



Trinity United Church of Christ

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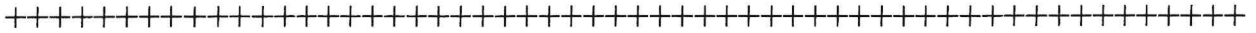
Trinity United Church of Christ

March 31, 2024

8:00am & 10:30am

Easter Sunday

Awakening joyful service guided by our still speaking God!



PRELUDE MUSIC – “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” – *L. Larson*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Risen by Jan Richardson

If you are looking for a blessing, do not linger here.

Here is only emptiness, a hollow,
a husk where a blessing used to be.

This blessing was not content in its confinement.

It could not abide its isolation,
the unrelenting silence, the pressing stench of death.
So if it is a blessing you seek,
open your own mouth.

Fill your lungs with the air this new morning brings
and then release it with a cry.

Hear how the blessing breaks forth in your own voice,
how your lips form every word you never dreamed you'd say.
See how the blessing circles back again, wanting you to repeat it, but louder,
how it draws you, pulls you, sends you to proclaim its only word:

Risen.

Risen.

Risen.

***INVOCATION**

**Holy and loving God, we gather from
near and far as the body of Christ.
Risen and alive, we come to you in quiet mystery.**

ANTHEM (*10:30am*)

“Were You There”

Arr. B. L. Hanson

Senior Choir

CALL TO CONFESSION

God, we come before you in humble prayer.
**We acknowledge that even as we celebrate your freedom from the tomb,
we may fail to look for you right beside us.
Rarely do we allow the mystery of your love to be part of our lives.
For the things that we have done, and more often
for the things which we have left undone,
all the burdens of thoughts and deeds that lie heavy on our hearts
we come before you, each heart in silent confession.**

TIME FOR SILENCE

How often have we walked by the lost, the lonely, the sick, the imprisoned?
Seldom do we imagine the sacrifices of salvation.
**Jesus, when we miss the opportunity to live as
your joyful Easter people, forgive us.
When we fail to take responsibility as the body of Christ
and act as your heart and your hands and your feet, have mercy on us.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

With our burdens lifted and our hearts as free as the Easter tomb,
let us greet one another in the joy Christ brings.

*HYMN #233 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in an Easter God,
who transforms darkness into light,
hatred into tolerance, despair into hope.
We believe God is always working for good,
changing every Good Friday nightmare
into an Easter dream of new possibility.
We believe in the risen Christ,
who befriends us on our roads of searching and worry;
who touches us through song and silence, word and gesture;
who calls us by name to enter the dance of life.**

**We believe in the Spirit,
the hidden presence behind every resurrection,
who beckons us to leave the tomb-like safety
and trust the gracious invitation to live joyfully.
We believe the Spirit is always renewing the church
and making us people who practice kindness,
encourage beauty and work for justice and freedom.
We believe we are an Easter people, a sign,
that with God all things are possible. Amen.**

SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 25:6-9

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

7 And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

8 he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

9 It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”
¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

SERMON

“Easter Morning” – **Pastor Fred Young** (8:00am)
“While the Sun Rose, Joy Dawned” – **Kara Young** (10:30am)

ANTHEM (10:30am)

“Christ is Risen, Alleluia!”

Words & Music by S. Albrecht & J. Althouse

Senior Choir

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 sins**

as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

***HYMN #241 “Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day”**

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give God thanks and praise.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

And all God's people said, Alleluia

Alleluia.

And all God's people shouted, Alleluia!

Alleluia!

With all of our hearts, we thank you God. In love, you created all things.

In compassion, your Son rose for all people.

In hope, you promise to be with us to the end of the age, and so we say, Alleluia.

Alleluia.

Amen.

Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

As we joyfully return to your table, God,
we remember the night that Jesus sat with his friends
who gathered together for a meal of celebration and hope.

As they were eating, Jesus looked at those who had walked with him.
He picked up the bread, gave thanks to you, God most holy, and he broke it.

With all their eyes upon him, listening intently, they heard him say,

"This is my body, given for you. Eat this and remember me."

He took his cup, filled it, and gave thanks to you.

He held that cup close. He looked at his friends and said,

"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Each time you drink it, remember me."

And so we eat, we drink, and we remember.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

(Please come forward as the Usher directs you up the center aisle. We will form a semi-circle around the Communion Table. You will be individually served the bread first and then the cup. After we commune, the pastor will offer a benediction and you will leave the chancel area placing your cups in the tray provided, then return to your seat.)

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you, God, that scattered or gathered, we have been blessed to share this meal of resurrection, joy, dawning and love. On Easter Day the whole world is changed. May this knowledge and nourishment feed us in the days to come. In the name of Jesus, the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

ANTHEM *(10:30am)*

“Lift High the Cross”

Arr. R. Lau

Senior Choir

*CELEBRATION OF OUR GIFTS

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE #4 “**Joyful, Joyful We Adore You**” (v.1)

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Dear God, may our offerings be multiplied.
May they create resurrection power to awaken wholeness
in those who feel broken, strength in those who feel weak,
and fullness for those who have known hunger.
Please bless each gift shared this sacred day,
and bless the soul of each loving giver. Amen.**

*HYMN #4 “**Joyful, Joyful We Adore You**” (v. 2-4)

FINAL BLESSING

BRASS RECESSIONAL *(10:30am)*

**Ethan Shank - Trumpet; Georgia Hollabaugh - Trumpet;
Hannah Shank - F Horn; Caleb Shank - Trombone; Lucy Greene - Cello**

POSTLUDE – Hallelujah Chorus – *Handel*

Worship Elements have been adapted from:

Communion Liturgy was adapted from: *Gifts in Open Hands* by Maren Tirabassi; and Kathy W. Eddy. Cleveland. Pilgrim Press. 2011. *The New Century Hymnal*. Pp 1995

Prelude – *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*. Arranged by Lloyd Larson. © 1975. Glory Sound Publishing.

Hymns - *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*. By Charles Wesley. Text alterations © 1992 The Pilgrim Press.

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day. Tune: German Carol. Text Neal, 1851

Joyful, Joyful We Adore You. Text: Henry Van Dyke. Tune: Beethoven. Public Domain.

Anthem – *Were You There*. Words: African-American spiritual. Music: African-American spiritual, arr. Brian L. Hanson © 2017 Choristers Guild.

Christ Is Risen, Alleluia! Words and music: Sally K. Albrecht and Jay Althouse. © 1996 Alfred Publishing Inc.

Lift High the Cross. Arr. Robert Lau. © 1995. Alfred Publishing Inc.

Postlude – *Hallelujah Chorus*. Music by George Frederick Handel. © 1997. Resort Music

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Worship Leaders:

Rev. Dr. Frederick Young (8:00am)	Pastor
Kara Young (10:30am)	
Roberta Weiant (8:00am)	Serving Elder
Peter Kuhn, Jane Eiker (10:30am)	Liturgist/Serving Elder
John McKay	Choir Director
Sara Shank	Organist
Mark Luckenbaugh (6:30am)	Percussion
Sandy Busche, Suhua Dong	Greeters
Nina & Russell Redding (6:30am)	Ushers
Cindy Barley (8:00am)	
Bonnie Smith, George Steckert (10:30am)	
Bonnie Smith	Acolyte
Georgia Hollabaugh, Kara Young, Luke Milhimes,	Tech Team
Russell Bailey, Carl Barrick, Stacy Rushwald, George Steckert, Garrison Redding,	
Mike Chase, Terry Krietz	

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!
Mor-tal tongues and an-gels say: Al-le-lu-ia!
Raise your joys and tri-umphs high, Al-le-lu-ia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth re-ply: Al-le-lu-ia!
2. Let the Vic-tor's peo-ple sing, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
Dy-ing once, Christ lives to save, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where your vic-to-ry, O grave? Al-le-lu-ia!
3. Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fought the fight, the bat-tle won, Al-le-lu-ia!
Death in vain for-bids Christ rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
God has o-pened par-a-dise, Al-le-lu-ia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fol-lowing our ex-alt-ed Head, Al-le-lu-ia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al-le-lu-ia!

Matt. 28:5–8; 1 Cor. 15:20–22; 54–57

Latin, c. 5th century

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

1. Joy dawned a-gain on Eas-ter Day,
the sun shone out with bright ar-ray;
For when the A-pos-tles hid in fear,
the Ris-en Christ to them ap-peared.

2. O Je-sus, Sav-ior, Gen-tle One,
come take our hearts to be your own,
That we may give you all our days
the will-ing trib-ute of our praise.

3. O Sov-ereign One, with us a-bide
in this our joy-ful Eas-ter-tide;
From ev-ery weap-on death can wield,
your own re-deemed for-ev-er shield.

Luke 24:36–37

4

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Henry van Dyke, 1907; alt.

1. Joy-ful, joy-ful, we a-dore you, God of glo-ry, God of love;
Hearts un-fold like flowers be-fore you, open-ing to the sun a-bove.
Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness, drive the storms of doubt a-way;
Giv-er of im-mor-tal glad-ness, fill us with the light of day.

2. All your works with joy sur-round you, earth and heaven re-flect
your rays,
Stars and an-gels sing a-round you, cen-ter of un-bro-ken praise.
Field and for-est, vale and moun-tain, flower-y mead-ow, flash-ing
sea,
Chant-ing bird and flow-ing foun-tain, teach us what our praise
should be.

3. You are giv-ing and for-giv-ing, ev-er bless-ing, ev-er blessed,
Well-spring of the joy of liv-ing, o-cean depth of hap-py rest!
Lov-ing Spir-it, Fa-ther, Moth-er, all who love be-long to you;
Teach us how to love each oth-er, by that love our joy re-new.

4. Mor-tals, join the might-y cho-rus which the morn-ing stars be-gan;
Bound-less love is reign-ing o'er us, re-con-cil-ing race and clan.
Ev-er sing-ing, move we for-ward, faith-ful in the midst of strife,
Joy-ful mu-sic leads us on-ward in the tri-umph song of life.

Ps. 145:10; Isa. 49:13



Flowers are presented in Memory

*In memory of my parents Herbert & Doris Bailey
by Russell Bailey (2 Tulips)*

*In memory of Mary Crockett
by Russell Bailey (1 Lily)*

*In memory of Tom Blackstone
by Audrey Blackstone (1 Tulip)*

*In memory of Leonard J. Ebel
by Elizabeth Greene (1 Tulip)*

*In memory of Stanley & Virginia Deal and Warren & Janet
Hamilton by JoyceAnn & Edwin Hamilton (2 Tulips)*

*In memory of Charles & Mary Harman and John & Elizabeth
Hilbert by the Hilbert Family (2 Lilies)*

*In memory of Fred & Esther Hughes
by Fred Hughes (2 Tulips)*

*In memory of Robert L. Sr. & Ruth Hallman and Charles, Sr. &
Virginia Krietz by Ruth & Terry Krietz (2 Tulips)*

*In memory of my Parents Roy & Edna Read
by Nancy MacMeekin (1 Lily)*

In memory of Loved Ones by Jen Mickelson (1 Tulip)

In memory of their Parents by Suzy & Bob Miller, (1 Tulip)

*In memory of Daniel & Alice Hoffman and Lula & Lawrence
Redding by Nina & Russel Redding (2 Lilies)*

*In memory of Edward Warren, Sr. by Ruby Warren
and Children - Linda, Lisa and Ed, Jr. (1 Tulip)*

*In memory of Mary Woodward, Ruth Kennel, Trena Ribble,
Sharon Wise, Susan Woodward and Chris Bowen
by Tim & Rebecca Woodward (6 Lilies)*

*In memory of Galia Kendlehart
by the Guihers and Cathy Trostle (1 Tulip)*



Easter Flowers are presented in Honor

In honor of my great grandchildren

by Audrey Blackstone (2 Tulip)

In honor of our children Tommy, Jen, Brock and Brea

by Sandy & Tom Busche (2 Tulips)

In honor of Kindness & Caring Spirits to Others

by Sue & Dave Churchill (2 Tulips)

In honor of Trinity Tech Team by Nancy MacMeekin (1 Tulip)

In honor of George Steckert for leading the Adult Sunday School

Group by Jen Mickelson (1 Tulip)

In honor of our Grandchildren - Evelyn & Evan

by Maryann & Ken Oelkers (1 Tulip, 1 Lily)

In honor of all my friends at Trinity by Bonnie Smith (1 Lily)

In honor of Family & Friends by Phyllis Whitfield (2 Lilies)

In honor & joy of Family by Jack & Pat Ziegler (2 Tulips)

Trinity United Church of Christ
Gettysburg, PA

Grace United Church of Christ
Hanover, PA

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday



Sermon
"Easter Morning!"

Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24
John 20:1-18

Rev. Dr. Frederick Young
Pastor

Down below the surface of a quiet pond lived a little colony of water bugs. They were a happy colony, living far away from the sun. For many months they were very busy, scurrying over the soft mud on the bottom of the pond.

They did notice that every once in a while, one of their colony seemed to lose interest in going about with its friends. Clinging to the stem of a pond lily, it gradually moved out of sight never to be seen again.

“Look!” said one. *“One of our colony is climbing up the lily stalk. Where do you suppose she is going?”* As they watched the water bug disappear, they waited and waited but it didn’t return.

“That’s funny!” said one bug to another.

“Wasn’t she happy here?” asked a second.

“Where do you suppose she went?” wondered a third.

No one had an answer. They were greatly puzzled. Finally, one of the bugs gathered the rest together.

“I have an idea. The next one of us who climbs up the stalk must promise to come back and tell us where he or she went and why.”

“We promise,” they said solemnly.

Not long after, the very water bug who had suggested the plan found himself climbing up the lily stalk. Before he knew what was happening, he had broken through the surface of the water, and fallen onto a broad, green lily pad.

When he awoke, he looked about and couldn't believe what he saw. A startling change had come to his old body. His movement revealed four silver wings and a long tail. Even as he struggled, he felt an impulse to move his wings. The warmth of the sun soon dried the moisture from his new body. He moved his wings again and suddenly found himself up above the water. He had become a dragonfly.

Swooping and diffing in great curves, he flew. He felt exhilarated in the new atmosphere. When he was tired, he rested on a lily pad. He looked below to the bottom of the pond. Why, he was right above his old friends, the water bugs! Watching them scurry about, the dragonfly remembered the promise: *"The next one of us who climbs up the stalk will come back and tell the others where he or she went and why."*

Without thinking, the dragonfly darted down. He hit the surface of the water and bounced back. Now that he had wings, he could no longer go into the water.

"I can't return!" he said in dismay.

"At least I tried, but I can't keep my promise. Even if I could go back, not one of the water bugs would know me in my new body. I guess I'll just have to wait until they become dragonflies, too. Then they'll understand what happened to me, and where I went."

And the dragonfly winged off happily into its wonderful new world of sun and air.

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Today's story of resurrection into new life is quite like our water friend's tale of mystery. Friends of Jesus went to tend to his body, only to find the tomb empty. Like how the water bugs questioned the whereabouts of their missing companions, John's Gospel would have us envision the thoughts of these dutiful disciples as they contemplated where Jesus might have been taken. Fear probably consumed them. In the way their Lord had died, how could they be anything but afraid? The 53 action words in John's Easter story create a great sense of urgency as each character plays a part in bringing an empty tomb to life. There are different responses across the gospels as to what happens next, but in this text, Mary ran from the scene to go and tell the disciples that Jesus was gone. And so, the disbelief continued as Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved, ran to see the tomb for themselves. Sure enough, just as Mary described, Jesus was nowhere to be found.

For John, personal encounters with Jesus are always the ultimate step in coming to a belief in the Messiah. Mary lingered there, outside the tomb after Simon Peter and his companion returned to the others. What was she thinking, alone, crying, waiting for answers? How would

she continue spreading Christ's love, now that he was gone? She looked in the tomb again, and angels were sitting where he had been placed. She turned and Jesus was beside her. The encounter between Mary Magdalene and Jesus is among the most vivid and moving scenes in the Bible. When the Lord calls her by name, Mary recognizes him. Jesus reaches into her deepest identity and draws her close to him.

There amid the garden's morning dew, Mary becomes the first disciple Jesus sends into the world. The Lord tells Mary to go and tell his brothers that their Father has returned their brother to them. This is the first time John referred to God as the disciples' Father. For this Gospel writer, this is the great and glorious meaning of Easter: that we are children of God as Jesus is the Son of God, siblings to the Word made flesh.

On Easter Sunday, resurrection is front and center, easily recognized. But when the excitement dies and our Hallelujahs have faded, what in life keeps you from recognizing the living Christ? What

holds you back from shouting, “*Christ has Risen, Risen Indeed*”
everyday?

Mary and the other women approached the tomb early that morning thinking they would be anointing the dead body of someone they followed and loved with their whole being. What began with their journey did not end at the tomb. Our faith today is based upon the mystery of that first Easter morning. Because Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene in the garden, in front of his empty tomb, what was once a water bug is now a dragonfly. What was once unbelievable is now our hopeful prayer.

Christ has Risen! Christ has Risen, Indeed! Amen.

Doris Stickney. *Water Bugs and Dragonflies*. The Pilgrim Press. Cleveland. 2004.

The Magdalene's Blessing

By: Jan Richardson

You hardly imagined standing here,
everything you ever loved
suddenly returned to you,
looking you in the eye and calling your name.

And now you do not know
how to abide this hole
in the center of your chest,
where a door slams shut
and swings open at the same time,
turning on the hinge of your aching
and hopeful heart.

I tell you, this is not a banishment
from the garden.
This is an invitation,
a choice, a threshold, a gate.
This is your life calling to you
from a place you could never
have dreamed, but now that you
have glimpsed its edge,
you cannot imagine choosing any other way.

So let the tears come as anointing,
as consecration, and then let them go.
Let this blessing gather itself around you.
Let it give you what you will need for this journey.

You will not remember the words- they do not matter.
All you need to remember is how it sounded
when you stood in the place of death
and heard the living call your name. **Amen.**