

Trinitarian Congregational Church
TakeOut
Easter
April 4, 2021

Bells <https://youtu.be/-6qZ9A6GFik>

Announcements

Prelude “Lift High the Cross”
George William Kitchin
https://youtu.be/ck3Y_oe1iqM

Call to Worship

Linda Hescock
Rosemary Dawson

One: This is a great and joyous festival day.

Come to celebrate amazing good news.

All: We gather to worship in awe and wonder.

The tomb is empty; death is not the last word.

One: Sing songs of praise, for God is great.

God’s steadfast love endures forever.

All: God has answered our prayers with salvation.

Jesus Christ is alive and we, too, shall live.

One: Open your hearts and minds to the risen Christ.

You are greeted by name and welcomed here.

All: This is the day that our God has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Hymn Christ the Lord is Risen Today
<https://youtu.be/-aVbNZ3j98Q>

288 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

C G C F F C C C E Dm7 C F C G7 C

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Lives a - gain our glo-rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

F C F C E Dm7 C C G G C C E Dm7 C F C G7 C

All cre - a - tion, join to say Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol-lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

G D7 G G C G7 C G G B D7 G C E G D7 G

Raise your joys and tri-umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Once he died our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

G C C F F C C C E F C Dm C G7 C

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al - le - lu - ia!

Gathering Prayer

Linda Hescock

We lift our voices in praise to you, God of Glory and Might, awed by your confounding ways and saving deeds. We gaze at the empty tomb in wonder and fear, and we hear the amazing news that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. We ponder your message and ask what all this means. How will this change our lives? Resurrecting God, by the power of your Spirit, lead us out of lifelessness and doubt, resistance and fear, and bring us to the joy and purpose of your resurrection life, to the glory of the one who lives forevermore. Amen.

Gloria Patri

<https://youtu.be/OLz3R1hnUjs>

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, reign without end. Amen, amen.

Scripture

Acts 10:36-43

Linda Hescock

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.”

Mark 16:1-8

Rosemary Dawson

¹ 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. ² And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³ They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” ⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. ⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.” ⁸ 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.

Special Music

“The Power of the Cross”

Keith Getty and Stuart Townend, arr. Carol Tornquist.

<https://youtu.be/5dPuBOQIH6s>

Sermon

I Am Not Ready

I have a confession to make this morning. I am not ready for Easter. Yes, we shared in lovely, somber services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. And yes, I had my Easter sermon written by Saturday afternoon. But still, I am not ready for Easter.

I wonder if you're not ready either. I wonder if your life is as busy as mine has been. I wonder if you're overwhelmed with family needs. I wonder if you are dealing with Covid or if you're coping with other health issues. I wonder if your finances are strapped or your personal needs are barely being met. I wonder if, through all this, you simply are not ready for Easter.

We are not alone in this. This world may not be ready for Easter, but the disciples weren't ready either. We know that none of the twelve disciples, the men, were 'not on the scene' that Easter morning. But there were the women. They came ready to embalm the dead. They were looking for a corpse, not an empty grave. They were prepared for the tomb... but not for the resurrection.

They were in for a shock. They came fretting over a stone – the heavy seal that barred them from Jesus' body. Yet when they looked up, through their concerns and past their worries, they saw the way had been cleared for them; the door, you may say, was opened. And when they entered the mausoleum, they were not ready for what they found. No broken body was there, only a young man, a messenger, with a word so shocking it turned their world upside down.

As astonished as they must have been seeing a healthy, strapping man hanging out in a tomb, his words, for all the world, seemed incomprehensible and impossible. "You are looking for Jesus from Nazareth, who was nailed to a cross. God has raised him to life; he isn't here. You can see the place where they put his body. Now go and tell his disciples, including Peter, that he will go ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, just as he told you."

Did you catch that! He said 'Jesus will go ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there, *just as he told you.*' And Jesus had told them; he tried to prepare them, not just for the crucifixion but for the resurrection. More than once he told them, "The Son of Man is destined to be betrayed and turned over to those who will execute him. But after three days he will rise again." Mark 9:31 So, if anyone should have been ready for Easter it should have been the disciples. Yet they were not ready. They didn't get it when Jesus spoke of it, so they were not ready on Easter morning. But then who could be? There was no Alleluia Chorus being sung by an angelic choir, only a very quiet message from a single messenger; not even the risen Christ to greet them, only a word of assurance, a word of truth and promise – 'he has been raised...you will see him.'

Perhaps that is the lesson we need to learn at Easter. Even if we are not ready, Easter comes. God has accomplished all he has planned from the beginning of time, and we all have struggled to keep up. We don't always 'get it', because it is, well, incomprehensible. God even tells us, 'the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think.'" (Isaiah 55:9) But that's ok. God acts on our behalf – for our life and hope and joy even when we cannot imagine the possibility. Christ goes ahead of us, even when we lag behind, and Christ will be seen by us, whenever we are ready.

Christ is Risen. Easter has come. Are you ready? Amen.

Hymn

Now the Green Blade Rises
<https://youtu.be/TeXrLRG7OmM>

Now the Green Blade Rises

238

*John M. C. Crumm, 1928; alt.**Matt. 27:57-28:7; Luke 23:50-24:12*

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
 2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
 3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
 Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain
 Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

Joys and Concerns

As you meet with God in prayer, please lift up the joys and concerns shared through the Trumpet Blast. God is eager to be your help and strength, to listen to you and meet your needs. Prayer is a

gift we can always use. If you would like the church to pray for you please contact pastor Rosemary or Michele Lawler.

Pastoral Prayer

Wondrous God, in these sacred moments we pause to wonder at the work of your love and grace. This is a day of mystery and glory. Out of terror and gloom, you have brought forth light and hope. In spite of disappointment, loss and despair, you have granted us the promise of resurrection life. Christ is alive, and your kingdom has come. Your wondrous deed of power moves us to proclaim your glory, and to pursue your life-giving will for all people.

And so we ask, Mighty God, that you impart the truth of the resurrection upon your world today. May your church become the instrument of hope and help to all who need your grace. May our leaders be guided into your way of justice and peace, and may the oppressed gain equity. May those who are in need find sustenance, those who are ill find healing, and those who are facing death find everlasting life. Especially we thank you, Loving God, for ____ and we ask your blessing upon ____.

We praise you, Mighty God, for the wondrous gift of your love, mercy, and power, through Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, who taught us to pray...

Lord's Prayer

Choral Response

https://youtu.be/1AivVHv_mbc

Special Music

“He Is Risen”

Joachim Neander, arr. Anne Britt

<https://youtu.be/KTV0AOWCZGo>

Offering

Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and that makes all the difference in our lives. Through him we are given the gift of eternity and we can no longer support the ways of death. We are called to make the good news of Jesus Christ known in word and in deed. Let us dedicate our gifts with joyful, grateful hearts.

O God, we are humbled by the depth of your love and the power of your grace. In awe and wonder we consecrate all we have and all that we are to your holy purposes. May the message of your salvation be announced and the work of your compassion be accomplished, to the glory of Jesus Christ. Amen

Doxology:

<https://youtu.be/5I7PEGUPAXQ>

(choose the one that is best for your faith)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise him all creatures here below,
praise him above ye heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that Love has done; Creator, Christ and Spirit One. Amen

Communion:

Hymn

We Remember You

<https://youtu.be/fINQl0ndOX8>

690

We Remember You

Unison

1 We re-mem-ber you, we re-mem-ber you;
2 Pre-cious, ris - en Lamb, Je - sus who was slain,

Chords: G/B, C, D7, Gsus

by your sac - ri - fice of love all glo-ry now is due.
now en-throned in glo - ry, for-ev - er you will reign.

Chords: G, Em, G/D, A/C#

At this ta-ble here mer - cy hov - ers near.
Glad-ly we em - brace both these signs of grace.

Chords: D, G/B, C, D/C, G/B, D/F#

Thanks is of-fered up; in this bread and cup we re-mem-ber you.

Chords: Em7, G/D, C, Am, D7, C/G, G

Invitation
Great Thanksgiving
Consecration and Service
Prayer of Gratitude

Hymn

Christ is Alive! (vs 1,2,5)
<https://youtu.be/S2JEwda8G0U>

246 Christ Is Alive!

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris-tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

The first system of musical notation is in 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains the melody, and the bass clef staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are numbered 1 through 5, corresponding to the five verses of the hymn.

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

The second system of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics continue from the first system.

praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where ev - en hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

The third system of musical notation concludes the hymn. The lyrics end with 'praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die. here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time. loves the more, and lives, where ev - en hope has died. life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all. o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.'

Common Commission

Let us go forth into the world in peace, being of good courage, holding fast to that which is good, rendering to no one evil for evil, strengthening the fainthearted, supporting the weak, helping the afflicted, honoring all persons, loving and serving the Lord, and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Benediction

Go now into the world

Giving thanks and praise to God, who has won the battle for us,
giving us the eternal victory through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:57

Go in peace to love and serve our risen Lord. Amen.

Postlude

“Hallelujah Chorus”
from Messiah by George F. Handel.
<https://youtu.be/sHm4u2V8Iq0>

music provided by Chris Harris and Lynne Walker