

Peace United Church of Christ
April 20th, 2025
Easter Sunday
10:30am



Fill My Cup, Steve Prince
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ringling of the Bells

*Call to Worship

Beloved of God,

we have known grief.

We have known loss.

We have known the long road, tired and winding.

We have whispered prayers on bended knees.

We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.

But today—

today we know hope.

Today we know life.

Today we know the sound of Alleluias.

Today we know that death does not have the last word.

Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

On Easter, hope finds us and makes us know,

deep in our bones,

that today is a new day.

Alleluia! Amen.

*Song

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

#233 NCH

Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Alleluia!

Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!

God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

*Prayer of Confession

The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told the apostles of the resurrection. But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."

Forgive us, God, when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it.

Forgive us, God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope.

Forgive us, God, when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors.

Show us how to hold onto hope. Like Peter, show us how to run toward you. Amen.

*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved, at first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid. Peter was the only exception. Jesus loved each of them, as Jesus loves us, on our best days and our worst days.

God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we're grieving,

when we're shouting and when we're silent,

when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear.

God's grace exists for us on the best days, the worst days,

and every day in between.

Hear the good news: through Christ we are forgiven!

Alleluia! Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children

refrain from *Halle, Halle, Halle*

#236 NCH

***Hal-le, hal-le, halleluja.
Hal-le, hal-le, halleluja.
Hal-le, hal-le, halleluja.
Halleluja, halleluja.***

Contemporary Reading

In the Direction of Hope
Rev. Sarah A. Speed

Laurie Berner, reader

I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden;
I will be there soon.

I'm not the fastest runner,
Lord knows that,
but these legs are moving.

I suppose I could blame my weary spirit for the slow speed.
I could blame the grief I've shoved into my pockets and
laid around my neck.
I could blame my own hesitation to hope,
a hesitation that clings like mud.

But I don't know that Jesus cares about my speed.
So tell God when you see them—
I am on my way.
Wait for me in the garden.
I will be there soon.

Anthem

A Glorious Day is Dawning, Aaron David Miller

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:1-12

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

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

The Day of Resurrection

#245 NCH

***The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.***

***Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light;
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
for we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.***

***Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.***

The Prayer of Jesus

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Sung Amen

Offertory

Kim Anderson

*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

*Prayer of Dedication

*Closing Song

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

#241 NCH

***Joy dawned again on Easter Day, the sun shone out with bright array;
For when the Apostles hid in fear, the Risen Christ to them appeared.***

***O Jesus, Savior, Gentle One, come take our hearts to be your own,
That we may give you all our days the willing tribute of our praise.***

***O Sovereign One, with us abide in this our joyful Eastertide;
From every weapon death can wield, your own redeemed forever shield.***

*Benediction

*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Dennis and Cindy Macaulay, Greeters

April Knight, Welcome Table

Robin Davidson, Phyllis Cook, and Laurie Berner, Usher

Kelli Hallsten, saxophone, Jessica Olson, trumpet, Heidi Olson, cello, April Knight, cello, Dale Shimmin, Trombone, Sophia Farell, violin, Cyndi Brown, flute, Kim Anderson, flute, Ian Connell, bass and percussion, Wendy Durrwachter, piano