

TCC Takeout

An Order of Service for Worship at Home

***God's Extravagant Welcome:
"No matter who you are or where
you are on life's journey, YOU are
welcome here!"***



Easter Sunday
April 12, 2020

"There are only four kinds of people in the world: those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers, those who will be caregivers, and those who need caregiving." — Rosalynn Carter

Announcements

From Ted Thornton

TCC Takeout is a liturgy for these times when we find ourselves without a settled pastor and apart from one another physically. Links will take you to materials appointed for this Sunday in the Lectionary. TCC uses the Revised Common Lectionary as archived at Vanderbilt.edu. The UCC has created a website of resources during our struggle with coronavirus: [Click here](#)

Send announcements for the weekly Trumpet Blast and prayers for Joys and Concerns to me as soon as possible and no later than Tuesday noon for inclusion in the following Sunday's Order of Service. Printed copies of both this service and the Blast will be mailed or delivered to the doorsteps of members who do not use computers. Thanks for your prayers and support.

Many thanks to Chris, Patter, and Heather for putting together the music for this service.

From Chris Harris:

At my piano: Easter Sunday will have come and gone by the time we meet again (sigh ...) and with it the singing of such favorite hymns as "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" and "Come Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain." This week, however, a more recent composition is calling to me: "See What a Morning" (the Resurrection Hymn) by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend. Its arrangement for piano by Mary McDonald fulfills the promise of the lyrics: "See what a morning, gloriously bright, with the dawning of hope in Jerusalem; Folded the grave-clothes, tomb filled with light, as the angels announce Christ is risen!" I'll play it for you when we meet again. In the meantime, this link takes you to a recording of the first verse:

<https://www.stuarttownend.co.uk/song/resurrection-hymn/>

—chris

Prelude "Christ the Lord is Risen Today", piano Improvisation, John Hong

[HD Christ, the Lord is Risen Today John Hong Piano Improvisation 예수부활 존홍피아노](#)

Introit "Halle Halle Halle"

[Halle, Halle, Halle \(Caribbean Islands\)](#)

Call to Worship

Leader: We come to this place,
seeking Jesus in the familiar story of our faith.

People: Do not meet us only here, O Living Christ,
but surprise us with Resurrection power
in all the places of our lives!

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

People: 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!

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

People: Let this same Spirit fill all the places of our lives,

that we may know the truth
of resurrection for the rest of our lives!
Leader: We join our hearts in song and sing
“Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!”
for Christ is living and so are we!
People: Alleluia indeed!

Opening Hymn “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

[Jesus Christ is Risen Today: organ, brass and timpani sextet](#)

1 Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once upon the cross Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing Alleluia!
unto Christ our heav'nly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
3 But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
now above the sky he's King, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
4 Sing we to our God above Alleluia!
praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Gathering Prayer

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.

Gloria Patri

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUBxpypSblw>

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

Anthem “A Hymn of Resurrection” Gwyneth Walker

(notes from the Composer: This festive and triumphant Easter anthem was written for the Congregational Church of New Canaan, Connecticut, in which the composer spent her childhood years. The famous aria from Handel's Messiah with the very appropriate words of "I know that my Redeemer liveth!" served as the starting inspiration. Further investigation led to the discovery of the 19th-century poem by Jessie B. Pounds, "I Know that my Redeemer Liveth." The poem was adapted in various ways to create inspirational lyrics for the Easter season. The opening stanza returns at the end, but reordered so that the closing line is "My Savior lives again!") -- Heather Tower

[A Hymn of Resurrection by Gwyneth Walker - First Congregational UCC Sanctuary Choir](#)

Readings from Scripture: Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Matthew 28:1-10; Acts 10:34-43

[Click for online readings for today](#)

“For the word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God Among Us, For the Word of God Within Us, Thanks Be to God”

Reflection: Ted

We’ve entered perhaps the most dangerous period of the current health emergency. Many are beginning to say that our courage, patience, and endurance will be tested beyond limits unfelt perhaps since World War II.

This past week in an article in *The New Statesman* (“Why This Crisis is a Turning Point in History”), philosopher John Gray wrote that our lives will never be the same after this crisis passes. Yes, life will go on, as it has after all the other plagues that have come before, but with some marked differences.

For one, the era of peak globalization is over. The world economy will become less interconnected. We will never again, to cite just one example, render ourselves dependent on China or any other single country for our medical supplies.

But, while we may see some rollback, globalization will continue to be a fact of human life as it has been since the first human beings walked out of Africa 70,000 to 100,000 years ago. A complete retreat from an interconnected world is impossible.

This means that we will never be completely rid of periodic pandemics. Every plague in history has surfed the waves of commerce, trade, migration, and other human interconnections. We are part of the natural world, a world we share with all other organic matter, bacteria and viruses included.

But, our historical record also tells us that we human beings have long striven to be more than mere creatures inhabiting the natural world: eating, reproducing, and dying. We have found ways to create spaces within the “dog eat dog” world in which to exercise goodness, mercy, and compassion. For as far back as we can see, we’ve always believed that even from inside “the food web” (as philosopher Philip Hallie used to call it) there’s more to life than meets the eye or the appetite.

During the plague that ravaged ancient Athens in the fifth century before Christ (the same epidemic that killed Pericles), that city-state practiced three key virtues that helped it rebuild itself: mutual trust, public service, and the free flow of information.

We Christians have common ground with all three of those Athenian virtues. For us, mutual trust goes hand in hand with Christian love and charity. Public service is a virtue Jesus modeled in everything he did: preaching, comforting, healing, visiting. Finally, when Jesus says, “The truth shall set you free” (John 8:32), he’s endorsing the principle that information should flow freely and uncensored (compare this with Pontius Pilate’s scornful dismissal, “What is truth?” (John 18:38).

For Christians, those three Athenian virtues are compatible with others I like to call “Easter virtues.” What Easter virtues can you name? Try it as a family exercise. Will compassion, self-sacrifice, kindness, charity, and cheerfulness appear on your list? And, what about listening to one another? Really listening!

The Holy Spirit - the Easter Spirit - is an active, not a passive spirit. It comes alive in us when we practice the Easter virtues. When life forces change upon us (and it always will -- remember Heraclitus: “You can never step in the same river twice”), keep in mind the

things that are unchanging and immortal in their capacity to create and sustain goodness. Remember the Easter virtues!

I wish you a Blessed and Happy Easter!

Hymn of Reflection “Now the Green Blade Rises”

[King's College Choir \(2019\) - Now the green blade riseth Hymn \(arr. Cleobury\) \(with lyrics\)](#)

Poem

“Leaving Early” by [Leanne O’Sullivan](#)

My Love,
 tonight Fionnuala is your nurse.
 You’ll hear her voice sing-song around the ward
 lifting a wing at the shore of your darkness.
 I heard that, in another life, she too journeyed
 through a storm, a kind of curse, with the ocean
 rising darkly around her, fierce with cold,
 and no resting place, only the frozen
 rocks that tore her feet, the light on her shoulders.
 And no cure there but to wait it out.
 If, while I’m gone, your fever comes down —
 if the small, salt-laden shapes of her song
 appear to you as a first glimmer of earth-light,
 follow the sweet, hopeful voice of that landing.
 She will keep you safe beneath her wing.

Anthem “I Know That My Redeemer Liveth” George Frideric Handel

[Kiri te Kanawa ---I know that my Redeemer liveth --- Messiah](#)

Joys and Concerns .

Concerns

[Linda Leavis](#) asks our prayers for her grandson, Dana Kellogg, who is serving with a National Guard unit in the New York City area delivering truckloads of supplies to the Javits Center in Manhattan, which has been temporarily converted into a hospital for patients suffering from Covid-19. We pray for Dana and all other caregivers who are providing aid to others at great risk to themselves.

Let us remember Arline Lincoln in our prayers today. Last week she lost her nephew to Covid-19. He'd been a resident at Poet Seat. She also lost one of her two dogs last week.

Prayer

Mighty God, in whom we know the power of redemption,
you stand among us in the shadows of our time.

As we move through every sorrow and trial of this life,
uphold us with knowledge of the final morning
when, in the glorious presence of your risen Son,
we will share in his resurrection,
redeemed and restored to the fullness of life
and forever freed to be your people. Amen.

A Prayer for a Time of Coronavirus

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another. Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/02/coronavirus-prayer>

Hear O Lord, we pray, our petitions of intercession. We pray for the lonely, for the bereaved, for the sick, for the aged, for those who feel overwhelmed by personal problems. We ask, on their behalf, for the comfort of your presence.

We pray especially for those in need who are on our hearts and minds and lips this morning.

We pray for all who are ill or who suffer from any affliction: physical, mental, or spiritual. Bring healing and comfort to them, their families, and to those who care for them and to others who love them.

Bless and protect from harm all workers who risk their health and their lives in the service of others: first responders, police, doctors, nurses, and all others who work in the healing professions, and those who provide necessary services for all of us.

We ask these things in the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Now praying together as Jesus taught us, we say,

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.

Prayer Response

NCH 769 - *Hear Our Prayer, O God* -- [Audio version](#)

Hear Our Prayer, O God,
 Hear our prayer, O God,
 Incline Thine ear to us,
 And Grant us your peace.

Closing Hymn “Thine Is the Glory”

[Thine be the glory Risen conquering Son](#)

Pastoral Benediction

Do not look for the risen Jesus
 in the confines of closed church buildings alone.
 Do not seek comfort in the familiar, but dare to risk the unfamiliar.
 Do not cling to all the old, expected notions about God, Jesus, Spirit,
 but go forth and celebrate this truly new Good News:
 Because Christ lives, new possibilities are ever before us!
 Christ is Risen Indeed!
 Alleluia and amen!

Postludes:

“Toccata and Fugue” by Charles-Marie Widor, organ Frederick Hohman
[Widor Toccata at Cathedral Basilica in Newark](#)

**“Halleluiah Chorus from the Messiah” George Frideric Handel, organ variations
by John Hong**

[Hallelujah Handel Messiah - Organ Solo John Hong Organ Concert. 201506](#)

**Virtual Coffee Hour via Zoom at 11:30 a.m. Easter Sunday!
Details are in your email.**

TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
147 Main Street, Northfield, MA 01360
413 498-5839 / busoff147@gmail.com
<http://www.tccnorthfield.org/>