



Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024



First Congregational Church, UCC
1201 Jefferson Street
Muskegon, MI 49441



www.fccmuskegon.org

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31, 2024

*"Give thanks to God because God is good,
because God's faithful love lasts forever."*

Psalm 118:1

WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

PRELUDE

Lord of the Dance, Arr. by Jason W. Krug
The Canterbury Ringers

GATHERING PRAYER

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit

Easter, O God, takes us by surprise.

**Things that are dead and buried
are supposed to stay that way.**

Are we to believe that the world can be made new?

**Give us grace to affirm the possibilities
and courage to work toward them**

**that your resurrection power be made known
among and through us;**

through Christ our crucified and risen Savior.

Amen.

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

Christ the Lord is Risen Today



Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
Love's re - deem - ing work is done, 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!



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!



Sing, glad heav'ns, 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!

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Christ the Lord Is Risen Again, by Philip Stopford

Christ the Lord is ris'n again, Christ hath broken ev'ry chain.

Hark, angelic voices cry, singing evermore on high,

Alleluia!

He who gave for us his life, who for us endured the strife,

Is our Paschal Lamb today; we too sing for joy, and say

Alleluia!

He who bore all pain and loss comfortless upon the cross,

Lives in glory now on high, pleads for us, and hears our cry,

He who slumbered in the grave is exalted now to save;

Now through Christendom it rings that the Lamb is King of Kings.

Alleluia!

Thou, our Paschal Lamb indeed, Christ, thy ransomed people feed;

Take our sins and guilt away; let us sing by night and day

Alleluia!

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MESSAGE

HOW ARE WE WITH TERROR AND AMAZEMENT?

Those who wish may stand

HYMN

Those who wish may stand

The Day of Resurrection

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 Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;
The world re - sound in tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and, lis - ening to his ac - cents, may hear, 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.
his own "all hail" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our Joy that has no end.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...ending with the 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.**

(Many Congregationalists in the early days felt that using the Lord's Prayer as a fixed part of worship was far too "liturgical." The traditional form in this Congregation uses "debts" and "debtors," but you are free to join in with whatever version you know.)

OFFERTORY REFLECTION

OFFERTORY MUSIC

*Resurrection Morning, Arr. by Joel Raney
The Canterbury Ringers*

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father (Creator), Son (Christ), and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
Amen.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*During our Closing Hymn, any members of the congregation
who wish to sing along with the Hallelujah Chorus
are invited to come forward, receive a copy of the music,
and stand with the choir in the chancel.*

Those who wish may stand

CLOSING HYMN

This Joyful Eastertide

Those who wish may stand

This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide, a - way with sin and
My be - ing shall re - joice se - cure with - in God's
Death's wa - ters lost their chill when Je - sus crossed the

sad - ness! Our Lord, the cru - ci - fied,
keep - ing, un - til the trum - pet voice
riv - er. His love shall reach me still;

has filled our hearts with glad - ness.
shall wake us from our sleep - ing.
his mer - cy is for - ev - er.

Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on, our
faith would be in vain. But now has Christ a - ris - en, a - ris - en,
a - ris - en, but now has Christ a - ris - en!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. The voice part is in the treble clef, and the piano accompaniment is in the bass clef. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats), and the time signature is 4/4. The score consists of six systems of music. The first three systems are for the voice, and the last three are for the piano. The lyrics are written below the notes. The piano accompaniment features chords and moving lines in the left hand, and chords and moving lines in the right hand. The score ends with a double bar line.

BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

"Hallelujah," from *Messiah*, by G.F. Handel

Today's Service

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Senior Pastor
Dr. Michael Match	Music Director
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Leaders of Song
The Canterbury Ringers	Handbell Ensemble
Shirley Albers	Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video

FCC Festival Brass

Paul Krause	Trumpet
Allen Beck	Horn
Scott Lachniet	Trombone
Jon Witmer	Trombone
Sandy Beck	Timpani

An Easter Lily is given by Ann and Charlie Taylor in honor of our FCC volunteers.

Thank you to our V.E.T. Team for the Easter Decorations and flowers.

Children nursery through 5th grade (and parents) are invited to the parlor immediately after the worship service for instructions on the Easter Egg Hunt. Visitors are welcome.

Please place the completed Christmas Eve Church Service Survey in the basket in the Narthex or at the Welcome Center. Thank you!

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First Congregational Church, UCC is an Open and Affirming Community

"We, the people of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, of Muskegon, care for the welfare of our community and welcome everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. We welcome into our community people of every age, race, nationality, mental and physical ability, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing, family structure, gender identity and expression, and sexual orientation. We also invite you to share in the life, leadership, worship, fellowship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love."

Adopted by congregational vote 10/17/21