



Christ  
is risen!

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

**EVANGELICAL REFORMED CHURCH**

**United Church of Christ**

- An Open and Affirming Congregation -

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

10:30 a.m.

**Prelude** *Rejoicing*

- *G. F. Handel, arr. S. Drummond Wolfe*  
*Cathy Fronk, trumpet; Jeffrey Baker, trombone*

**Greetings**

**Prelude** *Hymn to Joy*

- *Beethoven, arr. L. Larson*

**\*Call to Worship**

Praise God, who brings life out of death and hope out of despair.

**Praise God, who has raised Jesus Christ from the dead.**

Praise God, who gathers up the fragments left by human violence  
and creates new possibilities.

**Christ is risen!**

Christ has risen indeed.

**\*Prayer of Invocation**

Christ is with us.

**Christ is in our midst.**

Let us pray.

**We rejoice, mighty God, that you have raised Jesus Christ from  
the dead. We praise you and glorify your name. New life  
blossoms where dead hopes were buried. Today, the world is made new.  
Be known among us in resurrection power; through Jesus, our  
crucified and risen Saviour.**

**\*Hymn of Adoration** *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

- No. 233

*See back of bulletin*

**\*Confession of Sin**

Easter morning takes us by surprise, awakening us to the doubt and despair  
that have been rooted in our lives. Let us, then, confess our sin to God. If, at  
times, when the risks of discipleship are high, we are nowhere to be found.

**God forgive.**

If, at times, we wash our hands of responsibility:

**God forgive.**

If, at times, we cast our lot with powerful oppressors and seek to buy freedom with silver:

**God forgive.**

If, at times, fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth, or prejudice keeps us from believing it:

**God forgive.**

**In the bright light of Easter, our sin is exposed, but your grace is revealed. Cover us by your grace and renew us at the table of the risen Christ, that we might reflect his love and magnify his saving power now made manifest in the splendour of resurrection! Amen.**

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

### **Thought for the Day**

### **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.**

**Anthem *Lift High the Cross***

*- S. H. Nicholson, arr. D. McAninch  
ERUCC handbells*

### **The Scripture**

Acts 10: 34-43

Mark 16: 1-8

### **Sermon**

### **Prayers**

### **Call to Offering**

**Offertory *Alleluia! Give Thanks to the Risen Lord***

*- D. Fishel,  
- arr. J. Raney  
ERUCC Singers*

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Invitation

Jesus said: I am the bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger; you who believe in me shall never thirst.

**In company with all who hunger for spiritual food, we come to this table to know the risen Christ in the sharing of this life-giving bread.**

### Communion Prayer

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made.

We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior.

We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world.

Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we unite our voices with the entire family of your faithful people everywhere: everywhere:

**Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!**

Merciful God, as sisters and brothers in faith, we recall anew these words and acts of Jesus Christ. Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat: This is my body."

Jesus took a cup, and after giving thanks, gave it to the disciples and said: "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."

We remember Christ's promise not to drink of the fruit of the vine again until the heavenly banquet at the close of history, and we say boldly what we believe:

**Christ has died. Christ has risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless this bread, and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking at this table that our eyes may be opened, and

we may recognize the risen Christ in our midst, in each other, and in all for whom Christ died.

**Amen.**

## **Breaking Bread and Lifting the Cup**

### **Resurrection Acclamation**

Alleluia! Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one.

**I died, and behold I am alive for evermore. Alleluia!**

## **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*in unison*)

**We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

**Amen.**

### **\*Hymn** *Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*

- No.243

*tune - Hyfrydol, No. 257*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise;  
Sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
Jesus on the cross as Savior for the world's salvation bled;  
But the crucified Redeemer now is risen from the dead!**

**Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born;  
Glorious life, and life immortal on this holy Easter morn;  
Christ has triumphed, and we conquer by God's liberating deed;  
Now the Christ with us abiding to eternal life shall lead.**

**Christ is risen, we are risen; shed upon us heavenly grace,  
Rain and dew, and gleams of glory from the brightness of your face;  
That we, with our hearts in heaven, here on earth may fruitful be,  
And by angel hands be gathered, and be yours eternally.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to the God of joy;  
Alleluia to the Savior who came death's bonds to destroy;  
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.**

### **\*Benediction**

**Postlude** *Trumpet Tune*

- *J. Stanley, arr. S. Drummond Wolff*



**Every Sunday at 10:30**

<https://boxcast.tv/channel/bzioh0xyyacgq5fmjnoi>

**Want to listen to the sermon again? Visit our YouTube channel:**

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9\\_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9_hGBb5tBHeZuvqBvSbX5w)**

You can get to the link on our homepage at [www.erucc.org](http://www.erucc.org)

**The flowers on the altar this morning** are in memory of our parents Ed and Jane Rossig, by Bud, Jennifer and Ellen.

The **yellow rose bud** on the stand is in honor of those currently serving in the military by Sandra Trout

**Worship Next Week: April 11 Love Is a Response to Grace /Holy Humor Sunday**

*John 20:19-31 "Peace be with you."*

In this story, Jesus appears to the disciples when they are locked away in fear and breathes upon them with a word of peace and empowerment.

Acts 4:32-35 describes how the early followers of Jesus were so unified that they shared their possessions and cared for another so that no was in need. The Gospel lesson is from John 20: 19-31. When Jesus appears to his followers after the resurrection he shows them his hands and side. Then he breathed on them and blessed them with the Holy Spirit. Thomas arrived later after Jesus had left and said he needed to see for himself. Jesus came to be with them again when Thomas was with them and encouraged Thomas to touch his hands and sides.

*Think of the last time someone calmed and empowered you. When have you done the same for someone else? Make it your mission this week to look for occasions to breathe peace into a situation of fear.*

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airline surcharges

For More Information, Please Contact:

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(301) 662-2762

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**SPACE IS LIMITED - SIGN UP TODAY!!!**



## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, 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!  
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

