

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN-CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
March 31st 2024  
Easter Sunday

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**LIGHTING THE UNITY CANDLE**

**PRELUDE** Easter Fanfare *Stanley Leonard*

**CHORAL INTROIT** Alleluia, Alleluia

**GREETING** L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is a great and joyous festival day.

Come to celebrate amazing good news.

**We gather for worship in awe and wonder.**

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

Sing songs of praise, for God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

**God has answered our prayers with salvation.**

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

Open your hearts and minds to the risen Christ.

You are greeted by name and welcomed here.

**This is the day that our God has made.**

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**MORNING PRAYER** (read by Lay Reader)

We greet the dawning brightness of this special day with hopes renewed. We have known grief and sorrow, loss and tears, fear and failure. Meet us here, living Christ, for we need this time of resurrection. We need your healing presence. We need your word of greeting that welcomes us into the community of faith in spite of our doubts and faithlessness. You are the Great Teacher. We have come to learn from you. We want to be your disciples. Amen.

**\*HYMN** Christ the Lord Is Risen Today **#234**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**We cannot truly worship you, loving God, until we recognize how unloving we have been. We cannot truly live until we admit the many ways we have been dwelling in death. We cannot know forgiveness until we honestly face the wrong we have done and the good we have neglected. We admit before you now the anger and spite we have carried in our hearts, the doubts and fears we have allowed to paralyze us, the**

**misplaced priorities that have led us away from your will and way. Help us break down the barriers we have erected so we can experience new life today. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right finds forgiveness and acceptance. The One who came to embody love among people is ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. In Jesus' name, our sins are forgiven, and we are being saved. The grace of God is extended to each of us on this day of resurrection. Praise God!

**\*GLORIA PATRI** **#805**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**CHORAL ANTHEM** Jesus, the Risen King *Dick and Melodie Tunney*

**CHILDREN'S CHAT** Rev. James Deters

**\*HYMN** Thine Is the Glory (*timpani & organ introduction*) **#251**

**SCRIPTURES**

Isaiah 25:6-9 (p. 639), 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (p. 1048), John 20:1-18 (p. 988)

**MESSAGE** Rev. James Deters

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *On insert*

**PERIOD OF GUIDED PRAYER** Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

**OFFERINGS OF GIFTS AND TITHES**

**OFFERTORY** Easter Song *Arr. John Wilson*

*Please sign the friendship pad at the end of the pew and pass it on.*

**\*DOXOLOGY** **#809**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER** (unison)

**We consecrate all we have brought to share, that the message of today may spread through the streets and across the lands, beginning within these walls and bursting out for all the world to hear and observe. May the glad songs motivate practical ministries. As forgiven and forgiving people, we take new life into the marketplace, into our jobs and schools, into our social life and leisure hours. May all we offer express true thankfulness. Amen.**

**\*HYMN** Christ Is Alive! *verses 1, 4, 5* **#243**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*COMMISSION AND BLESSING**

In Christ, we have been rescued from death.

At the cross, we have learned the cost of true love.

**In Jesus, we have observed courage and faithfulness.**

**At the empty tomb, we have met the power of Love.**

Continue to sing the glad songs of victory.

Dare to live the welcoming message of God's grace.

**Christ has appeared to us in the joy of this day.**

**We have been empowered to reach out to others.**

The One who was rejected holds the key to life.

The key of unconditional love is passed on to us.

**We have seen the risen Christ, and we are changed.**

**We have been chosen as witnesses to resurrection.**

**Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*RESPONSE TO BENEDICTION** Lift High the Cross *refrain only* **#229**

**POSTLUDE** The Strife Is O'er *Lani Smith*

\*All those who are able, please stand.

**A WORD ON THE OFFERING**

For your convenience, during cold and flu season, plates are placed at each entrance.

You are welcome to place your offering in the plate as you enter or during a hymn. The

ushers will bring your offering forward later in the service.

***Large print bulletins, children's bulletins, and aids for the hearing impaired are available. All people are welcome in the sanctuary; however, a nursery is available for kindergarten and younger children needing a place to invest their excitement. There is also a children's room for families who need a quiet space for babies and young children. Please ask an usher for assistance.***

**ORGANIST** Nancy Dufek

**CHOIR DIRECTOR** Diana Mann

**TIMPANI** Ernie Bliss

**TRUMPETS** Joseph Deters, Forrest Mann

**VMIX** Hannah Deters **STREAMING AUDIO** Joseph Deters

**SANCTUARY SOUND** Ernie Bliss

**PRODUCTION** Hannah Deters

**TECH SUPPORT** Ernie Bliss

**LAY READER** Pete Mann

**USHERS** Peggy Hoffman

**Church office hours** Monday--Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Rev. James Deters, Pastor** [upccpastor@gmail.com](mailto:upccpastor@gmail.com)

**Susan Sanders, Administrative Assistant** [upcc.office214@gmail.com](mailto:upcc.office214@gmail.com)

**Church office phone** 715-682-3093

**Website:** <https://upccchurch.org>

**Like us on Facebook at** United Presbyterian Congregational Church



## ACTIVITIES

- 4/1 7:00 am Men's Bible study in lower lounge
- 4/3 Pastor Jim at nursing homes  
Noon: AA Meeting in lower lounge  
5:00 Earth Care meeting in dining room  
7:00 pm Choir practice
- 4/7 9:00 am Sunday school classes  
9:00 am Confirmation  
9:15 am Adult Bible study  
10:30 am Worship service

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Alice Evenson
- 3 David Mahnke
- 4 Joanne Malmberg
- 5 Desmond Thomas Edwards & Hannah Deters

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

In an effort to keep the congregation informed of events and activities of interest to the church family, please submit announcements for inclusion in the Sunday bulletin. The submission deadline is noon every Tuesday. Please send your information to the church office via email to [info@upcchurch.org](mailto:info@upcchurch.org).



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## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Christ suffered for you,  
leaving you an example,  
so that you should follow in his steps.  
“He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”  
When he was abused, he did not return abuse;  
when he suffered, he did not threaten;  
but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.  
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,  
so that, free from sins,  
we might live for righteousness;  
by his wounds you have been healed.  
For you were going astray like sheep,  
but now you have returned  
to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

*1 Pet. 2:21-25*

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## EASTER MEMORIAL PLANTS

### Donor

### In loving memory of

Lynn & Eric Adams & Hugh Peters

Lucille Peters,mother & wife

Ernie & Myra Bliss

Ernest & Gertrude Bliss, Sr.  
George & Joyce Darry

Jack & Julie Coy

Vina “Bunny” Penn, Charles Penn, Marshall  
& Elizabeth Hubbard

Nancy Dufek & John Wiehe

Wayne & Norma Barrett & Gilbert & Beth  
Weihe

Russ Fish

Linda Fish

Maleia, Raymond, Ross & Missy Fuhrman

Ray Fuhrman, husband & Dad; Allan & Lois  
Johns, mother & dad and grandparents

Ed,Kacie, Isaac & Annabelle Jakaitis  
Steiger,  
Isenberg

Ed Sr. & Gladys Jakaitis, Clyde & Mae  
Edward & Loretta Lambert & June

Tenlee Lund and

Pau & Denise Lund & Tom Lund

David & Paula Mainguth & family

Donald S. Smith, Paula's Father

Pete & Diana Mann

Our cousin RobertMann, who recently passed  
away

Jan Tomlinson

Bill Erickson, Husband, Bill Tomlinson, Brother  
& Dana Tomlinson Ecker, Niece

Pool, Noskoviak, Brown & Stadler families Ann & John Moran

Sheila Urling

John Urling, Husband

Nancy Dufek & John Wiehe

Wayne & Norma Barrett and  
Gilbert & Beth Wiehe

**Isaiah 25:6-9 (p. 639)**

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.  
And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the covering that is spread over all nations;  
he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe  
away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he  
will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.  
It will be said on that day, "See, this is our God; we have waited  
for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we  
have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

**1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (p. 1048)**

Now I want you to understand, brothers and sisters, the good news that I  
proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through  
which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed  
to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first  
importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance  
with the scriptures and that he was buried and that he was raised on the third day  
in accordance with the scriptures and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the  
twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one  
time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to  
James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared  
also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle because  
I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his  
grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any  
of them, though it was not I but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it  
was I or they, so we proclaim and so you believed.

**John 20:1-18 (p. 988)**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to  
the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and  
went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to  
them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they  
have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the  
tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and  
reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying  
there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into  
the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on  
Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.  
Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and  
believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from  
the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping  
outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw  
two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the  
head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"  
She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they  
have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus  
standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman,  
why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the  
gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you  
have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and  
said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do  
not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my  
brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my  
God and your God.' " Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I  
have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

# Christ the Lord Is Risen Today 234

*Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1 Cor. 15:20*

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!

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!

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!

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!

WORDS: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.  
 MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708, arr.

EASTER HYMN  
 7.7.7.7. Alleluia

## 251. Thine Is the Glory

1 Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son;  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where thy body lay.

Refrain:

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

2 Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb;  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing.  
for the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.  
[Refrain]

3 No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of Life!  
Life is naught without thee; aid us in our strife.  
Make us more than conquerors through thy deathless  
love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.  
[Refrain]

## RESURRECTION

joy we share, as we tar - ry there, none oth-er has ev-er known.

## Christ Is Alive! 243

"I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever!" Rev. 1:18

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands  
 2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant  
 3. Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, un - touched, un -  
 4. In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,  
 5. Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with  
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,  
 moved by hu - man pains, but dai - ly, in the  
 scorn or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet  
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.  
 here and now and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.  
 midst of life, our Sav - ior in the God - head reigns.  
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.  
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1968  
 MUSIC: Thomas Williams' *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789  
 Words © 1975 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO  
L.M.