

First Congregational Church

April 17, 2022 10:00 AM

Easter Sunday

PRELUDE *Concerto in G BWV 592* – J. E. Prinz/arr. J. S. Bach Adam Peithmann
Easter Celebration Medley – arr. Gary Lanier James Boccia, trumpet & Gary Spellissey, timpani

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Rev. Barbara Papagian

TIME OF SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Leader: No matter how often the dawn heralds day's beginning with sounds and light, we always welcome the sense of newness that morning gives.

People: No matter how many times we hear the Easter story proclaimed in song and gospel, we always welcome the assurance of newness that Christ's resurrection gives.

Leader: By our Creator's design, the predictable transition from night to dawn is a matter of course.

People: Through our Creator's power, the wondrous transition from death to life is a matter of grace. Thanks be to God! Christ is risen! Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER (Unison)

Holy God, you are bursting with life and full of surprises! We celebrate this wonderful day, remembering that you conquer death and invite us into ever deeper relationship with you. You became human, one of us, and took upon yourself our experiences of pain and suffering. You have shown us that life cannot be defeated by death, and through our faith in you we have nothing to fear. We thank you and praise you as we celebrate Jesus alive again and with us forever. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN NO. 216 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

A TIME TO WONDER *Good News Travels Fast* Rev. Carolyn Keilig

ANTHEM *Lord of the Dance* – Sydney Carter/arr. John Rutter FCC Chancel Choir

I danced in the morning when the world was begun, and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth; at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain: Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be, and I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he.

I danced in the scribe and the Pharisee, but they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me;

I danced for the fishermen, for James and John; they came with me and the dance went on. (R)

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame, the holy people said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high, and they left me there on a cross to die. (R)

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black; it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;

they buried my body and they thought I'd gone, but I am the dance and I still go on. (R)

They cut me down and I leapt up high; I am the life that'll never, never die; I'll live in you if you'll live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. (R)

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Barbara Papagian

OUR PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT MEDITATION

OUR LORD'S PRAYER (Unison)

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. And 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. 221 *The Strife is O'er*

OUR MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY (Hymn No. 46)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

O loving and righteous God, you give us hope when there is much darkness in the world. You give us dreams when we are even afraid to sleep. You love us when we consider ourselves unlovable. We thank you, God. And now, we offer our gifts as our attempt to praise you. Free us to live even more triumphant lives of praise. In the name of the risen Christ, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Lisa Allen

Isaiah 65:17-25; Luke 24:1-12

SERMON *Shattered Expectations*

Rev. Carolyn Keilig

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 218 *Thine is the Glory*

BENEDICTION (Responsive)

Leader: "Look," says God, "I am making a new heaven and a new earth!"

People: Alleluia!

Leader: "The events of the past will be completely forgotten."

People: Alleluia!

Leader: "Be glad and rejoice forever in what I create!"

People: Alleluia!

Leader: "Wolves and lambs will eat together. There will be nothing harmful or evil on my holy mountain," says our God.

People: Alleluia!

Leader: This is the same God who raised Jesus from the dead, and whose spirit goes before you into the world.

People: Alleluia! Amen!

POSTLUDE *Toccata from Symphony no. 5 – Charles-Marie Widor*

*You are invited to stand if you wish.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 65:17-25

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. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord— and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came 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 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.

First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ ▪ 508 Union Street ▪ Manchester, New Hampshire ▪
FCCManchesterNH.org ▪ 603-625-5093