



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

Prelude

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Miller 9 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones, 10:30m a.m.

*Greeting and Passing of the Peace

"The Peace of God be with you."

In Unison: **Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

** Let us rise in body or spirit.*

Call to Worship

Rev. Katie Miller, 9 a.m.

Rev. Jeannie Bates, 10:30 a.m.

Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Hope is alive!

Hope is alive, indeed!

God's love is eternal!

Hallelujah! Let us give thanks for what God has done.

*Processional Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

EASTER

233

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Mat. 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!

***Invocation**

God of grace and power, we come rejoicing in Christ's empty tomb. We come trusting in the good news that tells us Christ is with us. For the Risen Christ is a living sign that you care about our lives, O God. The Risen Christ offers us glimpses of hope, even in our tears. The tomb is not quiet--it proclaims a promise of new and eternal life! Thank you, gracious God. Amen.

***Gloria**

Black Hymnal, No. 759

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Conversation with the Children

Gospel Lesson

John 20:1-18

For the Word of God in scripture,
For the Word of God within us,
For the Word of God among us,
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

I Have Seen the Lord

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

God of resurrection, help us in our pain and fear, so that we are not prone to fall into despair. Help us, instead, to rise up, like the Risen Christ, as a brave, glorified, and holy people. Empower us to live beyond our pain, despair, and fear. And with your steadfast love, encourage us to hope. This we pray, Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

God hears our prayers with grace and mercy. God meets us in our human suffering, comforts our tears, and offers us new hope. Today, we are lifted up into new life and resurrection joy.

Prayers

Pastoral Prayer

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. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offertory

Alleluia

***Hymn of Dedication**

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit,
Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Offertory Prayer**

God of love, we offer our gifts as a sign of our love for you and for the world. We ask a special
blessing on these gifts so that all may come to experience your abiding love. We give these
gifts as you have given them unto us--in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Recessional Hymn**

The Day of Resurrection

The Day of Resurrection

245

*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.

THOS. LANCASHIRE 7676D

***Benediction**

Benediction Response

Hallelujah Chorus

Handel

Postlude

Toccata

Widor

Open & Affirming Statement

In our ongoing quest for hearts that open, minds that understand,
and lives that serve, we welcome into our fellowship, membership, leadership, and employment,
all people, regardless of abilities, race, gender, sexual orientation, or any God-given characteristic.

Announcements

April 4, 2021

Prayers: *Judy Blazek*, recovering from eye surgery; *Norma Nelson*, who had surgery on a broken arm, and is recovering at home.

Chancel decorations: thanks to *Susan & Steve Dolezal*, *Johanna Blum Johaneck*, and *Coco Phillips and family*.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Grace Rath*, *Jenny Pfeifer*, *David Fortina*, *John Martinez*, *Susan Robinson*, *Emily Epperson*, *Mike Kratville*, *Kelly Beaman*, *Merle McAlevy*, and *Jake Sharpe*.

Activities for the Coming Week, April 5 – April 10

Lectionary Readings: Acts 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31.

- Monday:** Easter Monday. Office closed.
Wednesday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom
Thursday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Friday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Saturday: Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 11

Worship: 10:30 a.m. on FaceBook Live, YouTube, or in person. Communion.

FirstKids: Memorial Hall following the Conversation with the Children. Masks required.

Food Pantry: Donations will be accepted at church. Checks may be mailed to FirstCentral with “pantry” in the memo line. Frozen meats are now being accepted (and are needed).

Education Ministry: 11:30 a.m., Zoom

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

