

**HOPE**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Easter Sunday**  
March 31, 2024 10:30 AM



Image by Freepix

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

RINGING THE BELL

WELCOME

LITANY OF THE DAWN (1)

PRELUDE "Risen This Day!" Michael Ryan  
Chancel Ringers

\*CALL TO WORSHIP (2)

We gather in the name of the risen Lord.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

We gather as disciples of the resurrected one.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

We gather to share our faith and to worship God.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

We gather to proclaim the good news of Easter!

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

\*GATHERING HYMN "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" #233 *New Century Hymnal*  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**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!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, alleluia!**  
**Death in vain forbids Christ rise, alleluia! God has opened paradise, alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, alleluia! Following our exalted Head, alleluia!**  
**Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, alleluia!**

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (3)

With each alleluia, Everlasting God, we protest the Good Friday world.

**We imagine something else, and still that word catches in our throats, and we are uncertain of that joy.**

Forgive us for the hesitant alleluias, not trusting to believe wholeheartedly in the power of love.

**Risen Christ, roll away the stones that entomb our hearts.**

Shine your resurrection light into the shadows of our beings.

**Holy One, open us to the power of Easter love!** (*silent confession*)

\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE (3)

Friend, believe the Good News!

God's gift to us through the risen Christ is a gift of hope, of love, of endless new life.

**Thanks be to our risen Christ!**

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE #236 *New Century Hymnal* (*repeat once*)

**Halle, halle, hallelujah. Halle, halle, hallelujah.**

**Halle, halle, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

CONVERSATION WITH OUR CHILDREN

CHORAL ANTHEM "With a Voice of Singing" Martin Shaw

### LISTENING

*God speaks to us in the Word proclaimed.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 16:1-8 Pew Bible pp. 829-830

A Word of God that is still speaking, **Thanks be to God!**

SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN OF REFLECTION “Now the Green Blade Rises” #238 *New Century Hymnal*  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**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:  
*Refrain:* 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: *Refrain***

**Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,  
Jesus, who for three days in the grave had lain.  
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen: *Refrain***

**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: *Refrain***

**RESPONDING**

*We respond to God’s Word through our prayers and our gifts.*

NAMING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

CALL TO PRAYER

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Let us pray.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE 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.**

OFFERTORY “Jesus Shall Reign” Flor Peeters

(A QR code at the end of the bulletin is available for online giving.)

\* RESPONSE OF PRAISE (tune: “Lasst Uns Erfreuen” *The Hymnal* #15)

**Praise God, the Giver and the Gift,**

**Hearts, minds and voices now uplift, Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise, praise the breath of glad surprise, Freeing, uplifting, opening eyes.**

**Three-In-Oneness, Love Communing, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*(prayer continues...)*

...Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy God, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!**

*(prayer continues...)*

...Accept this our sacrifice of praise as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen:

**Dying you destroyed our death,**

**Rising you restored our life.**

**Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*(All are welcome to participate! Elements will be served by ushers. Wine trays contain white grape juice and red wine cups. A tray of gluten-free bread is available from usher in center aisle.)*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING *(unison)*

**God of all, we give thanks that your glory has dawned on us and brought us into this day of resurrection. We rejoice that the grave could not hold your Son, and that he has conquered death. We praise you that he summons us into new life this day and always. Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you, our God, forever and ever! Amen.**

\*COMMISSIONING HYMN "The Day of Resurrection" #245 *New Century Hymnal*  
(For full music, the *New Century Hymnal* is located in each pew rack)

**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.**

**Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,  
The whole world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
For Christ again has risen, our joy that has no end.**

\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Toccata" from "Fifth Organ Symphony" Charles Marie Widor

*Join us outside for our annual Easter Egg Hunt and flowering of the cross!  
Children will gather first in the chapel*

### SENDING

*With God's blessing, we are sent forth to follow Christ in the world.*

*Thanks to God, we at Hope United Church of Christ have good news to share. And we should feel compelled to share it, because there are people in St. Louis who are looking for a progressive and loving faith community. When we share Hope, we make it easier for them to find us!*

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#### Worship Endnotes

- (1) Written by Roddy Hamilton
- (2) Adapted from [www.re-worship.blogspot.com](http://www.re-worship.blogspot.com)
- (3) Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B, Volume 1; Kimberly Bracken Long, editor.

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*Thanks for your  
contribution to the  
ministries of Hope UCC!*

***March 31, 2024 Worship Leaders***

Pastor: Sarah Fredriksen McCann

Organist: Jim Threlkeld

Liturgist: Tiffany Beardslee

Ushers: Representatives from the Environmental Justice Team

YouTube: Andy Karcher

Tech team: Jim Richmann, Jack Jennings, Ron Geisel, Kristine Wentzien, Kathleen Mees

***Hope United Church of Christ Statement  
of Welcome and Mission***

No matter where you are on life's journey, you are invited to enter the big red doors of Hope United Church of Christ. We are an open and affirming congregation. We believe that every person is a child of God and all are welcome, regardless of race, economic background, marital status, gender, gender identity(ies) / expression(s), sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, nationality or faith history. It is our mission, inspired by God's Holy Spirit, to engage persons in living out the gospel of Jesus Christ. Please come, for all things are ready.

***Adopted by Hope UCC Congregation August 29, 2010***