

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Pastor
Mrs. Amy Peck, Worship Choir Director
Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church Administrator

April 27, 2025

9:45 AM

Easter Sunday
Everything [in] between: Meeting God in the midst of extremes
Grief, Hope, and Everything in Between
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

*This morning, as we worship our God, we also celebrate the Lord's Supper.
Here at Mt. Zion UCC, all are invited to the table of grace.*

If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping with us today. We invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back of the sanctuary where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

We pray God's blessing upon you. For today's service, we will be using the black hymnal.

PRAISE OPENER (sung by Debbie Butcher) *Was It a Morning Like This* Patty

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
RELEASING THE ALLELUIAS!

PRELUDE *Alleluia* by Mozart

POEM *As Sorrowful, Yet Always Rejoicing* Lettie Cowman

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: My dear friends, we have known grief. We have known loss. We have known the long road, tired and winding. We have whispered prayers on bended knees. We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.

L: But today we know joy for—Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C: Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Today our eyes are open to God's kingdom,

C: today we know hope.

L: Today we know life.

C: Today we know the sound of Alleluias.

L: Today we know that death does not have the last word.

C: Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

L: It is Easter. May hope find you. And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C: Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** (see next page)

Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds



Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

Strodach, 1876

Kirchengesange, 1623

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Now all the vault of heav'n re - sounds in
 2. E - ter-nal is the gift he brings, There -
 3. Oh, fill us, Lord, with daunt-less love; Set -
 4. A - dor-ing prais - es now we bring and

4

praise of love that still a - bounds: "Christ has tri-umphed! He is
 - fore our heart with rap-ture sing: "Christ has tri-umphed! He is
 heart and will on things a - bove that we con - quer through your
 with the heav'n-ly bless-ed sing: "Christ has tri-umphed! All - le -

7

liv - ing!" Sing, choirs of an-gels, loud and clear! Re -
 liv - ing!" Now still he comes to give us life. And
 tri - umph; Grant grace suf - fi-cient for life's day that
 - lu - ia!" Be to the Fa-ther, and our Lord, To

10

- peat their song of glo-ry here: "Christ has tri-umphed! Christ has
 by his pre-sence still all strife. Christ has tri-umphed! He is
 by our lives we tru-ly say: Christ has tri-umphed! He is
 Spir - it blest, most ho - ly God, All the glo - ry, nev - er

13

Refrain

tri-umphed!" Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!
 liv - ing!
 liv - ing!
 end - ing!

*TIME OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION¹

L: God of resurrection hope,

C: Forgive us, when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it. Forgive us, God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope. Forgive us, God, when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors. In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to remain faithful. Show us how to hold onto hope. Show us how to run toward you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 322 (UM Hymnal, see below)

Up From the Grave

Up from the Grave He Arose

Robert Lowry, 1874

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. Low in the grave he lay, Je - sus my Sav - ior,
2. Vain - ly they watch his bed, Je - sus my Sav - ior;
3. Death can-not keep its prey, Je - sus my Sav - ior;

5
wait - ing the com-ing day, Je - sus my Lord!
vain - ly they seal the dead, Je - sus my Lord!
he tore the bars a - way, Je - sus my Lord!

9
Up from the grave he a - rose, with a might - y tri-umph o'er his

12
foes; he a - rose a vic-tor from the dark do - main, and he

15
lives for - ev - er, with his saints to reign. He a - rose! He a -

18
- rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!

SCRIPTURE
EASTER MESSAGE

Mark 16:1-8 (CEB)

HYMN OF THE DAY NCH NO. 238 (black hymnal, see below)

Now the Green Blade Rises

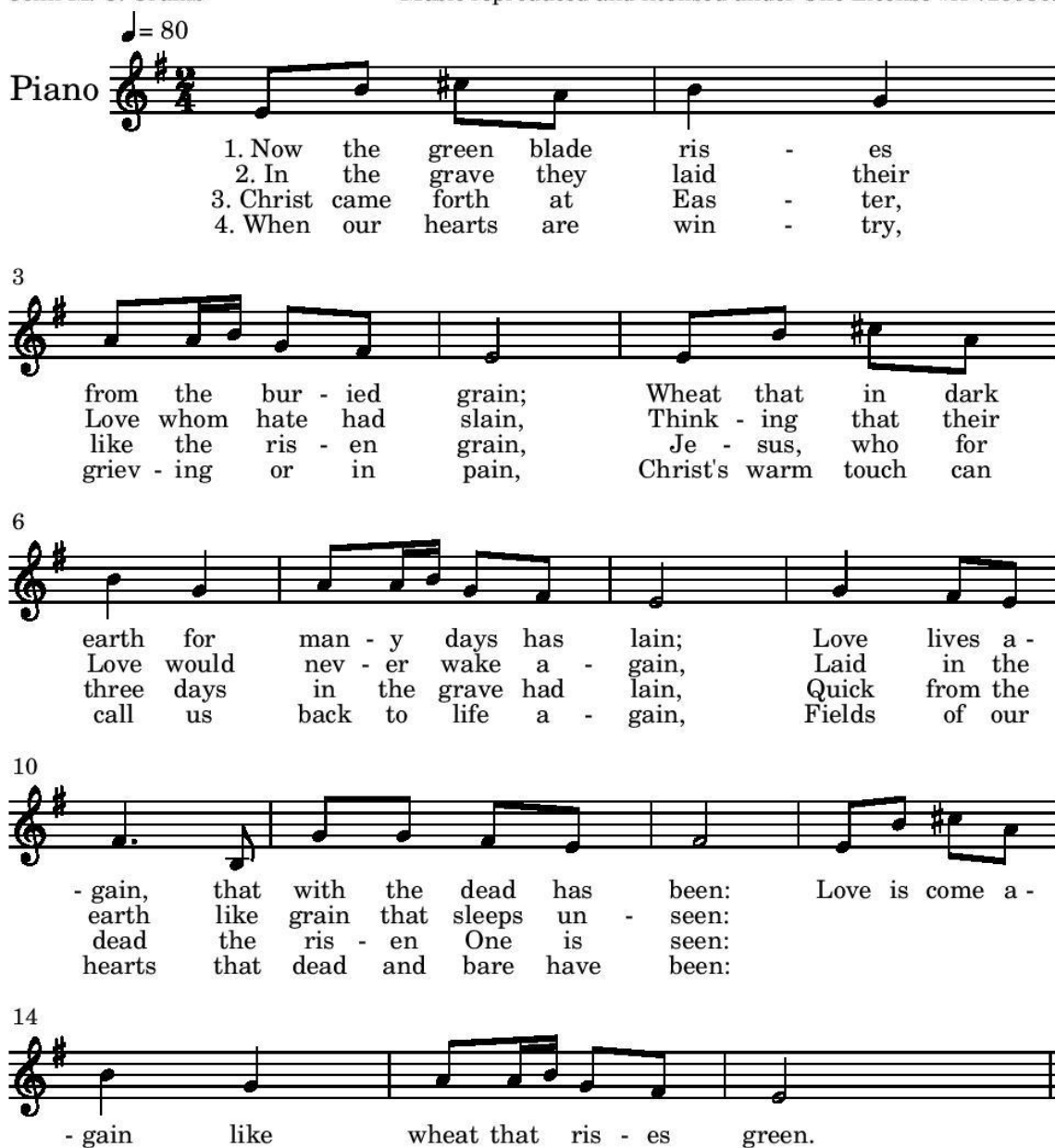
Now the Green Blade Rises

John M. C. Crumb

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



1. Now the green blade ris - es
2. In the grave they laid their
3. Christ came forth at Eas - ter,
4. When our hearts are win - try,

3

from the bur - ied grain; Wheat that in dark
Love whom hate had slain, Think - ing that their
like the ris - en grain, Je - sus, who for
griev - ing or in pain, Christ's warm touch can

6

earth for man - y days has lain; Love lives a -
Love would nev - er wake a - gain, Laid in the
three days in the grave had lain, Quick from the
call us back to life a - gain, Fields of our

10

- gain, that with the dead has been: Love is come a -
earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
dead the ris - en One is seen:
hearts that dead and bare have been:

14

- gain like wheat that ris - es green.

RESURRECTION PRAYERS²

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C: “Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia”

P: God of the empty tomb and the rolled away stone, on this Easter morning, we come as we are—some of us filled with hallelujahs, some of us still wrapped in grave clothes of grief. So we lift to you our prayers for the world and for ourselves, trusting that you meet us in the in-between. For those staring into the shadows of this world—those who see only the pain, the violence, the loss, who are caught in the ache of death and can’t imagine life beyond it—Christ, risen One,

C: Shine your light and hold them close.

P: For those whose nations are torn by war, whose homes are wrecked by human made conflict or shaken by the earth itself—those whose daily lives are marked by fear, famine, or fire—God of peace and restoration,

C: Be near to them. Be mercy in the rubble and breath in the chaos.

P: For those who cannot even picture the stone being rolled away—who are stuck in sorrow, who have stopped hoping for change, who have buried their dreams and can’t find the strength to dig them up again—God of resurrection,

C: Whisper life into the silence and stir the soil of their hearts.

P: For all who are walking between the tomb and the garden, between despair and belief, between Friday’s cry and Sunday’s song—be gentle with us. Be patient. And keep showing up in unexpected ways.

C: Walk with us in the waiting.

P: We give you thanks today for the signs of hope that pull us toward joy—for springtime and sunrises, for laughter that returns uninvited, for friends who stay when grief lingers, and most of all, for the wild, holy news that Jesus Christ is alive.

C: We give you thanks that Christ is risen. Hope is real. Love is stronger than death.

P: And so, even when the world feels heavy, we dare to sing hallelujah. Even when joy feels like a risk, we choose it anyway. Because Easter isn’t just a day— it’s a promise.

ALL: New life is possible. The stone has been rolled away. Alleluia and Amen.

TIME OF GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

CALL TO OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY

Hosanna, Praise is Rising

by Baloché

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION⁴

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ALL: 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 MEAL

L: Alleluia Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

L: Whether overflowing with hope and joy or carrying the weight of grief or anywhere in between--The risen Christ is, His table is set, His meal is ready—let us eat and celebrate.

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS *(all cups contain grape juice)*

During the sharing of the elements, we will be singing various Easter hymns. Words for the songs will be listed on the screens. The hymnal numbers are also listed below if you'd prefer to use a hymnal. We will be singing the first verse of each hymn.

He Lives #310 (UM Hymnal)

The Day of Resurrection #245 (black hymnal)

Lift High the Cross # 198 (black hymnal)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: In invite you to stand as comfortable as together, we give thanks in prayer for the meal we have shared. Risen Christ,

C: you are the God of the mountain, the valley, and every step in between. May this meal be a fresh start. May this moment, where all are fed and all are welcomed, be the start of something new. Show us how to carry the love we experience here from the walls of this church into the world we encounter in the days ahead. Show us how to leave breadcrumbs of good news along our path and everywhere in between. With deep hope we pray, amen.

***CLOSING HYMN NO. 233** (black hymnal, see next page)

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Charles Wesley, 1739

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano

1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3. Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

5

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

9

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

13

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

***BENEDICTION⁵**

P: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

P: As you leave this place, may you find signs of resurrection in every messy middle. May you know that even when the story feels uncertain, God is already ahead of you, calling you into new life. May you trust that you are made in the image of a risen Christ—and therefore, you carry courage, tenderness, and holy possibility.

So go forth with an open heart, a curious mind, and the confidence that you never walk alone. God is with you at the tomb, when grief is fresh. God is with you in the garden, when fear holds your voice. And God is alive. God is here.

With you in everyday places—in kitchens and classrooms, on buses and sidewalks, in the hard conversations and the brave beginnings and everywhere in between. So, go in peace, and share the good news. Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Jubilation

by Handel

¹The Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness are written by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, and posted on her Rev-o-lution blog. <http://rev-o-lution.org/> and were accessed for use on 3/23/24.

²The Resurrection Prayers are adapted from the writings of Christine Jerrett, and posted on Christine Jerrett: Reflections on being the Church in God's new creation. <http://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/tag/prayer/> and accessed on 3/23/24.

³The Communion Liturgy was adapted from the writings of Andy James, First Presbyterian Church, Whitestone, Queens, New York. As shared with permission for use on LiturgyLink: <https://www.liturgylink.net/2012/04/07/easter-day-communion-a-stop-at-the-table/> and accessed for use on 3/23/24.

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MT ZION UCC WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK.....

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Thank you to our volunteers for blessing us with their gifts today. Thank you to our Lenten team for decorating the altar and providing the structure for our services. The Lent team members are Andrea Adams, Cindy Hogentogler, Sandy King, & Pastor Amy.

Thank you to Jim Beyer for painting the beautiful cover on our Easter service bulletins.

Worship Choir

Soprano: Andrea Adams, Debbie Butcher, Carol Hartman, Lana Fritz Norma Hull, & Barb Neff

Alto: Brenda Beyer

Tenor: Mike Gibbs, Michael Maletz

Bass: Tom Bair & Braden Bicher

Choir Director: Amy Peck

Accompanist: Travis Pinci

10:30 AM Welcome Team and Communion Servers: Deb Barnes, Vanessa Bicher, Bob & Kathy Ensminger

10:30 AM Tech Team: Dave Firestone, Deb Herlocker, Jack Herlocker

10:30 AM Liturgist: Andrea Adams