

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

April 4, 2021

"Easter Sunday"

9:00 & 10:00 am

INTROIT/GATHERING

"Introit for Easter" – 9:00 am

Vocal Group and Bells

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Shout it from the mountaintops -

P: Christ is risen!

L: Make it echo off the walls -

P: Christ is risen!

L: Let it soar on wings of a dove -

P: Christ is risen!

L: Plant it deep in your hearts -

P: Christ is risen!

L: Sing it over and over -

P: Christ is risen,

L: Christ is risen indeed!

All: Alleluia! Come let us worship the Risen Lord!

HYMN

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

*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!*

*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!*

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God of Resurrection, **open our hearts and minds to hear once again the story of love overcoming death, joy drowning out sorrow, hope emerging from despair. Lead us back into the land of the living so that in faith and joy we may see your power at work in our world today. Touch us. Fill us. Lead us. Amen.**

PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24

L: O give thanks to the LORD, for God is good; God's steadfast love endures forever!

P: Let Israel say, "God's steadfast love endures forever."

L: The LORD is my strength and my might; God has become my salvation.

P: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD does valiantly; the right hand of the LORD is exalted; the right hand of the LORD does valiantly."

L: I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD.

P: The LORD has punished me severely, but God did not give me over to death.

L: Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.

P: **This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.**

L: I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

P: **The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.**

L: This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

P: **This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 16:1-8

HOMILY

Rev. Chris Myers

HYMN

"Crown Him With Many Crowns"

*Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne;
Hark how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.*

*Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless king through all eternity.*

*Crown Him the Lord of love. Behold His hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.*

*No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
But downward bend their wond'ring eyes at mysteries so bright.*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR EASTER

We believe in the God of Resurrection,

Who lights the dawn to chase away the darkness;

Who rolls away each stone of doubt;

Who surprises us with incredible gifts of family and friends, silence and laughter;

Who raises us from sadness and despair to the possibilities of blessing and joy.

We believe in Jesus the Christ,

Friend of the poor and searcher for the lost,

Who comes to us in our grief and longing, calls us by name and sends us on the paths of peace to speak of an awesome love that is not overcome by death.

We believe in the Holy Spirit our Guide,

The hidden partner, the gentle messenger of God,

Who fills our every breath with blessing;

Who guides us in the dark, beckons us to do good, speaks to us in dream and image, and watches over us with tender compassion.

We believe in the church,

An instrument of God in this present moment, striving for justice, celebrating in joy, clawing at despair, living in hope, praying for healing and forever proclaiming the Good News of God's persistent and redeeming love. Amen.

THE PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER (debts/debtors)

L: Come Lord...

P: Resurrect our faith and our world.

...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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

THE COMMUNION

All Christians, regardless of denomination, tradition or age are welcome at the table of our Lord.

When invited, please come forward down the center aisle. Receive a piece of bread (both wheat and gluten-free bread are available) and a cup from the tray (white is grape juice and red is wine). Children choosing not to commune are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing. Return to your seat using the outside aisle. If you are unable to come forward, communion will be brought to you.

Invitation to the Supper

L: Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the gospels tell us that on the first day of the week, on that Easter Sunday long ago, Jesus rose from the dead, appeared to his disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. Come then, young and old, rich and poor, come to this joyful feast of the Risen Lord.

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you.

P: **And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

L: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, ...

The Words of Institution

L: As we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Prayer of Consecration

Distribution of the Elements

Music during the distribution of the elements:

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" – Bells – 9:00 am

"Let Us Be Bread" – Brass Group – 10:00 am

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: **We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

HYMN***“Thine is the Glory”***

*Yours is the glory, Resurrected One! Endless is the victory you o’er death have won.
 Angels clothed in radiance rolled the stone away; Conquered is the grave
 in which your body lay. Yours is the glory, Resurrected One!
 Endless is the victory, you o’er death have won.*

BLESSING**POSTLUDE*****“The Blessed Christ Is Risen”*****Youth Bells – Livestream Only****APRIL 4, 2021****(B)****EASTER SUNDAY****SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 16:1-8**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Worship participants for this week:

Audio/Visual: Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter
Music: Jamie Mills, Marsha Pearson, David Reilly
*Brass Group: Jamie and Tim Mills, Andy Myers, Marsha Pearson,
 Emily Stifter*
*Vocal Group: Sue Danielson, Trish Graves, Ann Gustafson,
 Deb Hoffman, Carole Mottaz, Jill Paulson, David Reilly*
Preacher: Rev. Chris Myers
Celebrants: Revs. Chris Myers, Dave Ostendorf, Stacy Johnson Myers

Treasurer’s Report

	Week of	<u>Mar 28, 2021</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*		\$ 5,653	\$ 158,979
General Fund Operational Needs		\$ 9,262	\$ 120,406

A full accounting of all income and expenses is available in the church office.

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.