

First Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

Founded in 1680



Living the Love and Justice of Jesus

EASTER SUNDAY

April 20, 2025 ~ 10:00 am

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

"Alleluia Canon"

Donald Moore

Bringing Forth the Light of Christ

Acolytes

*Call to Worship and Invocation

One: Hold your head high, Christ has risen. Rejoice and shout, Christ has come calling us home.

Many: **Home to the heart of God. Home to God's living presence. Home to God's banquet feast.**

One: Hold your head high, Christ has risen. Death has been conquered, Christ has come calling us home.

Many: **All that was broken has been made whole. All that was dislocated has been set right. All that was oppressed has been set free.**

One: Hold your head high, Christ has risen, bringing God's healing. Christ has come calling us home.

Many: **Redemption is complete. God's eternal world has begun. Love reigns over all.**

ALL: **Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Christ has risen calling us home. Amen.**

***Invocation**

Creator of Life, in raising Christ Jesus up, through, out of, and beyond the chains of death, You opened for us the way to eternal and abundant life. May our Alleluias on this day float high above the ceiling of what we think we know and transcend to the heaven of what we believe—and thus live. Raise us up! Renew our lives! Resurrect our dreams! Through Jesus Christ our Living Savior. Amen.

A Prayer for Transformation

Living Lord, when we stand before the empty tomb, we don't always feel the joy of resurrection. We feel fear, doubt, and distrust. We feel empty. Forgive the fear that paralyzes us at the brink of new life. Forgive our doubt of your love. Forgive our distrust of your surprising, joyous plan. Fill our emptiness with your glorious light. Raise us to abundant new life for the glory of your name. Amen.

***Words of Assurance**

***Hymn**

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

NCH #233

Children’s Moment

The New Testament Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Susan Donovan

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but anyone who fears God and practices righteousness is acceptable to our Lord. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. He was put to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us

ALL: **THANKS BE TO GOD!**

The Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18

Susan Donovan

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead.

Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to Abba Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reader: For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us

ALL: THANKS BE TO GOD!

***Hymn**

"Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

NCH #230

Message

"Through Jesus We Behold All of Humanity"

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Pastoral 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.

Prayer Response

**O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call answer me.
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer; come and listen to me.**

**The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the wellspring of life.**

Offertory Invitation

The Offertory

"I Will Serve The Lord All My Days"

Don Besig

***The Doxology PH #515**

Old Hundredth

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***Prayer of Dedication**

Let us remember that weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes early in the morning. May these gifts of blessing be a sign of the love, light, and glory of our redeeming God who has created a world of abundance with all that we need. May we remain thankful for your generosity, O God, as we dedicate these offerings to you and your beloved creation. Amen.

***Hymn**

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

NCH #433

Holy Communion

All are welcome at Christ’s table—members, guests, first-timers, long-timers, baptized or not, all who desire to know and share the love of God. We receive communion by intinction, coming forward to take bread and dipping it in the cup before returning to our seats.

Note: There is a gluten-free option for those who desire it. Grape juice is traditionally served as the fruit of the vine.

Invitation to Communion

One: Christ is risen!

Many: **He is risen indeed!**

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many: **It is right to give God our thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Elements

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy, gracious, God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love. We have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence. We have accepted you into our lives, into our souls. At this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we now accept the life you offer. And we give you thanks. Amen.

***Hymn**

“Yours Is the Glory”

NCH #253

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response**

“Hallelujah”

NCH #236

Carrying the Light of Christ into the World

Postlude

~ Leading Worship today is the Rev. Dr. Nancy Hamlin Soukup ~

~ ~ Our Organist is Nikita Zabinski ~

~ Our lay liturgist today is Susan Donovan ~

~ Our greeters today are Janine Beausoleil, Eleanor Ingraham & Clifford Gustafson ~



Prayer List for Sunday, April 20, 2025

As a congregation, we lift up prayers today and throughout the week for the following people.

For Rhode Island's Jewish Community:

We extend greetings and prayers to our Jewish family in faith throughout Rhode Island, especially United Brothers Synagogue here in Bristol, as they come to the close of Passover. Chag Pesach Sameach! or Happy Passover!

For thanksgivings:

A thankful blessing to all the citizens in Bristol and in our country who support the many agencies that provide health care, food programs, housing, and medical research for so many in our nation, especially the poor and needy. Prayers to restore funds that have recently been cut from those agencies.

For those in need of healing on our prayer list:

Tom, a neighbor of the Crouse family, who recently fell and now is in hospital
Kristen, who is preparing to undergo aggressive chemo and radiation therapies;
prayers for the best outcome
Prayers for all victims of violence
Alma Campbell, who fell and broke her knee
Connie Marino, Cristina Marino's grandmother, who is moving from
Newport Hospital to a rehab center
Rosa Cermeno, who prays to welcome a healthy baby to their family
Jack and Barbara Ringland
Lee Newton friends of Charlotte Burnham
For Roxanne, who is now dealing with breast cancer, and for Janice who recently passed away.
Claudia and her family, as she enters hospice
Brian Soukup, Rev. Nancy's nephew
Kathy, Jen Johnson's cousin, who is recovering from brain surgery and has a long recovery
ahead of her
Scott, Brenda, and Cameron, who need divine guidance and strength to follow
God's path for them
Max, for healing and freedom, and for his Mom
Barbara Gwynn, Beverly Larson's sister, who is recovering from surgery
Kristen Conway, who is recovering from long-awaited knee surgery
Robin Vestal, who has Stage 4 Duodenal Cancer, and her husband Ulysses, who are friends
of the Grant family
Peter MacDonald, who has Lung Cancer
Rusty, who has Lung Cancer
Benevides Family, who lost their home to a fire here in Bristol
Autumn Quezada-Harrison
Ellie's Dad, who she misses

Carol, Karen's cousin, who had brain surgery
 Carrigan and Tyler, who have cancer, and for Carrigan's nurse, Kristen, who is also
 being treated for breast cancer
 Terry and Pat
 Anne, Sarah Albanese's cousin
 Barbara Malony, Barbara Ringland's mother
 Mark
 Charlie
 Ken Latham in Leicester, MA, who is on chemotherapy for Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma
 Fred Z. in CT
 Those who have lost their way may have wisdom, courage, and strength
 Harriet
 Lola, Carolina Bailey's sister with stage 4 Pancreatic Cancer
 Ryan
 Mark E., who has an aggressive form of prostate cancer
 Fred Davis, who has stomach cancer
 Meriel Smith
 Charlotte Griffith
 Bob and Sally Evans
 Barbara and Jack Ringland
 Kellie and Juan Morales's daughter
 Bruce C., who is in rehab, and Pat P., both friends of Ed Wiacek
 Caregivers in our congregation

Upcoming Birthdays:

Lindsey Harrington	04/20	Chuck Ramos	04/23
Bowen Drawbridge	04/25	Joanne Rotondo	04/26
Ellie Donovan	04/29	Leah Dieterich	04/30

What's on the Church Calendar

April 20, 2025	Sunday Worship: Easter Sunrise Service 6:30am (Location TBA)
	Sunday Worship: Easter Sunday Service 10am
April 23, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)
April 24, 2025	Thursday CE Meeting 7pm (via Zoom)
April 26, 2025	Saturday Bristol's Stone Church Coffee House 7:30pm
April 27, 2025	Sunday Worship: Second Sunday of Easter 10am
April 30, 2025	Wednesday FCC Choir Rehearsal 7pm (Dimond Room)

Please visit our website for more information about the Church
 and its events: fccbristol.org





For all Active Members of the First Congregational Church in Bristol.
You may call the office to get an application for
High Education Scholarship and/or the Summer Internship Scholarship
and/or the Christian Summer Camp Scholarship.
Office@FCCBristol.org and/or call 401/253-7288
All Application are due back to the office by MAY 1, 2025

“Invitation to Share Time, Talent, and Treasure”

When you give to First Congregational Church, you make possible our ministries that serve all God’s people. Your gifts share the love of Jesus all year long. The act of giving is our personal expression of worship and also keeps our church financially healthy. Stewardship is not payment for services rendered. It is an act of faith and devotion to God. You may go to the following link to give now:
<https://fccbristol.org/support-us/>.



Church Office Hours are Tuesday – Friday 10:00am – 2:00pm
Office e-mail address: office@FCCBristol.org

Pastoral Office Hours Tuesday – Thursday, 9am – 1pm
You may also schedule an appointment by contacting Rev. Nancy.
Church office line 401/253-7288 or e-mail office@FCCbristol.org

NCH = New Century Hymnal (black hymnal) and PH = Pilgrim Hymnal (red hymnal)

Sources and Credits: Hymn tune names - as well as composers of the music and authors of the text - are listed in the hymnals with each hymn. CCLI License #1958911 and One License.Net #A-728124.

Sources for this service are written by or adapted from the following:

Christine Sine, <http://godspace-msa.com/>, re:Worship: Easter Call to Worship: Christ Calls Us Home; Karen Turner, http://www.lifeway.com/lwc/files/lwcF_PDF_LW_MaundyThursday.pdf; re:Worship: Easter Opening Prayer; Greg Scheer, <http://www.gregscheer.com/>; Carole Penner, Leading in Worship blog, <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/>, re:Worship: Prayers of the People: Easter Sunday; Carol Penner, Leading in Worship blog, <http://carolpenner.typepad.com/>, re:Worship: Easter Offering Prayer; Rev. Dr. Sheila Harvey, Witnesses of These Things: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter, Worship Ways, Easter 3B – April 14 - United Church of Christ; Joanna Harader, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>, re:Worship: Post-Communion Prayer: Easter; and copyright © Jan L. Richarson, In the Sanctuary of Women, <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>, re:Worship: Easter.

Church location 300 High Street • mailing address 281 High Street • Bristol, Rhode Island 401/253-7288

Easter Flowers

In Loving Memory of

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Bernardino
Mr. Mrs. Clarence Benson
Debbie Wiacek
Debbie Wiacek
Les Cory
Dr. & Mrs. E. Stuart Braden
George & Lorraine. Temple
Bob Archibald
Bruce & Anne Steere
Don & Maxine Johnson
Clay Johnson
Virginia Kleiver
Valerie
Brandi
Christie
Frances, Louis & John Evans
Elizabeth & Raymond Fiske
Dr. Anne Fiske Lee
John Evans
Sally Evans & Brad Monahon
Michael Sousa
Marina Schmeckebier
Betty Donovan
Mary & Thomas Remieres

Given By

Celeste Bernardino
Matt Benson
Ed Wiacek
Son Matt & Steve & Family
Dyan Vaughan
The Temple Family
The Temple Family
Anne Archibald
Grace & Mark
Grace & Mark
Grace & Mark
Grace & Mark
Barb Salstead
Barb Salstead
Barb Salstead
The Evans Family
The Evans Family
Sally & Bob Evans
Sally & Bob Evans
Sally & Bob Evans
Ruth Fisher
Ruth Fisher
Susan & Glenn Donovan
Susan & Glenn Donovan

In Loving Memory of

Susan Ellman
Jean Lindsay Berry
Jennifer Walsh
Lois Walsh

Dr. Augustine, Anne & Thomas Ramos

Grace Wilson

Phyllis & Ernest Sone
Dorothy & Alva Sapp
Brian James Sapp
Herbert & Marjorie Burnham

Sybil Anderson

Robert, June Wilson

Elizabeth & Jeannine Marshall

Our Parents Elmer & Shirley Gardiner

Our Parents Roger & Nancy Dubord
Family

Our deceased Love Ones

Rev. Dr. Dcn. Dorothy (Ricky) L. Brightman

Ralph McLean Angell, Jr.

Roy Soukup, Jr.

Iva Pearl Hamlin Soukup who would have

Ellen Alyas Algell who would have been 135 years old in 2025

In Honor of

Nancy, Barbara & Nikita
Family
Lucille Angell Soukup

Given By

Sandra Patterson
Alan Lindsay Berry
The Walsh Family
The Walsh Family

Lynne & Chuck Ramos

Lynne & Chuck Ramos

Meredith Stone & Jim Sapp

Meredith Stone & Jim Sapp

Meredith Stone & Jim Sapp

Bennett & Charlotte Burnham

Bennett & Charlotte Burnham

Charlotte & Bennett Burnham

Charlotte & Bennett Burnham

Donna & Roger Dubord

Donna & Roger Dubord

Trish Sylvester

Deneise & Bob Arsenaout

Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

Given By

Grace & Mark
Trish Sylvester

Rev. Nancy Hamlin Soukup

