



Christ
is risen!

CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
Wiscasset, Maine 04578

Easter Sunday
March 31, 2024
10:00am

* Indicates to please stand with your heart or your posture. The choir will guide you as when to stand.

We joyfully welcome all visitors to our worship service, including those who join us on Zoom. We invite you to join us for coffee and refreshments in Fellowship Hall immediately following the Worship Service.

For Your Contemplation:

“Made like Him, like Him we rise; . . . ours the cross, the grave the skies.”
. . . from “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

PRELUDE *Come Ye Thankful, Raise the Strain* arr. Gerald Peterson

RING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

* EASTER HYMN *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* No. 205

* INVITATION TO WORSHIP

Easter begins in despair. Our life, our love, our hope forever dead, crushed by the boulder, bottled up in a cave.

Who will roll away the stone?

Easter takes us by surprise, early in the morning. The obstacles we expect to face are removed. Where once death and despair laid locked in time now the bright light of hope sprouts wings to fly from emptiness.

It is, at first, too good to be true.

Everywhere we look we see new life!

In seeds and buds, in smiles and touch, we discover God's energizing presence.

Death can never be the last word.

God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Christ is present among us today.

Praise God for new life within and among us this day! Alleluia!

PRAYER ON EASTER DAY (UNISON):

God of all ages and all people, the shadows and gloom of Good Friday have been dispersed by the light and color of Easter Sunday. We rejoice in Your power that turns our sorrow into joy, our despair into hope, our defeat into victory and evil into goodness. Help us on this Easter morning, O God, to burst out of the tombs that have trapped us: tombs of selfishness and sinfulness, greed and gluttony, scandal and corruption, pride and prejudice. Let now a new life of divine grace and human love burst forth from each of us this Easter day, through the grace of Jesus Christ, the Risen One. Alleluia! Amen!

READING FROM THE HEBREW BIBLE

Psalm 118:14 - 24

EASTER ANTHEM

Look, the Stone is Rolled Away!

Dana Mengel

JOYS AND CONCERNS:

After each Joy or Concern please respond:

Pastor: "Lord," **Congregation: "Hear our Prayer"**

MORNING PRAYER

SILENT PRAYER

OUR 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.

CHORAL RESPONSE

Sevenfold Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 28:1 - 10

Liturgist: This is the Word of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

* HYMN OF PREPARATION

Thine Is the Glory

No. 214

SERMON: "Go and Make Your Life an Easter Sermon"

Rev. David Myers

Text: "The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; . . . He has been raised from the dead, and indeed He is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Him.'"
. . . Matthew 28:6 - 7

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Since our cups run over with gifts of grace, let us respond with our love and ourselves and with our gifts.

OFFERTORY

Fling Wide the Gates

John Stainer

* PRESENTATION WITH THE EASTER DOXOLOGY

No. 49

**Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
And sing today with one accord.
Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine, Amen**

* Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns

No. 210

BENEDICTION (UNISON)

Because the tomb is empty our lives can be full, so let us go into every place and every day as people brimming with the love of God.

Let us be graceful in spirit, hopeful in word, faithful in deed. Let us live for the risen Christ as Christ lives in us! Alleluia and Amen!

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.*

POSTLUDE *Toccata on "A Mighty Fortress" and "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"*
Gordon Young

You are invited to sit for the postlude.



*Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
One License with license # A-7314.*

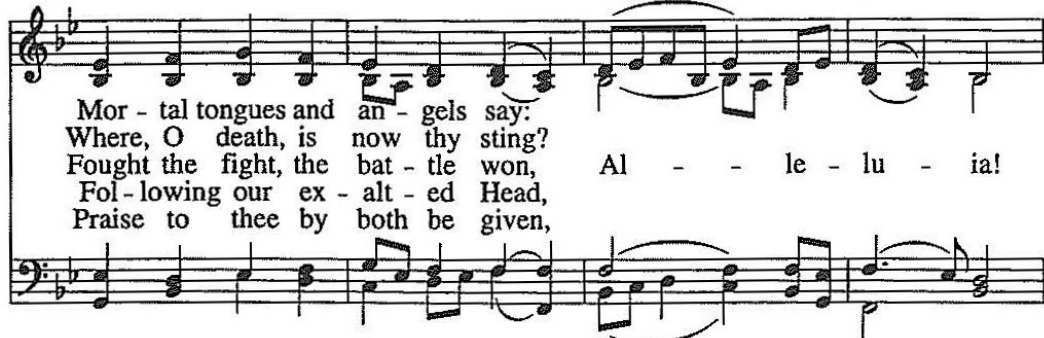
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“Our worship ends, let our service begin.”

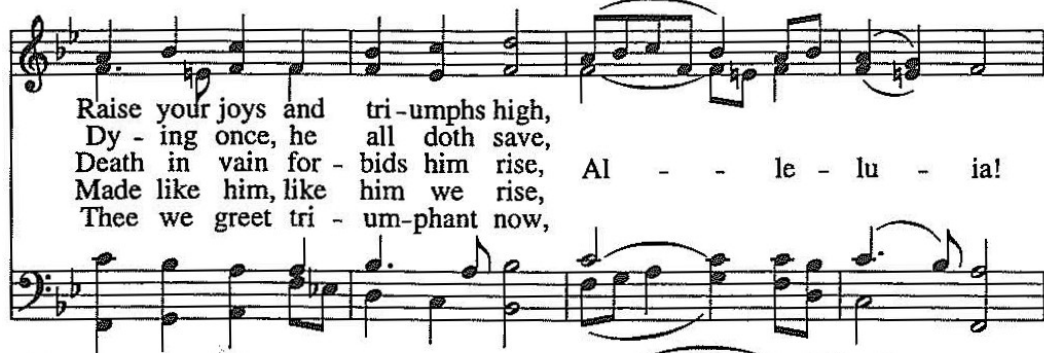
The Easter envelope in your bulletin is to allow you to make a special gift to your church. The proceeds will take that ordinary money and transform it into extraordinary love through the mission and ministries of our church and beyond!



1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day,
 2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King,
 3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led,
 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!



Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say:
 Where, O death, is now thy sting?
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head,
 Praise to thee by both be given,



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high,
 Dy - ing once, he all doth save,
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Made like him, like him we rise,
 Thee we greet tri - umphant now,



Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply:
 Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave?
 Christ has o - pened Par - a - dise, Al - - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies,
 Hail, the Res - ur - rec - tion thou!

Psalm 118:14 - 24

The LORD is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

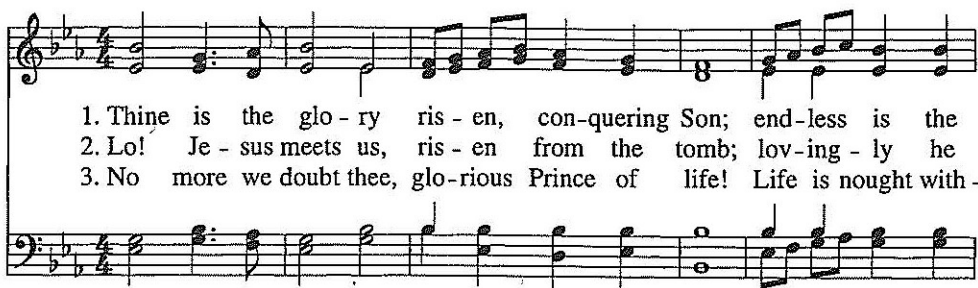
There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:
'The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted;
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.'
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.
The LORD has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.

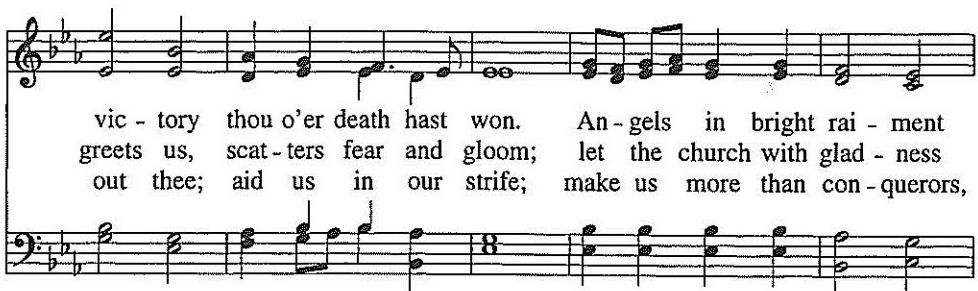
This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.
This is the LORD's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.
This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Thine Is the Glory



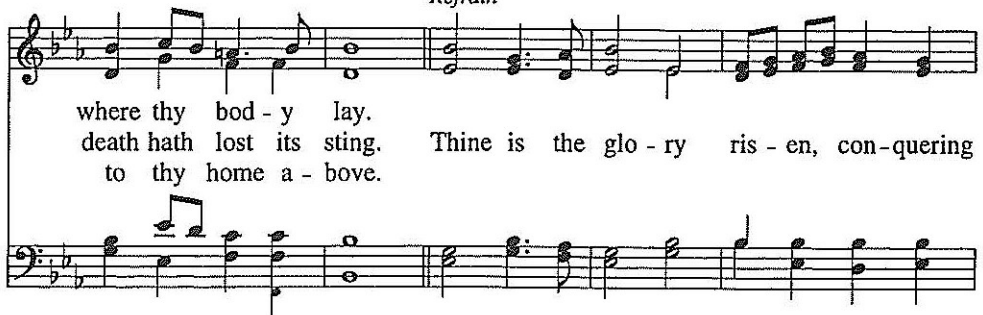
1. Thine is the glo - ry ris - en, con - quering Son; end - less is the
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb; lov - ing - ly he
 3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life! Life is nought with -



vic - tory thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
 greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom; let the church with glad - ness
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con - querors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for our Christ now liv - eth;
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

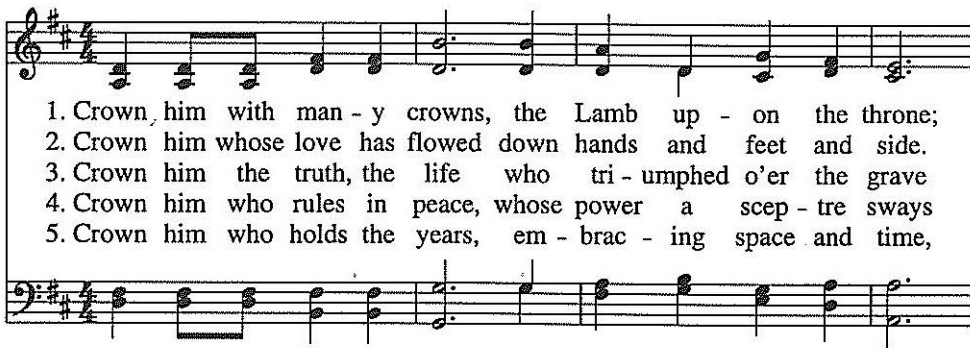
Refrain


where thy bod - y lay.
 death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry ris - en, con - quering
 to thy home a - bove.

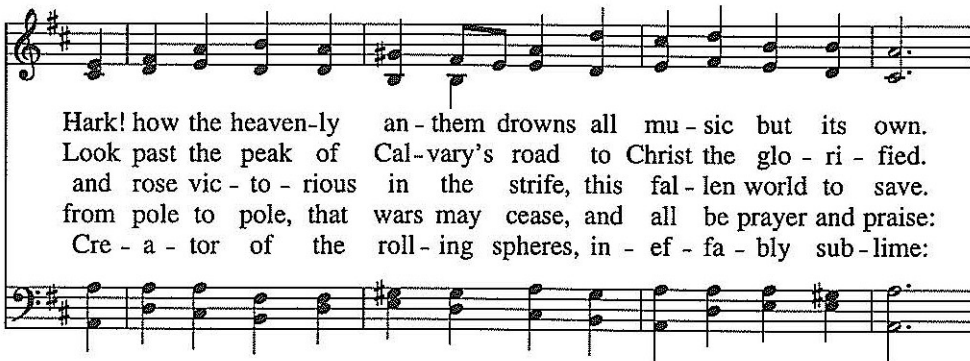
WORDS: Edmond L. Budry, 1904; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1923, alt.
 MUSIC: Georg Frederick Handel, 1751

JUDAS MACCABEUS
 55.65.65 w. refrain

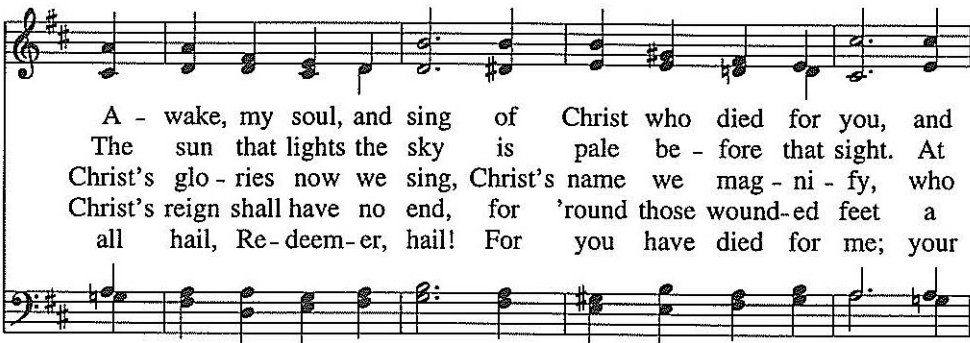
Crown Him with Many Crowns



1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on the throne;
 2. Crown him whose love has flowed down hands and feet and side.
 3. Crown him the truth, the life who tri - umphed o'er the grave
 4. Crown him who rules in peace, whose power a scep - tre sways
 5. Crown him who holds the years, em - brac - ing space and time,



Hark! how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own.
 Look past the peak of Cal - vary's road to Christ the glo - ri - fied.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife, this fal - len world to save.
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise:
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime:



A - wake, my soul, and sing of Christ who died for you, and
 The sun that lights the sky is pale be - fore that sight. At
 Christ's glo - ries now we sing, Christ's name we mag - ni - fy, who
 Christ's reign shall have no end, for 'round those wound - ed feet a
 all hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For you have died for me; your

March 31, 2024

Those serving you today:

Ushers: Lisa Hargreaves & Mary McKinney

Reader: Beth Whitney

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Church World Service Kit Program is underway. Instructions for each of the Kits and a signup poster for items for the Cleanup Buckets can be found on the CWS table in Fellowship Hall. The program will run through Sunday, April 21st.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE of the colored paper prayer slips in the pew rack. These are for you to write a word or phrase of prayer or concerns and place it on the offering plate. It will only be shared with the pastor.

Coming Up This Week:

Sunday, March 31:	Easter Day Sunrise Service 6:00am Town Pier Easter Day Worship 10:00am in FCCW Sanctuary
Monday, April 1:	Mah Jongg, 6:00pm – 8:30pm
Tuesday, April 2:	Sheepscot Valley Chorus, 7:00pm – 9:00pm
Wednesday, April 3:	Organ Society, 9:30am Feed Our Scholars Backpacks, 11:00am
Thursday, April 4:	Garden Club Wiscasset, 1:00pm
Sunday, April 7:	Palm Sunday Worship 10am

*Interim Minister: Rev. David C. Myers
dmyers421@gmail.com
W. 207-882-7544, H. 207-563-8217
Music Director and Organist: Joel Pierce
Sexton: Mary McKinney
Office Administrator: Ted Gilbert*

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He is Risen