

Pastor: After they had eaten, he took the cup, and said:
Congregation: “This is my blood poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this and remember me.”

Pastor: God of resurrection power, breathe your Holy Spirit upon us and upon the gifts of food and drink we offer in remembrance of you. May they be for us the life of Christ. After feasting, may we make Christ’s life visible through our faithful witness to him. We pray, saying:

All: *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.*

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: *This has been no ordinary meal. It has been one in which we have been fed and nourished with the life of Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord. May we go from here, refreshed and eager, to share that life with others. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven* **Insert**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: We do NOT look for the risen Jesus only here. He could not be contained in a tomb, nor can he be confined in any church building.

Congregation: **We will seek the risen Jesus on the roads and in the streets, in all the pathways and byways of our lives.**

Pastor: Do not seek comfort in the familiar, but dare to risk the unfamiliar –

Congregation: **We know that Resurrection makes all things new!**

Pastor: Do not cling to all the old, expected notions about God, Jesus, Spirit, but go forth and celebrate this truly new Good News:

Congregation: **Because Christ lives, new possibilities are ever before us!**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Congregation: **Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

POSTLUDE

EASTER VEHICLE PARADE - Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

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Easter Sunday - April 4, 2021
Service of Word and Sacrament¹

PRELUDE ANNOUNCEMENTS CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation: **Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

Pastor: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation: **Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

Pastor: We gather to worship,
seeking Jesus in the familiar story of our faith.

Congregation: **Do not meet us only here, O Living Christ, but surprise us with resurrection power in all the places of our lives.**

Pastor: We gather to sing and pray the story we know by heart,
a story of loving triumph and powerful grace.

Congregation: **This story of “Alleluia!” means great joy for the One who lives, and the ones who witness to this new life in all the places of our lives!**

Pastor: We rejoice and thank you for the life of your Son,
resurrected by the power of your loving, vibrant Spirit.

Congregation: **Let this same Spirit fill all the places in our lives, that we may know the truth.**

Pastor: We join our hearts in song to sing,
“Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!”

Congregation: **ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN INDEED**

HYMN *Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia* **Bulletin Insert**

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: Good News God, your angels appeared to the faithful women of Jesus’ company, bringing them news more wonderful and awe-inspiring than they could imagine – Christ is Risen! Surely your angels can interrupt our lives, too, breaking into our losses and sorrows and offering a message of tremendous joy to change our lives! Come this Easter morning, we pray, and fill us with the joy of the women disciples, the first witnesses to your resurrection, that our lives may also be renewed in hope and glory. Let us roll back the stone of the grave and sing Alleluia once again! In Christ we pray, Amen.

¹ Alleluia! in All the Places of our Lives! Service Prayers for Easter Day was written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dilley, UCC. https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/easter_day_april_12/

CONFESSION OF SIN

All: *God, we confess to you that while we know well the story of your victory over the grave, it is not a story we always live. We are dragged down by all manner of death – fear may suffocate us: the loss of dreams and hopes for ourselves, our families, our communities, and our nation. Sorrow may wall us off like a grave, isolating us with anger, frustration, and grief. (Silent, individual confessions are made of ones fears, anxieties, and worries)*

Thank you for receiving our confessions of fear and for loving us, still. The stories of our faith are inscribed - not with the marks of death, but with the word, “ALLELUIA!” So, on this Easter morning, we pray that you will fill us with “fear and great joy” so that, like those women who came to the tomb expecting death, we may instead find the radiant new life that is ever before us in your resurrection. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Just as Christ did not come to condemn but to liberate, so too is Christ raised from death not to judge but to celebrate. Cast off the yokes of fear and sorrow and instead raise up the scepter of victory and joy - Christ lives! We live! All is made new on this Resurrection morning!

Congregation: **ALLELUIA and AMEN!**

RESPONSE OF PRAISE

Halle, Halle, Halle

Hal- le- Hal- le- Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal- le- Hal- le- Hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal- le- Hal- le- Hal - le - lu - ja. Hal- le- lu- ja. Hal- le- lu - ja.

EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3:1-4

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 28:1-10

SERMON

Rev. Laura C. Bair

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Congregation: **Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

Liturgist: God keeps God's promises, and we are filled with JOY on this Easter Sunday morning.

Congregation: **New life is ours! Hope is ours as well!**

Liturgist:

Let us respond, then, to God's great works and God's great gifts in our life together, as the church, by sharing what we have been given, Let us dedicate them in a spirit of gratitude, with a Prayer of Dedication.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All: *Loving God, we thank you for this Easter Day – with its promise of new life and new opportunities. Use us, this money, and our gifts to love and serve you, and to witness to Christ whom you raised. ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN INDEED! AMEN!*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: There was joy on that first day of the week, when Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, and later, on that same day, sat broke bread with two of his disciples. It was then that they recognized Christ was with them.

Congregation: **This is the joyful feast of Christ's disciples. From the east and the west, the north and the south, we gather to break bread with Christ and one another.**

Pastor: This is Christ's feast, and it is available to all who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of his people.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Living God, on this most joyous day we offer our thanks and praise to you, Creator of heaven and earth; Creator and Lover of all humanity. Even when we turned away from you, you never rejected us. You spoke words of mercy and love through the prophets; promising that you would love us forever with an everlasting love. And so, we join our voices with all the company of heaven and earth singing:

ALL SING:

SERAPHIC HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth;
Heaven and earth are full, are full, of the majesty of Thy glory.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!

Pastor: Holy God, this meal which we share today is a celebration of your love, which became known to us through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, your beloved Son – our beloved Lord. He graced lives with healing and hope, with compassion and power, and as if that weren't enough, he gave his very life for us. On the night of his betrayal, he sat at a table and broke bread with his friends, saying

Congregation: **“Take and eat. This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this and remember me.”**