

2011 Easter Sunrise Service

April 24, 2011

Easter Sunrise Service

24 April 2010

5:45 o'clock in the morning
Greenwich Point

*All who are able please stand

CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Mark D. Montgomery

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!

*HYMNS:

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!

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

Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Now the Green Blade Rises

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;

Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;

Love lives again, that with the dead has been:

Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,

*Thinking that their Love would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.*

The Day of Resurrection

*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.*

*Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
The Christ who reigns eternal in resurrection light:
We listen for the teachings once heard so calm and plain,
For we, too, want to follow and raise the victor strain.*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lucinda Allen

Leader: Look around you

People: New life is everywhere

Leader: We see the buds of trees, the lapping of the water on the shore

People: And we realize that we are a part of something wonderful

Leader: We are a part of God's creation!

***People: Though we may at times find ourselves in the midst of
despair***

Leader: We know to await and receive the resurrection that will come.

People: God of new life be with us this day

Leader: By the presence of your Holy Spirit, energize our time together

***All: Christ is risen, we are a part of that resurrection. As your
new people, we gather to worship you now.***

***OPENING PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

David Gordon

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.

ANTHEM

Now Life Rises in the Morning

The Youth Choir
Mark Shepherd

*Choir: Now life rises in the morning,
 Painting hope across the sky,
 Sin and death in wonder scorning;
 World, behold the Crucified.*

*Gone the devil's curse and pow'r,
Here Messiah's finest hour,
His the resurrection story;
Alleluia, his the glory!*

*Now we have a risen Savior,
Living by the Spirit's breath.
Finished is salvation's labor;
Won, the vict'ry over death.*

*Where the darkness yields to dawn,
Where the saints in light have gone,
There we'll live and sing together
Alleluias, now and ever.*

All: (sing last verse on next page)

All:

Now the Church by Christ com - mis - sioned Goes the way of
faith, not sight, Led by res - ur - rec - tion vi - sion,
Wit - ness to the one great Light! Christ is ris'n, he's
ris'n in - deed! This our mes - sage, This our Creed, Mark - ing
time and gen - er - a - tions, Al - le - lu - ias cross the na - tions.

Text: Dean Nadasdy, newly composed, and copyright © 2011 with this publication.
Music: Mark Shepperd, newly composed, and copyright © 2011 with this publication.

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FIRST LESSON

Kelsey Ingraham

Luke 24:13-24

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him."

***HYMN**

Sing Alleluia to the Lord
Sing alleluia to the Lord
Sing alleluia to the Lord
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia
Sing alleluia to the Lord

Sing alleluia to the Lord
Sing alleluia to the Lord
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia
Sing alleluia to the Lord

Jesus is king and Lord of all
Jesus is king and Lord of all
Jesus is Lord of all, Jesus is Lord of all
Jesus is king and Lord of all

Sing, Christ is risen from the dead
Sing, Christ is risen from the dead
Sing, Christ is risen, Sing, Christ is risen
Sing, Christ is risen from the dead
Sing alleluia to the Lord
Sing alleluia to the Lord
Sing alleluia, sing alleluia
Sing alleluia to the Lord

Luke 24:25-35

Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

SERMON: “*Son Rise*”

Jennifer Florence, Charlie Baird, Mark Montgomery

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;

God has brought all Israel into joy from sadness;

Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;

Led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

Spring has dawned on earth today; Christ has burst from prison,

And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has risen;

All the winter of our sins, long and gray, is flying

From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

*Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim portal,
Nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal;
But today amid the twelve you still stand, bestowing
Peace and joy which evermore passes human knowing.*

***BENEDICTION**

***CHORAL RESPONSE**

“Finale” from *Godspell*

Stephen Schwartz

Youth Choir of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

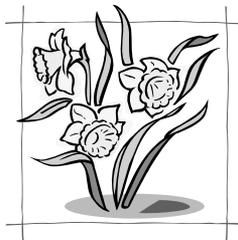
*Lucinda Allen
Jadesola Ariyibi
Matthew Baptist
Charlie Baird
Walker Brady
Jennifer Florence
Ivan Golodinskii
Olivia Hartwell
Hosung Kwon
Daniel Lepoutre
Julia McDonald
Liz Morris
Sarah Morris
Melanie Pfetsch
Ella Quinn
Kim Rogers
Shaw Speer
Matt Stolfi
Katie Weatherseed
Gillian Woodman
Stephanie Woodman*

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 Youth Ministry Program of this church for over 60 years.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich declares itself to be open and affirming; open to all for participation, membership, leadership and employment, and affirming of all who wish to join us as children of God. We continue to give thanks for God's guidance in our journey of faith.

Our offering this morning will be received at the close of the service. All contributions will benefit the 2011 Lenten Offering of our church. For more information about the agencies benefiting from this year's offering, please refer to the adjacent page.

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





Bring up a child...

We see images of people suffering, of those in need and often the most common images are children. Children make up the largest percentage of the poor in the world. When we consider the options for the youngest among us who find themselves living in poverty, it is easy to understand the call that we find in Proverbs 22: *“Bring up a child in the way they should go, and when they are old, they will not depart from it.”*

In response to this call, this year’s Lenten Offering benefits organizations that offer services to children and families. This year’s recipients are:

Neighbor to Neighbor, Greenwich: Neighbor to Neighbor offers free food and clothing to families and individuals in the Greater Greenwich area. In the past two months, 70 new families have been referred to the program for assistance, highlighting the growing need in our area. Visit them at www.n-to-n.org.

CTE After School Program, Stamford: The Lathon Wilder Community Center is the hub of activity for this organization. Housed in South Stamford, the CTE program offers children an after school option for assistance, nourishment and encouragement. Visit them at www.ctecap.org.

Sexual Assault Crisis Center, Stamford: The Sexual Assault Crisis Center offers counseling, support group, and advocacy services to children, women and men who are victims of sexual abuse. Learn more about them at www.thecenter-ct.org.

Covenant to Care for Children, Connecticut (Statewide): Covenant to Care for Children (CTC) offers a wide range of services but specifically targets children and families who are part of the foster care programs in Connecticut. From children who have been removed from dangerous homes to adults looking to find assistance to take care of their children, CTC offers support, options and guidance. You can find out more about CTC at www.covenanttocare.org.

St. Luke’s Lifeworks, Stamford: Our church has a long history of support for St. Luke’s through giving and volunteering. We continue this support via our Lenten offering to support, specifically, the programs focusing on children and families serviced by this agency. Read about these programs at www.stlukeslifeworks.org.

The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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Ministers: The Members of The First Congregational Church of Greenwich

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Associate Pastor for Christian Education: Rev. Susan J. Murtha

Minister of Communication and Adult Education: Rev. Daniel B. England

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Director of Music Emeritus: Dr. John Stansell