

THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL - MILFORD, CT



**April 11, 2021 – 10:00 AM Online Worship
Second Sunday of Easter
The First United Church of Christ, Congregational, Milford, CT**

PRELUDE

Easter Song

by Keith Green
Lou Fiorillo, guitar

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Adam Eckhart, Senior Pastor

GREETING OUR NEIGHBORS

Dana & Nancy Rotman

CALL TO WORSHIP (from Acts 4:32-35 and Psalm 133)

Lara Edmondson

Leader: We remember the first Christians pooled their resources to do more together than they ever could alone.

People: How very good and pleasant it is when people live together in unity!

Leader: With love for God and love for neighbor, nobody felt overlooked then and still today we share hope with people who yearn for it.

People: How very good and pleasant it is when people live together in unity!

All: Let us praise God with joy in the name of our risen Christ who unites us in hope!

OPENING HYMN

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (vs. 1&5)

PH 195

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem, And crown him Lord of all.

O that, with yonder sacred throng, We at his feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song, And crown him Lord of all. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER (based on the writing of Dietrich Bonhoeffer)

Shelly Bartha

Dear God, the one who says yes in faith to the resurrection of Jesus Christ cannot flee the reality of the world; but neither can this person be totally mesmerized by the world, for in the midst of the old creation, they have recognized your new creation. Ground us now in the mystery of the resurrection and the joy it brings us, in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying...

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, and the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S STORY

Light of the World

Kelsey DeCarlo
Minister of Faith Formation

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

Invitation

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Consecrate our offerings and our hearts of generosity, O God. Help us to see how our ministry to the young and old, the hungry and the sick, the proud and the meek, binds us as your people and as the body of Christ. We dedicate our gifts and our ministries to the risen Christ, in whose name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 John 1:1-9

SERMON

The Joy of Blurting

Rev. Adam Eckhart

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev Ashley Grant, Associate Pastor

CLOSING HYMN

The Day of Resurrection (vs. 1 & 3)

NCH 245

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.

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Strife is Over

Lou Fiorillo, guitar

The Opening Prayer adapts quotations from Dietrich Bonhoeffer in *The Mystery of Easter* (New York: Crossroad Publishing, 1997), ed. Manfred Weber, pages 16 & 19. Bonhoeffer was killed by the Nazis 76 years ago (April 9, 1945) at the Flossenbürg concentration camp because of his role in a plot to kill Hitler and his participation in the more general Christian resistance to the Nazis.

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