

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

First Congregational Church Wolfeboro



"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey... you are welcome here."

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020

Worship at Home

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP ¹

Yesterday we had lost so much
we lost the light
we lost the argument
we lost love
we lost life
we lost God
we lost Jesus

But this morning we found
the tomb - empty
the morning - bright
the gardener - walking
the stone - rolled
the disciples - running
the women - proclaiming
the resurrection - waiting
and Jesus - risen

It is good we have found our way here
this is Easter Day
love is back
good morning

For Christ is risen,
HE IS RISEN INDEED. HALLELUJAH!

HYMN

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

SCRIPTURE

Mark 16: 1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will

¹ Roddy Hamilton, <https://www.nkchurch.org.uk/original-liturgy>

roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

SERMON

Gone Before

The Rev. Gina M. Finocchiaro

HYMN

“Crown Him With Many Crowns”

HOLY COMMUNION²

The gathering

In this moment we are gathered welcoming love’s return

**OUR HEARTS ARE LIFTED WE OPEN OUR EYES
WE WELCOME LOVE**

the tomb is empty the stone laid back

THE WOMB IS FULL THE STONES CRY OUT FOR JOY.

Risen One,
stand among us
speak your words of peace release us from our fears heal us from our wounds

² Elizabeth Baxter, *Eggs and Ashes*, ed. Ruth Burgess and Chris Polhill, p227-230, Wild Goose Publications, (c) 2004, 2007, 2010

**FORGIVE OUR BETRAYALS,
OUR DENIALS OF YOUR LOVE,
THAT WE MAY PARTICIPATE IN YOUR JUST LIVING.**

Holy dancer,
you soar from the grave with cosmic rhythm, wiping earth's tears
in heralding the dawn

**HOLD OUR HANDS
IN THE DANCE OF JUSTICE
WEAVE OUR STEPS INTO SPIRALS OF FREEDOM.**

The ministry of the Word

As storytellers we shape your unfolding story
as passionate people we share your passion for justice
as bearers of God we embody your life in the world

**HUMBLE US TO LISTEN TO FORGOTTEN STORIES
EMPOWER US WITH BOLDNESS WHEN WE ARE AFRAID
RE-SOURCE US FOR THE BIRTHING OF LIBERATION**

Intercessions

With resurrection hope and action we bring our prayers ...

*(you are invited to speak aloud specific prayers, knowing that God hears them even
before a word is on your lips)*

The peace

Jesus stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you; why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet. Touch me and see.'

Invitation to the table

Gather around this resurrection table where all are welcomed and the good earth is affirmed. From her generosity, we bring these gifts of bread and wine.

**WITNESSES TO HOPE, WE PARTICIPATE
IN CHRIST'S LIBERATION.**

Eucharistic prayer

*Be still
and know that I am God.*

WE ARE STILL IN YOUR PRESENCE YOU ARE STILL WITH US.

In Christ you accompany us, embodied among us, sharing our birthing
our living, and our dying

**SHARING OUR DREAMS OF HOPE AND LIBERATION, OFFERING US
NEW LIFE AND THE SHATTERING OF THE TOMB.**

In Christ
you appear as the host
at the ebbing and the flowing of our lives

**YOU BECKON US TO SHARE YOUR HOSPITALITY, YOUR CHALLENGE
OF LOVE.**

In Christ
you sit as the guest
at the table of the stranger

YOU BLESS US WITH YOUR PRESENCE, YOUR AWAKENING OF LOVE.

In Christ
you stand among us
as host and guest at the heart of this community

**YOU SHARE WITH US YOUR VULNERABILITY, YOUR UNWRAPPING OF
LOVE.**

As hosts with Christ, we bless this bread.

As guests with Christ, we pour this wine.

As welcomed strangers,
united in Christ's life, death, and embodied liberation, we hear the words of promise:

This is my body given for you; take and eat to re-member me.

This cup poured out:

this is the new covenant in my blood; take and drink to re-member me.

In this action of justice-making,
we recall
broken minds and bodies
and blood shed through lust for power and nature's turn of hand.

RESTORE AND HEAL ALL THAT IS WOUNDED

**BE PRESENT
IN THE STILLNESS OF THE WAITING**

**ROLL BACK THE STONE OF PREJUDICE
AND FEAR**

RELEASE THE SIGNS OF SPRING.

Breaking of bread

We gently break this bread of fragile life

**OUR BREAKING DOWN
BECOMES OUR BREAKING THROUGH.**

As we eat this living bread
and drink the new wine of resurrection, let us celebrate the cosmic Christ,
our liberator and sustainer

**WITH DIVINE TENDERNESS YOU REMAKE US
BY TRANSFORMING PAIN YOU HEAL US –
YOUR PASSIONATE ENERGY EMPOWERS US.**

Sharing of bread and wine

BLESSING

God

source of our life bless with boldness caress with care

Christ

Wisdom of God bless with boldness caress with care

Spirit

midwife of new beginnings bless with boldness
caress with care. Amen

POSTLUDE