

First Congregational United Church of Christ/  
Christ United Methodist Church

April 12, 2026  
Worship Service



*Thank you for participating in a unified worship of First Congregational United Church of Christ and Christ United Methodist Church. We hope your presence in the service is meaningful in the ways you need it to be.*

**Gathering Music**

**Greeting and Announcements**

**Transition to Worship**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Call to Worship**

Leader: The sun had just soared over the horizon as Jesus' friends hurried to his grave. They were going to anoint his body, all that was left of their loved one, with spices.

**All: "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" they asked each other.**

Leader: Their questions were just beginning.

**All: Where did the body go? How does one rise from the dead? How does death conquer life? How could life conquer death?**

Leader: An angel answered—at least some of their questions. They ran from the tomb—silent, shaking, and astonished.

**All: They were a fearful bunch. How could the good news reach the world? What did such good news mean?**

Leader: Come, disciples of Christ, together let us worship our God who resurrects us.

**Prayer of Invocation**

**Praise be to God, the source of all life! We were given new birth and new hope when Christ rose from the dead. Such riches can never spoil or fade or perish. We delight in the knowledge that the same power that raised Christ from the dead lives in us. We rejoice and invite God's Spirit into our midst—to comfort, heal, and transform us. We are not silent. We shout, "Hallelujah! Christ is risen!"**

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Christ Has Risen". It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Christ has ris - en while earth slum - bers,  
2. Christ has ris - en for the peo - ple  
3. Christ has ris - en to com - pan - ion  
4. Christ has ris - en and for - ev - er

Christ has ris - en where hope died, as he said and  
whom he died to love and save; Christ has ris - en  
for - mer friends who fear the night, sens - ing loss and  
lives to chal - lenge and to change all whose lives are

as he prom - ised, as we doubt - ed  
for the wom - en bring - ing flowers to  
lim - i - ta - tion where their faith had  
messed or man - gled; all who find re -

and de - nied. Let the moon em - brace the bless - ing;  
grace his grave. Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples  
once burned bright. They be - moan what is no long - er,  
li - gion strange. Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres - ent

let the sun sus - tain the cheer; let the world con -  
 hud - dled in an up - stairs room. He whose word in -  
 they ex - pect no hope - ful sign till Christ ends their  
 mak - ing us what he has been — ev - i - dence of

firm the ru - mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here!  
 spired cre - a - tion can't be si - lenced by the tomb.  
 con - ver - sa - tion, break - ing bread and shar - ing wine.  
 trans - for - ma - tion in which God is known and seen.

WORDS: John Bell (Matt. 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20-21; 1 Cor. 15:3-8) HOLY MANNA  
 MUSIC: William Moore 87.87 D  
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**Scripture Reading**

*Mark 16:1-8 and alternative ending NRSV*

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”

When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. [And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterward Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.]

**Sermon**

*“The Sound of Silence”*

1. ¡Cris - to vi - ve, fue - ra el llan - to, los la -  
 2. Que si Cris - to no vi - vie - ra va - na

1. Christ is ris - en, Christ is liv - ing, dry your  
 2. If the Lord had nev - er ris - en, we'd have

men - tos y el pe - sar! Ni la muer - te ni el se -  
 fue - ra nues - tra fe; mas se cum - ple su pro -

tears, be un - a - fraid! Death and dark - ness could not  
 noth - ing to be - lieve; but his prom - ise can be

pul - cro lo han po - di - do su - je - tar.  
 me - sa: 'Por - que vi - vo, vi - vi - réis.'

hold him, nor the tomb in which he lay.  
 trust - ed: "You will live, be - cause I live."

No bus - quéis en - tre los muer - tos al que  
 Si en A - dán en - tró la muer - te, por Je -

Do not look a - mong the dead for one who  
 As we share the death of A - dam, so in

siem - pre ha de vi - vir, ¡Cris - to vi - vel es - tas  
 sús la vi - da en - tró; no te - máis, el triun - fo es  
 lives for - ev - er - more; tell the world that Christ is  
 Christ we live a - gain; death has lost its sting and

nue - vas por do - quier de - jad o - fr.  
 vues - tro: ¡El Se - ñor re - su - ci - tó!  
 ris - en, make it known he goes be - fore.  
 ter - ror, Christ the Lord has come to reign.

3. Si es verdad que de la muerte el pecado es aguijón, no temáis pues Jesucristo nos da vida y salvación. Gracias demos al Dios Padre que nos da seguridad, que quien cree en Jesucristo vive por la eternidad.

3. Death has lost its old dominion, let the world rejoice and shout! Christ, the firstborn of the living, gives us life and leads us out. Let us thank our God, who causes hope to spring up from the ground. Christ is risen, Christ is giving life eternal, life profound.

WORDS: Nicolás Martínez, 1960; trans. by Fred Kaan, 1972 (1 Cor. 15)  
 MUSIC: Pablo D. Sosa, 1960

CENTRAL  
 87.87 D

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## Sharing of Joys and Concerns

### Spoken Prayer and 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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

### Invitation to the Offering

**Leader:** Disciples of Christ, we worship a risen Savior! Christ's divine power gives us everything we need to live a godly life. So let us add to our faith, goodness; to our goodness, knowledge; to our knowledge, self-control; to our self-control, perseverance; to our perseverance, godliness; to our godliness, mutual affection; and to our mutual affection, love. These qualities will keep our faith in Christ from being ineffective and unproductive. God's life and love is continually given to us in abundance. This morning, tomorrow, and the next day, let us generously share of our time, talents, and treasures.

**All: "A generous soul will prosper, and he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."  
Proverbs 11:25**

### Offertory

"Come Build a Church"  
Chancel Choir

*by Ken Medema*

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### \*\*Presentation and Doxology

*NCH #778*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God for all that love has done;  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One.**

### \*\*Prayer of Dedication

**Almighty God, receive these gifts we return to you. We rejoice that you are our source of life! We delight in the new birth and new hope you gave us when Christ rose from the dead. Such riches can never spoil or fade or perish. May the same power that raised Christ from the dead manifest the kingdom of heaven in our midst. Thank you for giving us your realm of love and fearlessness. Help us humbly receive it. Amen.**

### 50th Anniversary Storytelling

**\*\*Closing Hymn**

**“I Love to Tell the Story”**

*NCH #522*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "I Love to Tell the Story". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass line is in the bass staff. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff, with four different verses. The first verse ends with a period, while the others end with a comma. The music concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove.  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry; more won - der - ful it seems  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry; it's pleas - ant to re - peat  
4 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best

Of Je - sus' ra - diant glo - ry, of Je - sus' end - less love.  
 than all the gold - en vi - sions of all our gold - en dreams.  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet.  
 seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it, like the rest.

I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, I tell it now to you  
 I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
 And when I sing in glo - ry, I know the new, new song

it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else can do.  
 be - cause I want to share it, be - cause I know it's true.  
 the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly Word.  
 will be the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

*Refrain*  
 I love to tell the sto - ry; and when I am in glo - ry  
 I'll tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus' end - less love.

Born in Clapham, England, Katherine Hankey belonged to the Clapham Sect of Evangelicals and established a Bible class for girls in London's West End. This hymn is drawn from her extended poem on the life of Jesus, which also contains "Tell me the old, old story."

Tune: HANKEY 7.6.7.6.D. with refrain  
 William G. Fischer, 1869

**\*\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

“Take Care of This House”  
Ray Young, soloist

*by Leonard Bernstein*

*(please be seated for the Postlude)*

**Acknowledgments**

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