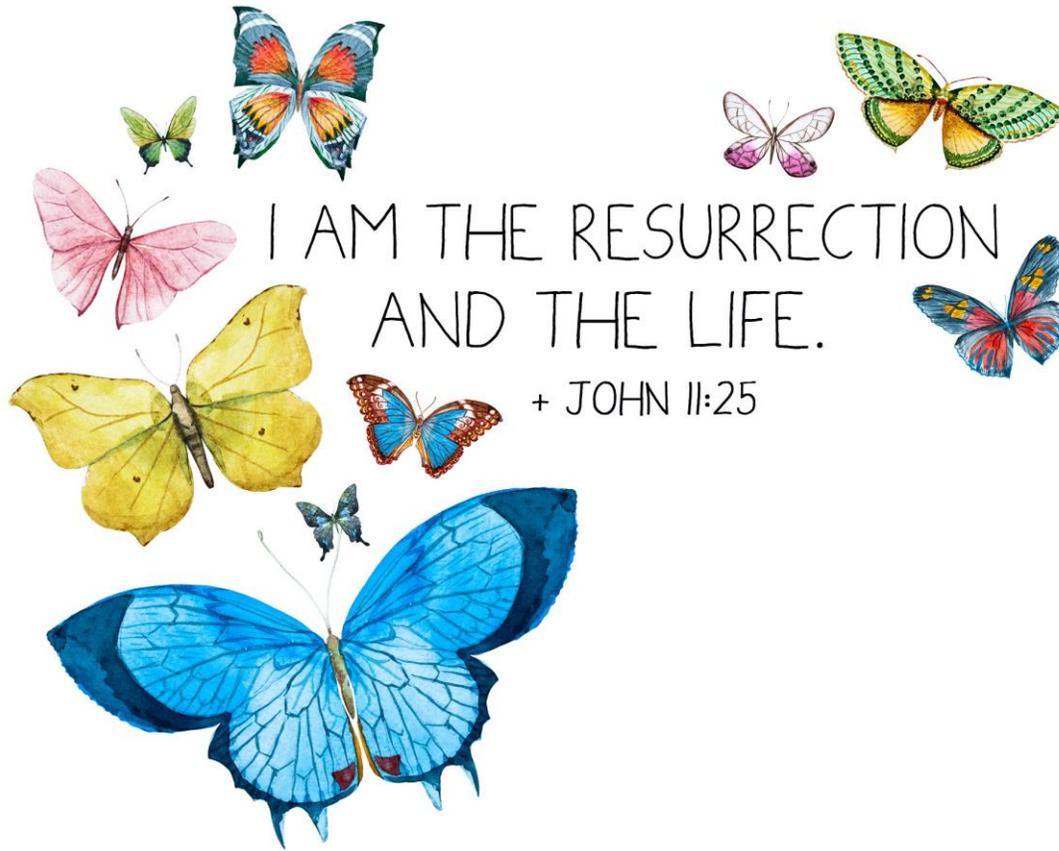


First Parish Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
P.O. Box 114, 47 East Derry Road  
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**March 27, 2016**

**EASTER SUNDAY**



I AM THE RESURRECTION  
AND THE LIFE.

+ JOHN 11:25

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

*“Friend, you enter this church not as a stranger, but as a guest of God.  
Come, then, with joy in your heart and thanks upon your lips,  
and offer God today your love and your service.”*

(Adapted from a 12th Century Church in Hampshire, England)

**March 27, 2016**

**Easter Sunday**

First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is a community of faith built upon a firm foundation of worship, prayer and education.

In affirming diversity, we are dedicated to welcoming all people who seek the Word of God, Christian fellowship and service to others. In partnership with Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out to the ever-widening community through active and loving ministry.

WELCOME

## **WE GATHER INTO THE PRESENCE OF GOD**

\*HYMN NO. 233

*"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"*

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sing the glad songs of victory;  
God is creating a day of newness and joy.

**All: God is our strength and our song;  
this is the day of our salvation.**

One: Christ has been raised from the dead,  
the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

**All: The one who was rejected assures us:  
we are accepted and beloved by God.**

One: We are chosen by God as witnesses to good news.  
We will live and recount the deeds of our God.

**All: God reigns; let all nations and peoples rejoice.  
In Christ, all shall be made alive.**

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (in unison)

**With thanksgiving, praise, and joy, we worship you, marvelous God. How amazing is all your creation! How glorious is this day of new life! Come among us now, we pray, to raise us up from our fears and doubts and perplexity. Touch us today with a spirit of hope, that our discipleship may honor Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

\*SONG OF PRAISE #760 (Ma-si-thi) Amen siyakudumisa (repeat x1)

Amen Bawo, Amen Bawo, Amen siyakudumisa

(Sing Amen) Amen, we praise your name, O God (repeat x1)

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen we praise your name, O God.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Doubters, believers, disciples, deceivers: come to the one who makes all things new.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Dazzling God, we are blinded to your majesty. We have taken for granted the amazing wonder of life, without seeing you as the source of all things. We resist the changes we know we must make to receive new life. Save us from the calamity of our selfish ways. Rescue us from all hurtful and destructive habits. Forgive our broken promises, heal our broken relationships, lift our broken spirits, so we may share in the resurrection of Christ. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Everyone who lives by trust in Jesus Christ has already received forgiveness. Accept this gift God offers. Your prayers are answered, and your salvation is assured. Christ reigns over death, filling you with newness of life. Rise up! Rejoice! Witness to the good news!

AND ALL GOD'S PEOPLE SAY: **Thanks be to God.**

## WE INVITE FORWARD GOD'S LITTLE CHILDREN

CHILDREN'S OFFERING

*"I'm Gonna Sing"*

**I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing (x2)**

**I'm goin' a sing when the Spirit says sing, and obey the Spirit of the Lord.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**Dear God, we offer you our gifts with thanks and praise, be with us and guide us all of our days. Teach us how to love each other, and to shine your light into the world. Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Sarah Keller

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.**

\*HYMN NO. 243

*"Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven!"*

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US

HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

(O.T. pp. 625-626)

GOSPEL

John 20:1-18

(N.T. p. 119)

SERMON

"Remember"

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Roof

CHOIR ANTHEM

*"Shout Alleluia to the Risen Lord"*

(Victor Johnson)

## WE RESPOND WITH PETITIONS, PRAYERS, AND OFFERINGS

COMMUNITY TIME      What is happening at First Parish?

PASTORAL PRAYER

CHORAL RESPONSE      *"Jesus, Remember Me"*

OFFERTORY INVITATION

We, who enjoy the work of our hands, do not labor in vain. We, who invest the fruits of our effort in the sharing of good news, are doubly blessed. May our gifts represent our commitment, even as they bear witness and offer healing. Let us give thanks through our offerings.



## Scriptures – Easter Sunday, March 27

### Psalm 118

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures for ever!

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say,  
'His steadfast love endures for ever.'

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:  
'The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;

<sup>16</sup> the right hand of the LORD is exalted;  
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.'

<sup>17</sup> I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the LORD.

<sup>18</sup> The LORD has punished me severely,  
but he did not give me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvellous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## John 20.1-18

20 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. <sup>2</sup> 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.’ <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> 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.’ <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?’ 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.’ <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, ‘Mary!’ She turned and said to him in Hebrew, ‘Rabbouni!’ (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> 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.”’ <sup>18</sup> 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.