

Covenant Congregational Church

Easter Sunday

Service of Worship

April 16, 2017

8:30/10:30 a.m.

PRELUDE *Christ Arose!* arr. Smith & Hustad

CHORAL PROCLAMATION *O Lord What a Mornin'* Pollock

*CALL TO WORSHIP

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Glory and honor, dominion and power, be to God forever and ever.

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!

*ENTRANCE OF THE RESURRECTION LIGHT

*EASTER HYMN *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* 258

Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia! All creation joins to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, O heav'ns, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Dying once he all does 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 him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia! Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS Sheri Anderson

EASTER PRAYER OF INVOCATION

THE RESPONSIVE PSALM READING

Give thanks to the Lord, who is so good!

God's faithful love endures forever.

The Lord is my strength and my song;

God has become my victory.

Songs of joy and victory are sung in the camp of the godly.

The strong right arm of the Lord has done glorious things!

The strong right arm of the Lord is raised in triumph.

The strong right arm of the Lord has done glorious things!

**There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;
For I am His and He is mine—bought with the precious blood of Christ.**

**No guilt in life, no fear in death—this is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand."**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Choral Anthem *Behold He Comes!* arr. Parks

*Easter Doxology Bourgeois

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise him above ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication & The Lord's Prayer

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.

*BENEDICTION

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Death has been defeated.

Love is triumphant!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Christ is Risen* Wagner

*POSTLUDE *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* arr. Smith & Hustad

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*Please stand in praise to God, if able

Welcome to our Easter celebration! Today we join with Christians around the world, joyously celebrating the Good News that the stone has been rolled away. The tomb is found empty! Death has been defeated! Christ is risen from the grave! Alleluia!

Piano: Alice Fu
Organ: Susan Santry
Trumpet: Connor Buckley
Flute: Lou Ann Falls
Guitar: Pastor Jason O. Mohn

Acolytes: (8:30) Karsten Mohn (Christ candle)
(10:30) Anna Nelson (Christ candle)



Welcome to Covenant Congregational Church
204 Center Street, North Easton 02356 ☪ (508) 238-6423
www.ecovchurch.org

I will not die, but I will live, to tell what the Lord has done.

The stone rejected by the builders has now become the cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing and it is marvelous to see.

This is the day the Lord has made.

We will rejoice and be glad in it!

*HYMN OF EXALTATION *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain*

247

**Come you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;
God has brought us his people forth into joy from sadness.
Now rejoice, Jerusalem, and with true affection
welcome in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.**

**'Tis the spring of souls today! Christ has burst his prison,
from the frost and gloom of death, light and life have risen.
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying;
welcome now the light of Christ, give him praise undying.**

**"Alleluia!" now we cry to our King immortal,
who, triumphant, burst the bars of the tomb's dark portal;
"Alleluia!" with the Son, God the Father praising;
"Alleluia!" yet again to the Spirit raising.**

THE EASTER STORY

John 20:1-18

Heather Willis

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!" So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying. Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this,

she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Response: The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

*HYMN OF RESPONSE *Low in the Grave He Lay*

245

**Low in the grave he lay, Jesus my Savior!
Waiting the coming day, Jesus, my Lord!**

**Refrain: Up from the grave he arose, with a mighty triumph o'er his foes;
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
And he lives forever with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!**

**Vainly they watched his bed, Jesus, my Savior!
Vainly they sealed the dead, Jesus, my Lord! (Refrain)**

**Death could not keep its prey, Jesus my Savior!
He tore the bars away, Jesus, my Lord! (Refrain)**

EASTER MEDITATION The Quest for God: Who Are You Looking For? Pastor Jason

*HYMN

In Christ Alone

**In Christ alone my hope is found; He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all—Here in the love of Christ I stand.**

**In Christ alone, Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the love of God was magnified;
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid—here in the death of Christ I live.**