



Artwork: *Here Comes the Possible*

First United Church of Christ, Northfield
An Open and Affirming, Just Peace, Creation Justice,
Immigrant-Welcoming Congregation

Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024

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

| | | |
|----------------|--|-----------------------|
| Prelude | <i>Trumpet Tune on 'Jesus Christ is Risen Today'</i> | James Biery (1956-) |
| | <i>Easter Hymn (A Quiet Joy)</i> | John Ferguson (1941-) |

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|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Introit | <i>When I Awake</i> | Robert Wetzler (1964) |
|----------------|---------------------|-----------------------|

When I awake, I am still with thee; thou hast laid thine hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain to it. Alleluia.

Call to Worship

One: What are you looking for?

Many: The light before dawn.

One: What are you looking for?

Many: A reason to hope.

One: What are you looking for?

Many: Joy after grief and flowers after winter.

One: What are you looking for?

Many: A place to belong.

One: What are you looking for?

Many: We are looking for the Messiah.

One: Good news! Come in. Love is alive!

Many: Surely God is in this place.

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Opening Hymn | <i>Christ the Lord is Risen Today</i> | #233 (Easter Hymn) |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|

V1: Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

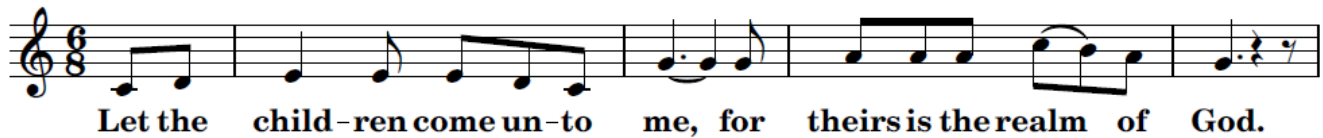
V2: Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

V3: Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

V4: Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Welcome & Announcements

Time with Children



Anthem

Sing, O Heavens

Peter Tranchell (1969)

Sing, o heavens, and be joyful, o earth, and break forth into singing, o mountains:
For the Lord hath comforted all people and will have mercy upon the afflicted.

When the Lord turned again the captivity of Sion, then were we like unto them that dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with joy. *Refrain.*

Turn our captivity, o Lord, as the rivers in the south.
They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. *Refrain.*

He that now goeth on this way weeping and beareth forth good seed,
Shall doubtless come again with joy and bring his sheaves with him.

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.

—Psalm 126:1-2, 4-6

Scripture

Mark 16:1-8 *(See below under this week's leaders)*

Sermon

Rev. Cindy Maddox

V1: Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;
Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:

V2: In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
Thinking that their Love would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:

V3: Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:

V4: When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain: Love has come again like wheat that rises green.

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

Alleluia

Alice Parker (1925-2023)



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

The hearts in the plate are for the Children's Offering, given to support the Community Action Center Food Shelf.

Offertory

Lord of the Dance

Andrew Carter (1939-)

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain: Dance, then, wherever you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
I'll lead you all wherever you may be, I will lead you all in the dance, said he.

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me.
I danced for the fisherman, for James and for John;
They came with me and the dance went on. *Refrain.*

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
The holy people, they said it was a shame.
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high
And they left me there on a cross to die. *Refrain.*

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance and I still go on. *Refrain.*

They cut me down and I leap up high.
I am the life that'll never, never die.
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. *Refrain.*

Prayer of Thanks

With resurrection humming in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your song of joy.

With gratitude we present these gifts to you, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, with hope for a world filled with your peace. Amen.

Hymn of Sending

The Day of Resurrection

#245 (Lancashire)

*Those who wish to join the choir in singing the Hallelujah Chorus
are invited to come forward during the last verse of this hymn.*

V1: The day of resurrection! Earth tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.

From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

V2: Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Christ who reigns eternal, in resurrection light;

We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
for we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.

V3: Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.

Benediction

Hallelujah Chorus

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

Postlude

Symphony #5: Toccata Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

We're so glad you worshiped here today!

Thanks to this week's leaders:

Music: Annika Reister, violin; Ben Reister, trumpet

Readers: Mandy Everhart, Cyrus Kirby, Jackie McNeil, Lisa Sexton

Ushers:

- 8:30: Scott Richardson, Cheryl Rempel, Mandy Everhart, Betsy Barrett, Judy Bond
- 10:30: Jeffery Latterell, Judy Bond, Mandy Everhart, Linda Larson, Phil Parsons

Digital Host: Ben Reister

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This Week at First UCC

Sunday, March 31

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

10:30 a.m. Worship

Monday, April 1

Office Closed in observance of Easter

Tuesday, April 2

10:00 a.m. Enneagram Book Discussion

Wednesday, April 3

5:30 p.m. WFFF

6:00 p.m. Facilities Meeting

6:30 p.m. Enneagram Book Discussion

6:30 p.m. OWL (7-8th Grade)

6:30 p.m. OWL (11-12th Grade)

Thursday, April 4

10:00 a.m. Prayer Shawl Knitting

Sunday, April 7

9:00 a.m. Reading Aloud Connect Group

9:15 a.m. Faith Formation

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

6:00 p.m. Evening Service

Remembering Liz Hankins

A memorial for Liz Hankins will be held at First UCC on June 29, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. If you would like to send a card to the family, please see the addresses of Liz and Jerry's children below:

❖ *Sue Hankins*: 1143 Summit View Drive, Louisville, CO 80027

❖ *Sarah Hankins*: 1641 Cumberland Street, Apt #34, St. Paul, MN 55117

Health & Wellness Space at First UCC

We are considering setting aside one of our classrooms to be a space reserved for health and wellness appointments such as Reiki, massage, counseling, spiritual direction, or nutritional counseling. This opportunity will be open to church members who would like to offer occasional services in our space for an extremely reasonable price. It would be perfect for someone who offers only a few appointments per week, who rents other space that is not handicapped accessible, who needs only occasional hours locally, or who is trying a business or downsizing. Your services need not be limited to church members. We have many details to work out--scheduling, limits per practitioner, etc. But if you would be interested in discussing this opportunity, please email Pastor Cindy.

Creation Justice Eco-Info

If you apply mulch, please avoid peat-based mulch. Peat lands are huge carbon sinks and need to be protected.

A Note from ISAIAH

Hope and faith are actions. As the legislature continues its work our legislators need to hear over and over again that work on proposals to bring about a more just and caring society cannot wait. See the Chronicle for links in support of legislation on healthcare, housing, climate and childcare.

Pints for Pride Fundraiser

Northfield Pride is hosting "Pints for Pride," their annual fundraiser, on April 6 from 5-8pm at The Grand Event Center. Everyone is welcome!

From Trauma to Triumph: Cultivating Hope and Resilience - a Lakota Perspective

Join the next "Courageous Conversation" at St. John's Lutheran Church to hear Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy speak on cultivating hope and resilience. Dr. Sherman-Conroy is a prominent member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and trailblazer within the ELCA, and is the first Native woman to earn a Ph.D. in theology in the ELCA. This Courageous Conversation will take place on April 4th at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's.

Earth Day Clean Up!

When: Sunday, April 21 - 9:15 - 10:15 a.m.

Where: Meet in the Assembly Room

What: Everyone is welcome to join the First UCC children and youth as we clean up the downtown riverfront and nearby areas in honor of Earth Day! Please bring gloves if you have them. We will eat a light breakfast at 9:15 before starting our work.

We Need: volunteers to feed our clean-up crew! Please contact the church office if you want to help provide breakfast. Thank you!

MN Conference Seeking Settled Conference Minister

We are seeking nominations to serve on the Settled Conference Minister Search Committee. The Selection Committee asks that you fill out a form (see the QR code below) nominating an individual you believe would be a qualified candidate to serve on the Search Committee. Self-nominations are not allowed. Nominations will close on Sunday, April 14th at 5:00 p.m. Thank you! Read more about this in this week's Chronicle.





International Transgender Day of Visibility March 31st

Each year on March 31, we honor International Transgender Day of Visibility! We celebrate the joy and resilience of trans and non-binary people everywhere by elevating voices and experiences from these communities.

There are over 1.6 million trans, non-binary and gender-expansive youth (age 13+) and adults across the United States. We are parents and family members. We are your coworkers, your neighbors, and your friends. We are a diverse community, representing all racial and ethnic backgrounds as well as all faith traditions. While we have made significant progress in recent years, with more visibility than ever before, we are still fighting for basic human rights for the community. Today we are experiencing significant political attacks by extremists legislating hate in the states and in Congress. We also face an ongoing epidemic of fatal violence, especially against Black and Brown trans women.

Today and every day, we must celebrate all trans and non-binary people everywhere and combat disinformation, discrimination and hate impacting our community.

What can you do to help? OutFront MN highlights the following issues moving through the Minnesota Legislature:

- Helping to advance HF4273 which prohibits bans on rainbow flags, banners and other displays in public spaces.
- Multiple partners are testifying in support of bodily autonomy, equal rights, and expanding access to reproductive and gender-affirming care through SF2209 (Bill HF2607 in the House).

Weighing in with your senator and representative on these issues is a good way to be an ally to the LGBTQ+ community and to the people right here in Northfield and at First UCC.

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're 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: Anne Meyer Ruppel

Senior Minister: Rev. Cindy Maddox

Associate Minister: Rev. Lauren Baske Davis

Director of Music: Chris Brunelle

Organist: Catherine Rodland

Spirit Voices Director & Arts Coordinator: Bob Gregory-Bjorklund

Office Manager & Director of Communications: Kate Kvasnak

Finance Manager: Derek Melby

Sexton: Mark Fischer

Audio Visual Technician: Brynn Artley

Easter Flower Memorials

In Honor of Our Grandchildren
from Craig Holden & Dorothea Hrossowyc

In Memory of Kelly Kylander
from Arden & Sheri McNally

In Memory of Lauraine K. & W.M.H. Beery
from Elizabeth Olson & Family

In Memory of Jan Maddox
from Cindy Maddox & Family

In Memory of Steve Openshaw & Twylla Erickson
from Leona Openshaw

In Memory of Bob Entenmann
from Ed & Lois Langerak

In Memory of Liz Hankins, Helen Rempel, & Olga
Carpenter
from Nancy Carpenter

In Memory of Parents & Grandparents
from Mary Carlsen & Peter Dahlen

In Memory of Our Parents
from Tom & Linda Gagnon

