

*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*  
*Founded in 1665*

**1 April 2018**

**Easter Morning**

Sunrise Beach Service at Greenwich Point



*The First Congregational Church of Greenwich*

108 Sound Beach Avenue,  
Old Greenwich, Connecticut, 06870

203-637-1791

*www.fccog.org*

Welcome to this Easter Sunday Sunrise Service of worship at The First Congregational Church of Greenwich.

In this time of worship, we invite you to relax from the stress and care of life to deeply experience the renewing power of God's love. May the music, the words and the company of fellow seekers inspire you with the graceful promise of the Easter message. Christ is Risen, in the world and in our hearts!

## EASTER PROLOGUE

Yevgeniya Golodinskii & Drew Mohn

### **HYMN:** Now the Green Blade Rises

Verse 1 (Parker Freeman)

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in the 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.

Verse 2 (Choir)

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.

Verse 3 (Choir & Congregation)

Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,  
who for three days in the grave had lain;  
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen:  
Love is come again, like wheat that rises green.

Verse 4 (Choir & Congregation)

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
Christ's warm touch can call us back to life again;  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:  
Love is come again, like wheat that rises green.

## CALL TO COMMUNITY

Rev. Patrick Collins

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Jennie Olmsted

Leader: Out of the darkness of grief and despair  
comes a message of hope. Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen, indeed.**

Leader: We run to the tomb to see for ourselves.  
And it is true. Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen, indeed.**

Leader: We hear a voice call our name,  
and we know our risen Lord  
is with us now and always.  
Christ is risen.

**All: Christ is risen, indeed.  
Thanks be to God.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

### **HYMN:** In the Bulb There Is a Flower

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
There's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity,  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

## UNISON GATHERING PRAYER

Lara Olmsted

**Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us, may your dawn beckon. When fear paralyses, may your touch be a release. When grief torments, may your peace enfold. When memories haunt, may your**

presence heal. When justice fails, may your anger ignite. When apathy stagnates, may your challenge renew. When courage leaves, may your spirit inspire. When despair has a grip, may your hope restore. And when death threatens, may your resurrection light lead us into the beginning of a new day. We ask all of these things through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying, Our Father....

### **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.

### **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

Emma Olmsted & JQ Norrgard

#### **Luke 24: 1-12 (Common English Bible)**

Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. They didn't know what to make of this. Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing. The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He isn't here, but has been raised. Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again."

Then they remembered his words. When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles. Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women. But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

### **ANTHEM**

The Lord Is Risen Today

The Youth Choir  
Lloyd Larson  
Carolyn Paulus, director  
Jon Hunt, piano

### **SERMON**

Rev. Patrick Collins

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

Lauren Mickley

#### **HYMN: Christ the Lord Is Risen Today**

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia.  
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia.  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia.  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia.

2. Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia.  
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia.  
Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia.  
Where the victory, O grave? Alleluia.

3. 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.

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia.  
Following our exalted head, Alleluia.  
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia.  
Ours, the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia.

### **BENEDICTION**

Rev. Patrick Collins

### **SUNG RESPONSE**

Prepare Ye (Finale from 'Godspell')

The Youth Choir  
Stephen Schwartz

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At the conclusion of the service this morning, you will receive a daffodil.  
These flowers are a gift from the Speer family for this Easter Sunday.

The 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.

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

**Youth Choir**

Lola Dellascenza  
Parker Freeman  
Yevgeniya Golodinskii  
Tessa Kurtz  
Mariel Laffan  
Tessa Laffan  
Marcus Lotufo  
Lauren Mickley  
Sarah Mickley  
Drew Mohn  
Elizabeth Mohn  
JQ Norrgard  
Emma Olmsted  
Olivia Pfetsch  
Wenhao Ruan