

Hope United Church of Christ  
Easter Sunday Celebration  
10 am Worship & Holy Communion  
April 5, 2026

PRELUDE: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty –  
*- Lobe Den Herren, setting, Wayne L. Wold*

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS and OFFERING

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Easter people, Christ is risen! God is doing a new thing!

**All: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!**

One: Life has conquered death! Love has overcome fear!

**All: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!**

One: God has transformed a dead end into a new beginning!

**All: Hallelujah! Christ is risen!**

One: Easter people, raise your voices! Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

**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. Help us to embrace a new beginning with you. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENT OF GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE

SACRED MUSIC: Awake! Arise! Go Forth! by Hope UCC Choir  
*Words by Nancy Price & Don Besig Music by 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: John 20:1-18 NRSVUE

EASTER MEDITATION 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 PREPERATION:** No. 242 The Strife Is O'er - verse 1

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All are welcomed to share in this meal.*

Invitation

Remembering the story

Blessing of the Gifts

**Sharing in the Meal:**

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**

**All: 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: That Easter Day with Joy was Bright -  
- *Puer Nobis, setting, Wayne L. Wold*