

Hope United Church of Christ Easter Sunday Celebration  
10 am Worship & Holy Communion  
April 20, 2025

PRELUDE: Hornpipe by G.F. Handel

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS and OFFERING

**SONG OF PRAISE** NO. 233: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The darkness is gone!

**All: Bright light floods into this new day of hope.**

One: Those who went to the tomb received good news.

**All: Christ was not there!**

One: Christ is risen in our hearts and our spirits!

**All: ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN! AMEN.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray

**All: We confess that we sometimes struggle to understand the gift of Easter. We linger in places of doubt and anxiety. We do not always share Your love with our whole hearts. Heal our broken places so that we might embrace a new beginning with you. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

SACRED MUSIC: "Alleluia! He is Risen!" *Words and music by Nancy Price and Don Besig*

YOUNG PEOPLE'S MESSAGE: Easter Symbols

**THE ALLELUIA:** Festival Alleluia by James Chepponis

*Choir will sing first, then invite congregation*

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia**

PRAYER BEFORE THE SCRIPTURE READING

THE GOSPEL READING: Mark 16:1-8 NRSVUE

EASTER MEDITATION Moving Boulders Rev. Meg Wilson

**SONG OF RESPONSE** No. 253: "Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Living God: hear our prayer**

LORD'S PRAYER

**SONG OF PREPARATION** No. 242: "The Strife Is O'er" verse 1

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All are welcomed to share in this meal.*

Pastor: The Lord is with you!

**All: And also, with you!**

Pastor: Lift up your voices to speak of this great love!

**All: We lift them up in joyful acclamation!**

Pastor: It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere, to give thanks to you, Living God, Time after time, you draw us here to inspire us, feed us, and save us. Especially when our love fails, you are here, steadfast and true.

You created this world and called it good.

You created us to proclaim your good to all.

And so we raise our voices in praise:

**All: Holy, holy, holy, God of love and majesty,  
The whole universe speaks of your glory,  
O God, Most High.**

Pastor: We remember the life and ministry of Jesus: how he healed the sick, fed the hungry, ate with sinners, and preached forgiveness and peace. It was at this table that he issued the invitation:

**All: To gather together,  
To share together,  
To remember together,  
And to go and do likewise in the world.**

Pastor: For the Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in

remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, on this day of resurrection, we raise our voices to proclaim this timeless truth:

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen!  
Christ will come again!**

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, your people, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make us lovers and tellers of your word. Make us ones who heal and share your grace. And make us one body in Jesus Christ. All glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, now and for all time! Amen.

### **Sharing of the Elements**

Pastor: Let us receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

**All: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.**

Pastor: Let us receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

**All: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.**

Prayer after Communion

**Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.**

**We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life.**

**We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy.**

**We are now called to feed as we have been fed, forgive as we have been forgiven, love as we have been loved. Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG:** He Lives!

BENEDICTION AND EASTER ACCLAMATION (balloon release)

Pastor: On this day of Resurrection, we are ready to embrace our new beginnings.

**All: We joyfully witness God's Good News.**

Pastor: Rejoice knowing that He is Risen!

**All: He is Risen indeed!**

POSTLUDE: Hail, O Festal Day