



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ  
Order of Worship for 4/9/2023

***Easter Sunday***

Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

**Prelude**

Improvisation On “The Strife Is O’er”

**Welcome**

*Alleluia! Christ is Risen! **He is risen indeed!***

**Call to Worship**

“Alleluia Canon”

Hayes arr. Edwards

**\*Invocation** (Today’s liturgy is adapted from writing by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | sanctifiedart.org)

*God of ancient love & brand new life,  
with hope we enter into this Easter morning,  
to find ourselves face-to-face with your good news.  
Thank you for giving us reason to hope.  
Thank you for the sunrise after a long night,  
for the healing of bones and hearts,  
for laughter that is contagious,  
and for the joy felt in community.  
Tether every gratitude and joy in our life back to you.  
In the name of the risen Christ we pray, amen.*

**\*Hymn of Celebration:**

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

Glory to God #232

**The Testimony & Baptism of Radhika Sthanu Hicks**

*Pastor: Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Radhika, as she lives and grows in Christ?*

***People: We promise our love, support, and care.***

**Baptismal Hymn:**

“From the Waters I Will Rise”

See handout.

**Listening To the Resurrection Story:**

John 20:1-18

## **Listening for the Spirit in Silence**

*Word and words, O God. Help us to hear the One among the many.*

**Reflecting:** “Who are you looking for?”

### **Affirmation of Faith:**

We believe in resurrection—

**mysterious, beyond our understanding, and yet,  
like wildflowers after the rain: real.**

We believe in Easter morning—

**in the promise of a God who would roll back every stone to return to us.**

We believe in Jesus—

**who calls us by name and asks,  
“Who are you looking for?”**

So we look—

**for justice, for mercy, for God in our midst.**

And as we look, we sing, “Alleluia!” Amen.

**Anthem:** “Children Of God, O Let Us Sing”

Anne Krentz Organ

### **Invitation to Generosity**

**Offering our gifts and flowering the cross**

**\*Doxology** (Tune: *Old Hundredth, New Century Hymnal #780*)

*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. Amen.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

### **Announcements**

**\*Sending Song:** “The Day of Resurrection”

NCH #245

### **\*Benediction**

**Postlude:** Vivace from *Sonata in D Major*

D. Buxtehude

**\* Please rise as you are able, in body or in spirit.**

### **Leading In Today’s Service:**

Laura Martin, Director of Music

Betty Bodman, Usher

Jonathan Geer, Piano

Liz Lee, Cello

Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries

Liz Nash, Liturgist

Amy Harris, Violin