

**Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale
Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 17, 2022**

PRELUDE

Special Music

Lift High The Cross

Words: George W. Kitchin*; alt. Michael R. Newbolt

Music: Sydney H. Nicholson; arr. Robert Lau

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*Melody & words: Hope Publishing Company

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Owen Doyle, Trumpet

Refrain; Choir and Congregation:

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore His sacred name.*

Verse 4; Choir and Congregation:

So shall our song of triumph ever be:

Praise to the Crucified for victory! [Refrain]

**WELCOME AND GATHERING PRAYER
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever!

All: *Let those who fear the Lord say, "His steadfast love endures forever."*

(lighting of the Alter Candles)

One: The darkness is gone!

All: *A bright light floods into this new day of hope.*

One: Those who went to the tomb received good news.

All: *Christ was not there!*

One: Christ is risen in our hearts and our spirits!

All: *Christ is risen from the dead! Alleluia! Amen!*

OPENING HYMN

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain, #215

Words: John of Damascus, 8th century; Trans. John Mason Neale (1859)

Music: Arthur S. Sullivan (1872)

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*Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought his Israel into joy from sadness:
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.*

*Tis the spring of souls today: Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.*

*Now the brightest season dawns with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.*

UNISON PRAYER

Loving and Merciful God, we praise and thank you for this new day of hope. Lord, I seek to enter into new and different ways of living, as I journey through life. Holy one, I seek forgiveness for my past transgressions and pray that Your light will guide me toward a more peaceful and loving presence for my family, neighbors, and my church family. Lord, I seek Your Spirit to be in and upon me, instructing my heart and mind of what living in Your Kingdom may look like. In Jesus' name, Amen!

MOMENT OF SILENCE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Children of God, know that God does hear our prayer and we are forgiven. Today is a "New Day." a day of possibilities walk as one forgiven and live as one that is grateful.

Our 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; For thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory, forever, Amen.

GLORI PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

WORDS: Lesser Doxology (3rd-4th centuries)

MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex, 1851

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Shelli Fairbrother

CHILDREN'S HYMN

This Little Light of Mine

Words & Music: Harry Dixon Loes

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*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (X3)
let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.*

SCRIPTURE READING

New Testament Reading: Acts 10:34-43

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:1–12

SERMON

A New Life Awaits! Will accept the Call?, Pastor Dave

HYMN

He Lives!, #226

Words & Music: Alfred H. Ackley (1933)

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*I serve a risen Saviour, He's in the world today
I know that He is living, whatever others say
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer
And just the time I need Him He's always near*

Refrain:

*He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Christ Jesus lives today
He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way
He lives (He lives), He lives (He lives), Salvation to impart
You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart*

*In all the world around me I see His loving care
And though my heart grows weary I never will despair
I know that He is leading, through all the stormy blast
The day of His appearing will come at last. [Refrain]*

*Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian Lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find
None other is so loving, so good and kind. [Refrain]*

MORNING OFFERING

We joyfully offer ourselves in God's work using our time, talent, and treasure.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Everliving Song

Words: Jan McGuire

Music: Lloyd Larson

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674

MUSIC: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

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*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (UNISON)

WE PAUSE TO REFLECT AND PRAY

Prayers of the People: You are invited to offer prayers of concerns or joys.

Sharing our joys and concerns

Pastor: God is with you

All: And also, with you

Pastor: Let us pray

PASTORAL PRAYER

SUNG RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer, O Lord

WORDS: Psalm 143:1

MUSIC: George Whelpton, 1897

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*Hear our Prayer, O Lord. Hear our prayer O Lord.
Incline thine ear to us, And grant us thy peace. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN

Christ the Lord, is Risen Today, #216

Words: Charles Wesley (1739, alt.)

Music: Desc. Charles H. Webb

Copyright: Words: Public Domain; Music: 1995, 1998 Abingdon Press (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.)

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Owen Doyle, Trumpet

*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
All creation join to say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, O heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!*

*Lives again our glorious king; Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Jesus died, our souls 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 him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!*

*Soar we now where Christ was led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

O Christ, the Way, the Truth, the Life, #432

Words: James L. Merrell (1991)

Music: Alexander R. Reinagle (1836)

Copyright: 1995 Chalice Press (Admin. by Christian Board of Publication)

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*O Christ, the Way, the Truth the Life,
be with us now, we pray;
direct our steps as we go forth
to do your will this day.*

*O faithful Guide, renew our trust
in love that does not fail;
and give us strength to work and pray,
that peace may soon prevail.*

RECESSIONAL POSTLUDE

Acts 10:34-43 (NRSV)

Gentiles Hear the Good News

34 Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35 but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36 You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37 That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39 We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40 but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41 not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42 He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43 All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Luke 24:1-12 (NRSV)

The Resurrection of Jesus

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in, they did not find the body. 4 While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5 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. 6 Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." 8 Then they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 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.