

# First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

*"No matter who you are,  
or where you are  
on life's journey,  
you are welcome here."*

Senior Minister  
Rev. Tim Vander Haar

**Sunday, April 7, 2024**

1201 Jefferson Street  
Muskegon, Michigan 49441  
231-726-3254

[www.fccmuskegon.org](http://www.fccmuskegon.org)

**SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**Communion Sunday**  
**April 7, 2024**

**WELCOME AND NEWS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**PRELUDE**

*Awake, My Heart, with Gladness, by Robert Hobby*

**GATHERING PRAYER**

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**The Lord is risen indeed.**

Come let us worship the One who is and was and is to be.

**Alleluia!**

Let us pray.

**Loving God,**

**As we celebrate Christ's resurrection  
help us to see with fresh eyes the signs  
of new life all around us.**

**Give us grace to nurture and encourage  
the tender shoots of fresh life  
and new beginnings,  
and wisdom to embrace every opportunity  
for reconciliation and a fresh start;  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*

1 I greet thee, who my sure Re - deem - er art,  
2 Thou art the King of mer - cy and of grace,  
3 Thou art the life by which a - lone we live  
4 Thou hast the true and per - fect gen - tle - ness,  
5 Our hope is in no oth - er save in thee;

my on - ly trust and Sav - ior of my heart,  
reign - ing om - ni - po - tent in ev - ery place:  
and all our sub - stance and our strength re - ceive;  
thou hast no harsh - ness and no bit - ter - ness:  
our faith is built up - on thy prom - ise free;

who pain didst un - der - go for my poor sake;  
so come, O King, and our whole be - ing sway;  
com - fort us by thy faith and by thy power,  
make us to taste the sweet grace found in thee  
come, give us peace, make us so strong and sure,

I pray thee from our hearts all cares to take.  
shine on us with the light of thy pure day.  
nor daunt our hearts when comes the try - ing hour.  
and ev - er stay in thy sweet u - ni - ty.  
that we may con - querors be and ills en - dure.

## SCRIPTURE READING

John 20: 19-31

**W**hen it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

**A** week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**CHORAL ANTHEM**  
*Song of Thomas, by Russel Nagy*

As day drew unto evening, there were his friends yet grieving  
Yet, numb with loss, believing his body was stolen from the tomb.  
Jesus, their Lord and Master, torn from them by disaster,  
They mourned the dead and waited with dread, locked in the upper room.

*Then Jesus came, saying, "Peace be with you. As I was sent, now I'm sending you too.  
As you forgive, so forgiveness will flow. Be not afraid, come touch me and you'll know."*

One was not there to see it, so Thomas disbelieved it,  
And till he saw the nail prints and spear-wounded side would not believe.  
When, all at once beside him, Jesus was there to guide him.  
"Come se my hands, reach out, touch my side. Doubt me no more, believe."

*Then Jesus came, saying, "Peace be with you. As I was sent, now I'm sending you too.  
As you forgive, so forgiveness will flow. Be not afraid, come touch me and you'll know."  
Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believe.*

© 1999 High Street Music

**MESSAGE**

JUST CALL ME THOMAS

\*Those who wish may stand\*

## HYMN

\*Those who wish may stand\*

### *Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with  
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my  
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am  
4. Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I

life a - new, That I may love what  
heart is pure, Un - til with Thee I  
whol - ly Thine, Till all this earth - ly  
nev - er die, But live with Thee the

Thou dost love And do what Thou wouldst do.  
will one will, To do and to en - dure.  
part of me Glows with Thy fire di - vine.  
per - fect life Of Thine e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Edwin Hatch, 1835–1889

Tune: TRENTHAM, SM; Robert Jackson, 1840–1914

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **OFFERTORY REFLECTION**

#### **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

*Peace I Give to You*, by Larry Visser

Peace I give to you; my peace I leave with you;  
not as the world gives do I give to you.

© 2006 by GIA Publications, Inc.

#### **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**

# CELEBRATING THE LORD'S SUPPER

## Meaning of the Sacrament

### Communion Prayer

...with your sons and daughters in every time and place,  
and with all the company of heaven, we lift our voices  
to worship and adore your glorious name.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, Ru-ler Al - migh - ty;  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Glo-ry be to you, O God.  
Bless-ed is the one who comes, who comes in the name of God.  
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Music © 1991 Martha McMane

...All this we pray in Jesus' name, who taught us to say:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is 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.**



\*Those who wish may stand\*

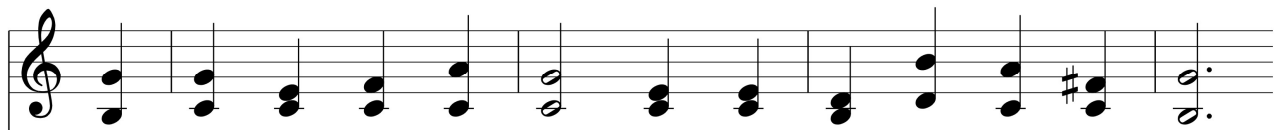
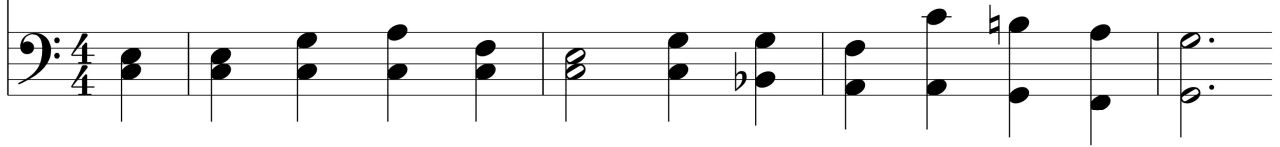
## CLOSING HYMN

### *The Day of Resurrection*

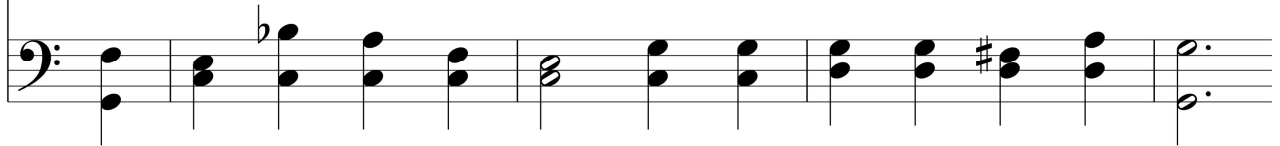
\*Those who wish may stand\*



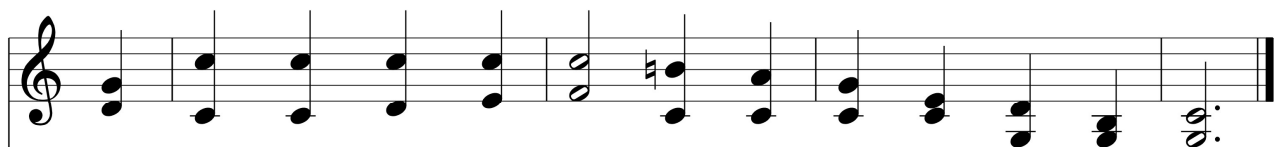
1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;  
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right  
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful! Let earth its song be - gin!



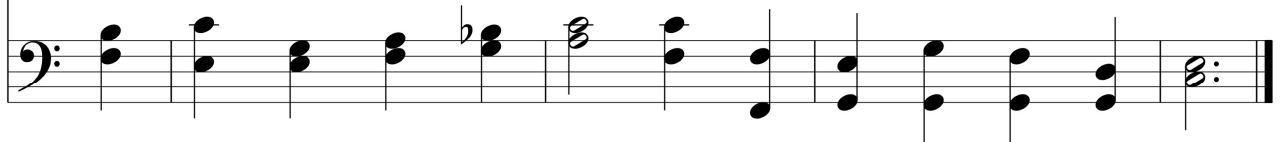
the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;  
The world re - sound in tri - umph, and all that is there - in;



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
and, lis - tening 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.



# **BLESSING AND SENDING**

## **POSTLUDE**

*Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds, by Robert Hobby*

## **Today's Service**

Rev. Tim Vander Haar	Senior Minister
Dr. Michael Match	Music Director
John Mattson	Organist
The Motet Choir	Song Leaders
Tom Hardy	Liturgist/Prayers of the People
Blake Filius	Audio and Video
Tom & Deb Witmer, Tom Hardy	Communion Servers

*All music reprinted by permission under ONELICENSE #A-727828*

*Cookies are again appreciated for our Coffee Fellowship Sundays after worship. Those whose last names begin with the letters A-D please bring if you can, cookies or bars for the month of April. Gluten and sugar free cookies, or home made are also welcome.*

*Exercise classes have resumed on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9-10. Drumming exercise class on Thursday mornings from 9-10. Cost for each class is \$3.*

*No Name will meet Thursday, April 11 at 5:30 pm at Red Wok on E. Sherman in Muskegon. Please sign up at the Welcome Center if you will be attending!  
Host is Joe Singerling.*

*Just a reminder that GSA meets every Monday from 7-8 pm at FCC.*

*Let's Make A Mess! Painting Class will be Wednesday, April 24, 2024 – 1:00 pm  
This class is an Acrylic Liquid Pour Art. Please sign up for the class at the Welcome Center if you can join us. Look for a material list of items to bring to class.*

*We have many Sundays open for flower sponsors.  
Please contact Ann at the church office for open dates.*

*We welcome the Civic Theatre group back this year for the month of April as they rehearse for their production.*

*Governing Board members, we will meet in the Parlor for Monday, April 15, 2024's meeting.*

*Are you getting up to date information on FCC activities? If not, please email [michaelm@fccmuskegon.org](mailto:michaelm@fccmuskegon.org) and ask to be put on our Thursday email. He will also send you a direct link to our on-line worship service.*

*FCC Outreach Task Force will have a container by the Welcome Center so you can add your old batteries to be recycled during our battery recycling program in time for Earth Day (April 22, 2024).*

*Thank you to those who have brought canned goods for our weekly food pantry. Please deposit them in the baskets in the Narthex.*

*We invite you to join us Wednesday mornings for outside and inside projects around the church. We meet from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. then have coffee and donuts in the library for a bit of social time. Come check us out!*

## **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*