

**Peace United Church of Christ  
April 5, 2026  
Easter Sunday  
10:30am**



*Mary Meets Jesus After the Resurrection, Peter Koenig*

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Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Ringing of the Bells

\*Call to Worship

Christ is risen  
**Christ is risen indeed!**  
The stone has been rolled away,  
**The tomb is empty,**  
Death has been overcome,  
**Love has the last word!**  
Christ is risen  
**Christ is risen indeed!**

\*Song

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

#233, *New Century Hymnal*

***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!***  
***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!***  
***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!***  
***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!***

\*Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the tomb you have given us the sure sign of your power to deliver us from death and to renew our whole creation. We confess that we still fall into doubt and fear. We act as if your love is a scarce resource. We deny your power to make all things new. Forgive us. Have mercy on us. Raise us from brokenness and despair to live in the joy of Christ's resurrection, now and forever. Amen.**

*Adapted from a prayer by John Paarlberg*

\*Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved: neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, can separate us from the love of God.  
**In Christ, through Christ, and with Christ, we are forgiven and set free for new life. Thanks be to God!**

\*Passing of the Peace

Story for All Ages

Amanda McElray Hunter

Sending the Children

***Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
Gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!***

Scripture Reading

John 20:1-18

Laurie Berner, reader

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. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending 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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem

*Norwegian Alleluia*, Kim Arnesen

Sermon

Rev. Corinne Freedman Ellis

Song

*By Breath*

#1, *Praise & Worship Songbook*

***By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one***

***The air that is my breath, is the air that you are breathing***

***The air that is your breath, is the air that I am breathing***

***The wind rising in my breast***

***Is the wind from the east, from the west***

***From the north, from the south***

***Breathing in, breathing out***

***By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one***

***The water that is my blood, my sweat, tears from crying***

***Is the water that is your blood, your sweat, tears from crying***

***And the rising of the tide***

***Is in our veins, and in the ocean wide***

***We are in the rising steam***

***Rushing river, running stream***

***By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one***

***The earth is dust, the earth is clay, flow’rs blossoming and fading***

***We are dust and we are clay, we are blossoming and fading***

***Every color, every sound,***

***Every place is holy ground***

***Oh, every living thing***

***Can you hear it laugh? Can you hear it sing?***

***By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one***

***The fire in my heart, my soul flame burning***

***Is the fire in your heart, your soul flame burning***

***We are Spirit burning bright***

***By the light of day, in the dark of night***

***We are shining like the sun***

***And like the moon, like the Holy One***

***By breath, by blood, by body, by spirit, we are all one***

Community Prayers and Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Laurie Crelly

The Prayer of Jesus

**Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sung Amen

Offertory

*Everything That Rises*, Sufjan Stevens

Ian Connell

\*Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise God all creatures here below,  
Praise God above ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost! Amen!**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

God be with you.  
Lift up your hearts.  
Let us give thanks to God.

**And also with you.  
We lift them up to God.  
It is a joy to give God thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

*(In the United Church of Christ all are welcome to participate in Communion. Gluten free crackers are on the tray and we use non-alcoholic grape juice.)*

Prayer after Communion

**Bountiful God, we give thanks for all we have received at this table through the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world with courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

\*Song

*The Day of Resurrection*

#245, *New Century Hymnal*

***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.***

***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.***

***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

\*Postlude

Assisting in Today's Service:

Cyndi Brown, Sophia Farell, Jessica Olson, Deb Rausch, Dale Shimmin, and Mike Swanoski, Musicians  
Laurie Berner, Phyllis Cook, and Danny & Julie O'Neill, Ushers