



An Open & Affirming Congregation in the United Church of Christ
Order of Worship for 4/16/2023
Second Sunday of Easter
Rev. Amelia Fulbright, Transitional Pastor

Prelude Improvisation on "In the Bulb there is a Flower"

Welcome & Call to Worship (*Today's liturgy is adapted from the UCC Worship Ways resources.*)

One: We are in a liminal space, confused between brokenness and new opportunities.

Many: Dear God, fill us with the power of Resurrection to embrace newness.

One: Often we are like the disciples—hiding behind closed doors, with fears and doubts, waiting for your appearance. Come into our midst now, venture into our trembling hearts, and bring us your peace.

Many: Refresh us, O God, and empower us. As we worship today, blow into us your gentle spirit.

***Hymn of Celebration:** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing Glory to God #610

***Invocation** (Unison)

God of the risen Christ, we praise you for the great love that you have shown to us by sending your Son Jesus. Help us today to embrace the New Life that the resurrected Christ is giving us—a Life beyond our doubts, faith over fear, courage over confusion, belief over disbelief, and trust to follow your guidance. As we worship today, help us to feel the presence of resurrected Jesus in our midst, reminding us of your love and our purpose. Amen.

Listening To the Sacred Text: John 20:19-31

Reflecting: "I Need To See Jesus" Britt Hicks

***Hymn of Reflection:** These Things Did Thomas Count NCH #254

Prayers of Intercession:

One: Why is it, Lord, that we doubt your power when we see unexpected deaths? Why is it that we doubt our abilities when uncertainty strikes us? Why is it, Lord, that we ask many questions to which we find no answers? God of resurrection,

Many: Receive our prayers and help us to befriend our fears and doubts.

One: We pray for those who live in perpetual fear due to the experience of tragic incidents in their lives. We remember those who live with depression, feeling alone and walking through the darkest valley. Help us to believe that the resurrected Lord is with us, traveling through these difficult periods. God of Resurrection,

Many: Receive our prayers and help us to befriend our fears and doubts.

One: We pray for those who are afraid to open their doors due to the reality of war, living as undocumented refugees, the inability to pay bills, or other threats and violence surrounding them. Open our eyes to see the presence of the resurrected Christ in the midst of this chaos, sharing our pain. God of Resurrection,

Many: Receive our prayers and help us to befriend our fears and doubts.

One: We pray for those who are alienated and insulted because of their physical and emotional disabilities, gender and sexual orientation, economic status, or race. Help us to see that the resurrected Christ is a disabled Christ with wounds in his hands and side, and give us the courage to embrace our bodies as they are. God of Resurrection,

Many: Receive our prayers and help us to befriend our fears and doubts.

One: We remember all those loved ones who have died and rested in peace in your presence. We celebrate everything that they taught us about life: to face challenges boldly, learn from failures, be ardent in faith, question the unknown, accept the mysteries, love the present, and to create pathways for future generations. God of Resurrection,

Many: Resurrect in us the hope of new life, as Jesus did for his disciples, so that we might continue to proclaim your peace to the world.

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory Music: Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day NCH #241

***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: Concerto in G minor op. 12 mvmt. 3. F. Seitz

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

Leading In Today's Service:

Laura Martin, Director of Music	Britt Hicks, Director of Online Ministries	
John Goff, Usher	CJ Wood, Liturgist	
Jonathan Geer, Piano	Amy Harris, Violin	Liz Lee, Cello