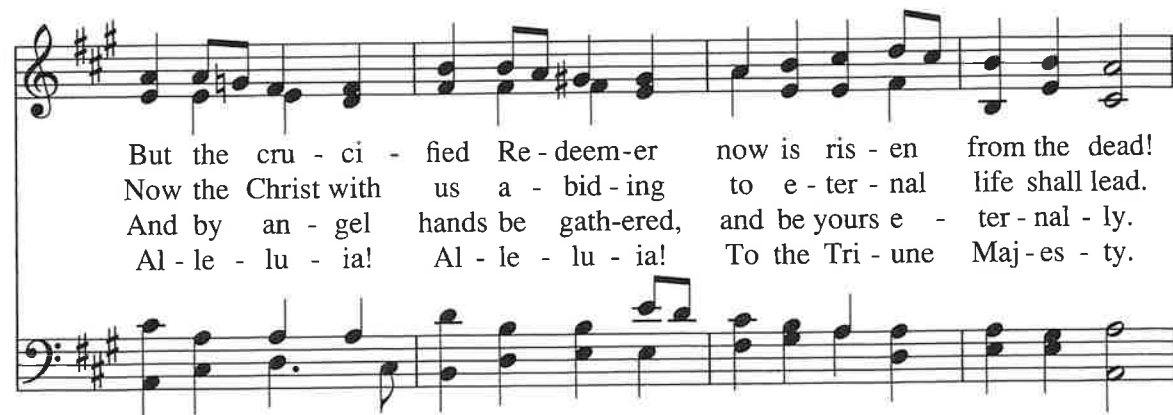
1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;  
 2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born;  
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en; shed up - on us heav - en - ly grace,  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to the God of joy;



Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
 Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal on this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;  
 Rain and dew, and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of your face;  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who came death's bonds to de - stroy;



Je - sus on the cross as Sav - ior for the world's sal - va - tion bled;  
 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by God's lib - er - at - ing deed;  
 That we, with our hearts in heav - en, here on earth may fruit - ful be,  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;



But the cru - ci - fied Re - deem - er now is ris - en from the dead!  
 Now the Christ with us a - bid - ing to e - ter - nal life shall lead.  
 And by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be yours e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.

*Christopher Wordsworth, gifted nephew of poet William Wordsworth, served the Church of England successively as canon at Westminster, parish priest in Berkshire, and, finally, bishop of Lincoln. This Easter hymn is one of his most enduring.*

Tune: WEISSE FLAGGEN 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Tochter Zion, Cologne, 1741  
 Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL

# 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.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time and consists of four systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are placed between the staves. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the mode is Dorian. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

*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*