

2010 EASTER
SUNRISE SERVICE



Easter Sunrise Service

4 April 2010
6 o'clock in the morning
Greenwich Point

*All who are able please stand

CALL TO COMMUNITY

EASTER PROCLAMATION

Leader: Praise the Lord! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader: For us the stone has been rolled away.

People: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Leader: Christ has been raised from death to new life.

People: Christ is risen indeed!

*HYMN: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Let us with the angels say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia!

Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!

Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome to God's new day!

People: Everywhere we look, we see new life

Leader: In the beauty of this place, in smiles and senses.

People: We discover God's energizing presence.

Leader: Death can never be the last word.

People: God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead.

Leader: *Christ is present among us today.*

People: Praise God for new life within and among us this day.
Amen.

*UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

God of new life, we gather this morning to welcome you as you have welcomed us. We come to sing songs of praise for the new life we find in you. We come to experience the resurrected Christ through the hearing of his stories, and the joy we find in greeting one another. Our prayer is this, Join Us! Join us on the journey to the cross. Guide us! Guide us as we seek to live as Christ has taught us! Love us! We seek to share the perfect love that you give to us. Hear us! Hear us as we pray together the prayer that Christ has taught us...

*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 forever. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Ingrid Thalheim, *daughter of Jan and Sarah Thalheim*

ANTHEM

The Youth Choir; Carolyn Paulus, director

I Am the Resurrection

Ray Repp

(refrain) I am the resurrection and the life;

All who believe in me will never die.

I am the resurrection and the life;

All who believe in me will live a new life.

I have come to bring the truth;

I have come to bring you life;

If you believe then you shall live. *(refrain)*

In my word all will come to know

it is love which makes the spirit grow;

If you believe then you shall live. *(refrain)*

Keep in mind the things that I have said;
remember me in the breaking of the bread;
If you believe then you shall live. (*refrain*)

FIRST LESSON:

John 11:17-27

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

ANTHEM

The Youth Choir; Carolyn Paulus, director;

O Sons and Daughters

Michael Larkin

O sons and daughters, let us sing
Praises to Christ our heavenly King,
Death, O death, where is your sting?
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

That Easter morn at break of day,
The faithful women went their way,
to seek the tomb where Jesus lay.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

An angel clad in white they see,
Who sat and spoke unto the three,
"Your Lord has gone to Galilee,"
Alleluia!

That night the apostles met in fear;
Amidst them came their Lord so dear,
And said, "My peace be on all here."
Alleluia!

On this most holy day of days,
To God your hearts and voices raise
In laud and jubilee and praise.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

SECOND LESSON:

Acts 2:29-36

“Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you both see and hear. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.”’ Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

SERMON

“I am the Resurrection and the Life”

AN EASTER LITANY

Leader: O God, who raised Christ Jesus from the tomb, we pray that we may receive a strong sense of Christ’s presence in our lives.

People: We gather today to share in the wonder and mystery of the resurrection of Jesus, an event that even his disciples could not believe at first.

Leader: If our faith has been our guide into life, then we too have witnessed those moments of dying and rising, when life was

*filled with suffering or with excitement and
undying joy.*

People: We pray this morning that the Spirit of Resurrection would
fill us even in times when we might find it hard to believe.

*Leader: Renew us with the power of your Word, that we might tell
others of the meaning of this third day.*

People: Lord, give us the courage of our convictions. We pray that
your Spirit would be alive in us guiding us in the ways of
justice and love.

***SONG**

Lord, I lift your name on High *Rick Founds*
(The Youth will sing through once and then everyone will
join in)

Lord I lift your name on high.

Lord, I love to sing your praises.

I'm so glad you're in my life.

I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way

From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;

Lord, I lift your name on high.

***CLOSING SENTENCES**

Leader: Things come undone--

Bud, grave--things open one by one.

Across a gashed sky colors run,

The setting and the rising sun.

People: Things come apart--

Sealed tomb, locked heart--

Dead things restart.

New Life has now begun

The setting and the rising sun.

Leader: Things come unwound--

Shroud, chain that once bound--

People: Love hatches from the earthquake ground

Breath beyond bruise is won.

The setting and the rising sun.

(Edith Lovejoy Pierce)

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

“Finale” from *Godspell*

Stephen Schwartz

At the conclusion of the service this morning, you will receive a daffodil, a symbol of new life. The daffodils for the Easter Sunrise Service are given in loving memory of Kay Davidson.

This Sunrise Service is sponsored and supported by The First Congregational Church of Greenwich, United Church of Christ, and has been a project of the Senior Pilgrim Fellowship of this church for over 60 years.

The offering that will be received this morning at our coffee table is dedicated to our Lenten Offering. The Outreach Committee has focused our giving on the following agencies: The Foodbank of Lower Fairfield County, Neighbor to Neighbor, New Covenant House, St. Luke's Lifeworks, The Shelter for the Homeless and Church World Service. Recent years' Lenten Offerings have focused on hunger. We will continue to support the hunger initiatives in Fairfield County this year with 25% of our offering. 50% of our offering will go to homeless initiatives in Fairfield County and 25% of our offering will go to Church World Service to support short and long-term relief initiatives in Haiti.

Please join us as our Easter Sunday Celebration continues in the Meetinghouse at 9:00 and 11:00 am with Festival Services including choirs, brass and timpani.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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Ministers: Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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