



"Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." - John 20:25

2nd Sunday of Easter
First United Church of Christ, Northfield

An Open and Affirming, Just Peace,
Immigrant Welcoming Congregation

April 16, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to worship! Are you visiting us today? We invite you to fill out our [Virtual Visitor Card](#).

Prelude

I Know That My Redeemer Lives

Robert Powell (1932-)

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Music

Jesus is Risen from the Grave

John Bell (1989)

One: All:

Je-sus is ri-sen from the grave, Je-sus is ri-sen from the grave,

Je - sus is ri - sen from the grave, al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff is divided into two parts: 'One:' and 'All:'. The 'One:' part has four measures of music, and the 'All:' part has four measures. The second staff continues the melody with eight measures. The lyrics are written below the notes. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The music is written on a single treble clef staff.

Call to Worship

One: God calls us to worship, and we come,

Many: Some with laughter and songs of joy,

One: Some with a sense of obligation or habit,

Many: Some with hearts heavy with grief,

One: Some with distraction or exhaustion,

Many: Some with eagerness or enthusiasm.

One: God calls us to worship, and we come,

Many: Knowing that God accepts us exactly as we are,

One: Trusting that joy will find us,

Many: Believing in the power of resurrection.

Opening Hymn

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

#241 (Orientis partibus)

Verse 1: Joy dawned again on Easter Day,
the sun shone out with bright array;

For when the Apostles hid in fear,
the Risen Christ to them appeared.

Verse 2: O Jesus, Savior, Gentle One,
come take our hearts to be your own,

That we may give you all our days,
the willing tribute of our praise.

Verse 3: O Sovereign One, with us abide
in this our joyful Easter tide;
From every weapon death can wield,
your own redeemed forever shield.

Time with Children

Let the children come unto me, for theirs is the realm of God.

All who believe must become like a child; theirs is the realm of God.

Statement of Commitment: Church Covenant

We covenant together with God and one another, trusting in God's continuing guidance,
to seek to understand and do God's will, to explore the mystery of Christ, and to witness
to God's reconciling love.

Anthem

*Go and Tell Mary and Martha /
Get All Excited*

arr. Charlene Cooper
William J. Gaither (1936-)

Go and tell Mary and Martha that Jesus is risen from the dead.
Go and tell John and Peter, all the apostles, everybody, doubting Thomas
That Jesus is risen from the dead.

Get all excited and tell everybody that Jesus Christ is risen,
Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Scripture

John 20:19-31

Randy Hachfeld

Sermon

Rev. Cindy Maddox

Prayer Hymn

These Things Did Thomas Count
(Verses 1, 3, and 4 only)

#254 (Distress)

V 1: These things did Thomas count as real:
the warmth of blood, the chill of steel,
The grain of wood, the heft of stone,
the last frail twitch of flesh and bone.

V 3: His reasoned certainties denied
that one could live when one had died,

Until his fingers read like Braille
the markings of the spear and nail.

V 4: May we, O God, by grace believe and
thus the risen Christ receive,
Whose raw, imprinted palms reached out
and beckoned Thomas from his doubt.

The Prayers (*All joining worship online are invited to share prayers with the congregation by using the chat function at any point during this time.*)

Prayer Response

One: As your spirit moved upon the waters,

All: God, let your spirit move in us.

Prayer of Jesus (You are invited to speak the words most meaningful to you, or follow with this version:)

Our God, 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 Our Gifts

Offertory

Yes, God Is Real

Kenneth Morris (1942-)

There are some things I do not know, there are some places I can't go.
But I am sure of this one thing, that God is real for I can feel God deep within.

Refrain: Yes, God is real, real in my soul;
Yes, God is real, for God has washed and made me whole;
God's love for me is like pure gold.
Yes, God is real for I can feel God in my soul.

Some folks may doubt, some folks may scorn, all can desert and leave me alone.
But as for me, I'll take God's part, for God is real and I can feel God in my heart. *Refrain.*

Prayer of Thanks

Sometimes the wonder of your presence leaves us speechless, Holy One.
When all we can say is “Wow,” let it be enough. Bless, take, and use the gifts
of our lives, our response to your awe-inspiring presence in the world. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

Sing of Colors
(verses 1 and 2 in English)

#402 (De colores)

Verse 1: Sing of colors, sing of colors that
over the hills in profusion are springing;
Sing of colors of the birds that fly outside
my window their canticles singing;
Sing of colors in the rainbow's bright colors
God's promise of hope we recall;
Sing of colors that make up the earth and
give thanks to the God who created us all.
Sing of colors that make up the earth and
give thanks to the God who created us all.

Verse 2: Sing, rejoicing! Every creature that
breathes raise a song to the God of
creation. Sing, rejoicing! Sing to God who so
earnestly cares, who has offered salvation.
Sing the good news! Sing the love of the
Savior reflecting the colors of all.
Many colors that shine from God's face,
many colors that tell us God's love to recall.
Many colors that shine from God's face,
many colors that tell us God's love to recall.

Benediction

Postlude

This Joyful Eastertide

arr. David Schack (1947-)

We're so glad you worshiped here today!

Thanks to this week's leaders:

Ushers: Scott Richardson, Mary Savina, Joan Higinbotham, Crystal Henslin, Carol Rutz

Digital Greeter: Gary Wagenbach

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This Week at First UCC:

Sunday, April 16

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation (Big Room)

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

2:00 p.m. ISAIAH Event

6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship

Tuesday, April 18

6:30 p.m. Bells Rehearsal

7:30 p.m. Trustees meeting

Wednesday, April 19

5:30 p.m. WFFF

7:00 p.m. Senior Choir

Thursday, April 20

7:00 p.m. NA Meeting (Big Room)

Saturday, April 22

9:00 a.m. Earth Day Activities at church

Sunday, April 23

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

6:00 p.m. Evening Gathering Worship

Visit with Local Senator & Representative Today, April 16, from 2-4 p.m.

ISAIAH, in partnership with the Land Stewardship Project, urges you to join a discussion with our local senator and representative at the church this afternoon. They have been invited to share their thoughts and to answer your questions. Please see The Chronicle for more information and to register.

Northfield's Earth Day Celebration: April 20-22

Save the date for Earth Day Celebration starting on April 20! There will be many events including a "Sip and Swap" clothing exchange on April 20 (6-8 p.m.), a Contra Dance on April 21 (7-10 p.m.), and outdoor workshops from 9-12 p.m on April 22! From 1-4 p.m, attendees can enjoy farmers markets, sustainable exhibitors, kids activities, food trucks, and more. Please visit northfieldearthday.com for more information - we hope to see you there!

Meals on Wheels (MoW)

First UCC is again responsible for delivering MoW during May 1-13. If you are interested in volunteering for this important mission, please sign up on the church website (under "Community Service") or email Annie Kramer at anniekramer@charter.net. Please see The Chronicle for more information.

Join Us & Become a New Member!

May is a busy month of welcoming new members to our church! On May 7, a New Member Orientation session will be held at 11:45 a.m. following the worship service. New Member Sunday will occur two weeks later on Sunday, May 21, during worship at 10:30 a.m. We hope those of you who have not "officially" become members of First UCC yet will plan to join us! For more information or to let us know you'll be attending, please contact Jean Haslett, Membership Team Chair, at hasletts66@yahoo.com or at 507-650-0753.

Welcome to Worship at First UCC!

We are an Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.

Wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome here!

We especially welcome all who are visiting this morning. Please let us know you're here by sharing your information in a welcome pad.

Worship Information

First UCC worships at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays. Worship is also live-streamed each week on Zoom and YouTube. Whether you are joining us in person or online, we are glad to have you here!

Giving to the Church

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of First UCC's ministry. You may give online by visiting firstucc.org and clicking on the "Give" button, or you may place your gift in the offering plate, or send in your gifts via mail.

News & Announcements

Keep up to date with all of the latest news and upcoming events! Subscribe to The Chronicle, First UCC's weekly e-newsletter, at firstucc.org, and find First UCC on Facebook and Instagram. Past issues of The Chronicle are available at firstucc.org.

First UCC Leadership & Staff

Ministers: All the people

Moderator: Gary Carlson

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Theo Wee

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Office Manager & Director of Communications: Kate Kvasnak

Finance Manager: Pippa Younger

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley