



First Central Congregational

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

April 11, 2021

Second Sunday of Easter

Prelude

Elevation in E

Bouma

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Katie Miller

***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

Deb Kirwan, liturgist

At the beginning of the day, at the beginning of the week, the faithful yet fearful people gathered together. It was then that the Spirit of God came among them and whispered:

Peace be with you.

They looked around at each other, puzzled, amazed, befuddled, and bewildered. Some smiled. Some doubted. Some wondered if it were just too magical sounding or too good to be true. So the Christ showed them that his own scars were not the end of the story and that is when the words of God began to feel joyous:

Peace be with you.

From that day on, the people of God repeated the words to one another when they gathered. From one generation to the next, they exchanged the words as a greeting to one another to remember that Holy interruption to fear:

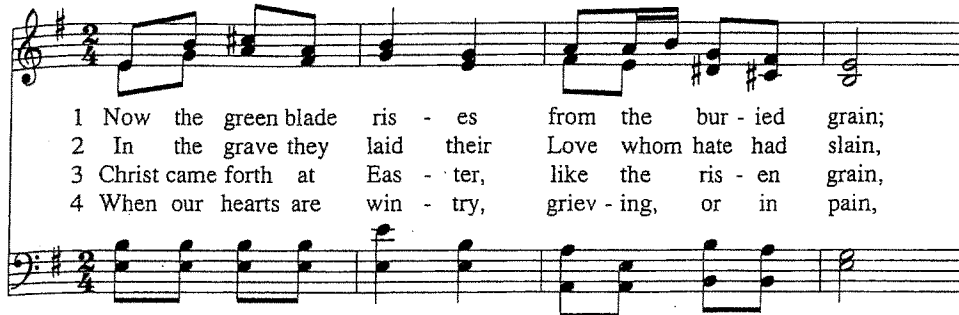
Peace be with you!

***Processional Hymn**

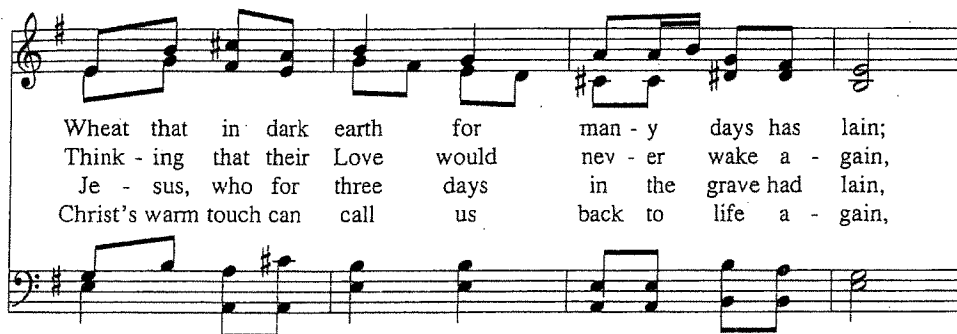
Now the Green Blade Rises

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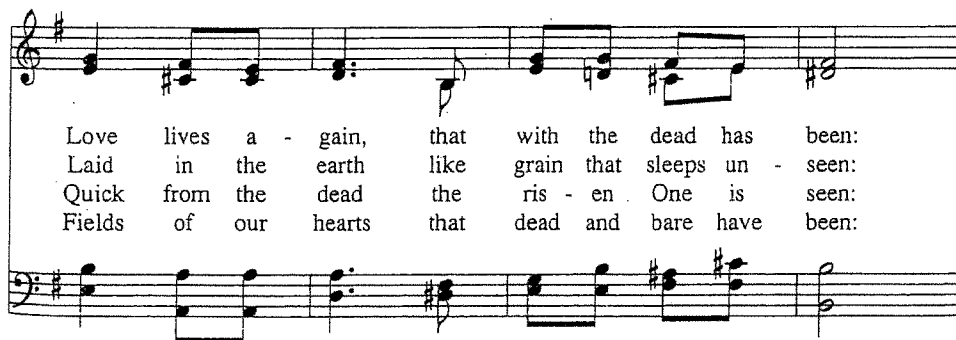
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*John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.**Matt. 27:57-28:7; Luke 23:50-24:12*


1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
 2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
 3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
 Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,



Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:



Refrain
 Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

*John M. C. Crum, an English priest who was canon of
 Canterbury for fifteen years, wrote these words for this ancient
 French Chanson.*

*Tune: NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.10.11.
 French noel, 15th century
 (Hymn Music E. Shaw, 1929)*

***Invocation**

Ever-present God, who by the power of the Holy Spirit transforms us individually and as a church to be your dwelling place, confront us here in the midst of our doubts, grant us your peace while we face our fears, fill us with your abiding love, and increase our trust so that we might embrace life with abundance. Speak to us now the words that we need, empowering us to be a unifying presence in our broken world. 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

Epistle Lesson

1 John 1:1-2:5

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

We Are One

Rev. Dr. Scott Jones

Musical Interlude

***Prayer of Confession**

Rev. Dr. Jim Harmon

Our fear and our doubts hold us back from experiencing the fullness of life together with God and one another. Forgive us our sins and perfect your love in us. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

Beloved People of God, this hour is only the beginning. Do not be afraid. Your sins are forgiven. You have been called, and you are being sent into this world to be forces of love, light, peace, and joy.

Offertory

Meditation

***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**

You invite us to bring the fullness of who we are into worship and to share that fullness with the world. We respond now to your holy invitation that asks us to pause and wonder what we can offer of ourselves to the world. Receive our gifts and bless them. Amen.

Celebration of the Sacrament of Communion

As grain that was scattered on the hillside was gathered together and made into one loaf, so too, we, scattered at tables in our own homes, are bound together around Christ's table and become one. As grapes grown in the field are gathered together and pressed into wine, so too are we drawn together and pressed by our times to share a common lot and are transformed into Christ's self-giving love for all.

God be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God.

Give thanks to God.

It is right and good to give God thanks and praise.

Praise to you Divine Creator. Thank you for the gift of life, the beauty of nature, and your steadfast loving kindness. Praise to you Divine Redeemer. Thank you for sharing our human existence, from birth through death to everlasting life you have shown us a way worth emulating, bringing healing and hope to those most in need. Praise to you Divine Sustainer. Thank you for the vision to see beyond the immediate, a calm in the midst of storm, the strength to build an ever-expanding community and the courage to bring about any change necessary within our lives. Today we join in communion with all the saints in every time and age to sing your glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution and Invitation to the Table

The Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

***Recessional Hymn**

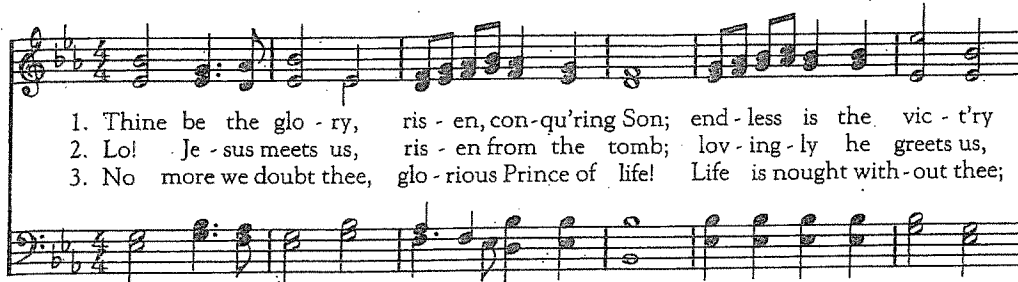
Thine Be the Glory

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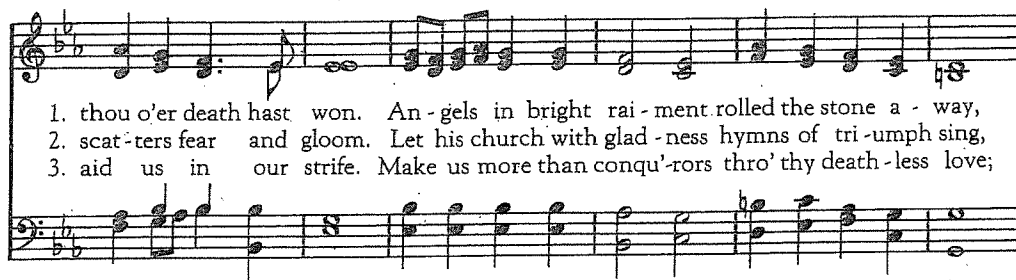
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A toi la gloire, by Edmond Budry, 1884; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923

MACCABAEUS, 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5 with refrain

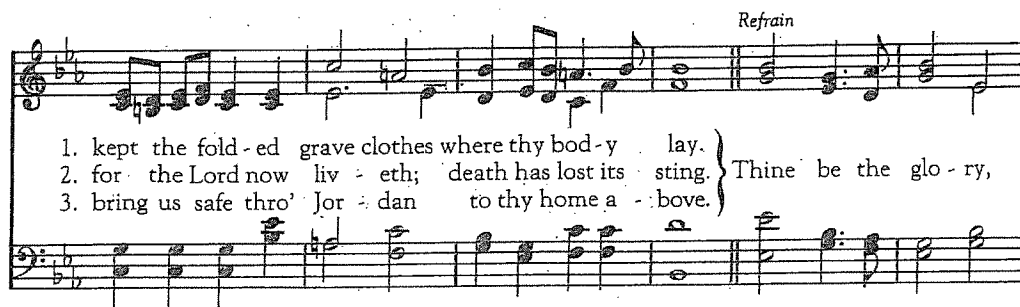
Air from *Judas Maccabaeus*, by G. F. Handel, 1747


1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he greets us,
 3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is nought with - out thee;

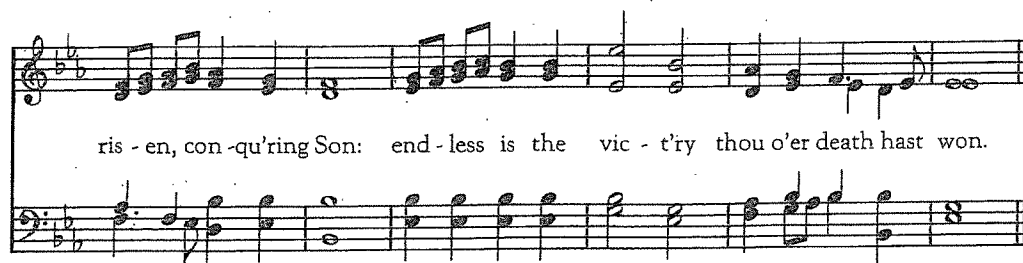


1. thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment rolled the stone a - way,
 2. scat - ters fear and gloom. Let his church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph sing,
 3. aid us in our strife. Make us more than conqu'rors thro' thy death - less love;

Refrain



1. kept the fold - ed grave clothes where thy bod - y lay.
 2. for the Lord now liv - eth; death has lost its sting. } Thine be the glo - ry,
 3. bring us safe thro' Jor - dan to thy home a - - - - - above.



ris - en, con - qu'ring Son: end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won.

***Benediction**

Benediction Response

Bouma

May you hear laughter in the wind. May you see hope in the light.
May you find courage in your faith. May you know joy in your God.

Postlude

Fughetta

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 11, 2021

Prayers: *Evan Davis*, whose grandfather died last week.

Happy Birthday this week: to *Barbara Burrit, Adalynn Negrete, Rich Rudd, Matt Jones, Lizzie Patterson, Charlene Wozny, and Neva Burroughs..*

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

Activities for the Coming Week, April 12 – April 17

Lectionary Readings: Acts 3:12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3:1-7; Luke 24:36b-48..

- Monday:** Staff meeting, 1:30 p.m.
Regathering Task Force, 6 p.m., Zoom
Eves, 7 p.m., Zoom
- Tuesday:** Council, 7 p.m., Zoom
- Wednesday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Choir, 7 p.m., Zoom
Vespers, 8 p.m., FaceBook Live
- Thursday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Congregational Care Ministry, 7:30 p.m., Zoom
- Friday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Saturday:** Evergreen Thrift Shop 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 18

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

Want to donate electronically? Please scan the QR code.

