

**First Parish Congregational Church
United Church of Christ**

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April 16, 2017



Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia!

Easter Sunrise Service

April 16, 2017

6:30 AM

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Many: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: We are afflicted in every way....

Many: But not crushed!

One: Struck down...

Many: But not destroyed.

One: For we are indeed persuaded that neither life or death...

Many: Nor angels, or principalities...

One: Nor things present or things to come...

Many: Nor powers, nor height, nor depth...

One: Nor anything else in all creation...

**Many: Will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Jesus Christ!**

One: For on Easter God defeats death.

Many: On Easter, life wins!

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Many: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN: "Morning Has Broken"

Morning has broken like the first morning

Blackbird has spoken like the first bird

Praise for the singing, praise for the morning

Praise for them springing fresh from the Word

Sweet the rains new fall, sunlit from Heaven

Like the first dewfall on the first grass

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden

Sprung in completeness where His feet pass

OPENING PRAYER (in unison)

Holy, Loving, Gracious God, we celebrate today your victory over the grave, when you raised Jesus Christ from death to life. And we celebrate today how your same power works in each of us, raising us all from death to new life. This morning, help us to set aside those things which separate us and grow into the new life you bring, a life renewed in your image, a life in which all divisions cease, because Christ has brought new life, your life, to us all. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON: John 20:1-18

The Resurrection of Jesus

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

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look^[a] into the tomb; ¹² 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. ¹³ 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.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew,^[b] “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ 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.’” ¹⁸ 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.

EASTER SUNRISE COMMUNION

Our Communion ritual will take place this morning with grapes and gold fish – acknowledging that just as Jesus presents himself to us in bread and wine, so, too, he will present himself to whoever is ready to participate in His divine presence – no matter the elements! Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE TO THE STORY

One: The stone was gone, so Mary assumed that Christ had been taken away.

Many: *The tomb was empty, so Peter assumed that Christ had been taken away.*

One: The angels had come, so Mary assumed that Christ had been taken away.

Many: *The linens were discarded, so Peter assumed that Christ had been taken away.*

And yet . . .

[pause]

One: *Christ was risen.*

Many: **Christ was alive.**

One: *Christ was in their midst.*

All: **They saw the Living Christ.**

One: When our lives seem empty, we assume that Christ has been taken away.

Many: *When our lives are full of pain, we assume that Christ has been taken away.*

And yet . . .

[pause]

One: *Christ is risen!*

Many: **Christ is alive!**

One: *Christ is in our midst!*

All: **Let us open our eyes to see the Living Christ here with us today!**

CLOSING HYMN: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

All creation join to say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

Everyone is invited to come to First Parish for a Breakfast Buffet after worship. The cost is \$5 per person.

HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE!