

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
River Falls, Wisconsin**

April 17, 2022



Easter Sunday

Why Do You Seek the Living Among the Dead?

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
RIVER FALLS, WISCONSIN

April 17, 2022

Easter Sunday

9:00 & 10:30 am

Gathering

*Resurrection means the worst thing is never the last thing.
- Frederick Buechner*

Welcome to our guests who are visiting with us today! Join us for coffee in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.

- The nursery is available for young children.
- Activity bags are available for children.
- Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.
- Please stand when noted by the *
- Congregation responses are in bold.
- Please stop at the welcome station for a gift.

No matter who you are. No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome here!

*As Jesus' courageous disciples,
living God's grace, we strive to:*

- *Worship faithfully*
- *Welcome openly*
- *Grow spiritually*
- *Care passionately*
- *Serve generously*

GATHERING MUSIC

PRELUDE

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Brass Group

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Shout it from the mountaintops –

P: Christ is risen!

L: Make it echo off canyon 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: People of God, let us celebrate! Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

***HYMN**

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

#233

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: Holy God, you have shattered the powers of sin and death. Yet too often we remain captive to powers of fear and anxiety.

P: Come Holy God, resurrect our faith and our world!

L: Bring new life where we are worn and tired.

P: Come Holy God, resurrect our faith and our world!

L: Bring new love where we have turned hard-hearted.

P: Come Holy God, resurrect our faith and our world!

L: Bring forgiveness where we feel hurt and wounded

P: Come Holy God, resurrect our faith and our world!

L: Give us the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit when we are prisoners of ourselves.

P: Come Holy God, resurrect our faith and our world! Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

L: Come and join the song: women, children, men, young and old alike.

P: Jesus makes us free to live again!

L: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

P: Thanks be to God!

L: May the peace of the Lord be with you all.

P: And also with you.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

(Please greet one another with signs of peace)

***GLORIA (Sung twice)**

*Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – jah, Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – jah
Halle, Halle, Halle – lu – jah, Hallelujah, Hal-le-lu-jah*

Hearing the Word

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Isaiah 65:17-25

PSALM 118:1-2, 15-24

R *This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad;
this is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!*

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: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

P: The right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hands 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. R

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. R

TIME WITH CHILDREN (10:30 am)

Rev. Chris Myers

SONG OF BLESSING

*He's got the whole world in his hands, He's got the whole wide world in his hands,
He's got the whole world in his hands, He's got the whole world in his hands.*

<h3>Celebrating the Meal</h3>

(All Christians are welcome at the table of our Lord. All bread is gluten free. Wine and grapes juice are offered. Those choosing not to commune may receive a blessing from the servers.)

The Invitation to the Meal

L: Beloved in Christ, the Gospel tells us that on the first day of the week, Jesus Christ was raised from death, appeared to Mary Magdalene, on the same day sat at table with two disciples, and was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P: This is the joyful feast of the people of God. Men and women, young and old, come from the east and the west, the north and south, and gather about Christ's table.

L: This table is for all people who wish to know the power and presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people.

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 good always to give thanks, ...

The Words of Institution

L: We praise your name 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

Hymns during the distribution of the elements:

Taste and See

Congregation joins on refrain:

Refrain



Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the



Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the



good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Bind Us Together

Congregation joins on refrain:

Refrain



Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that

6



can - not be bro ken Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to -

12



gethe - er, Bind us to - geth - er in love.

Let Us Be Bread

Congregation joins on refrain:

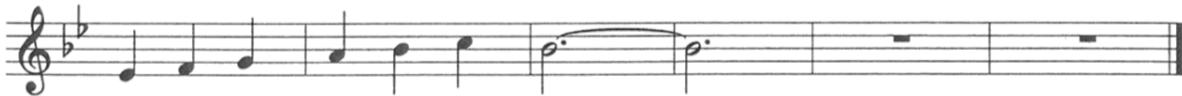
Refrain



Let us be bread, blessed by the Lord, bro-ken and shared,



life for the world. Let us be wine, love free-ly poured.



Let us be one in the Lord.

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.

SONG (Sunday School resumes next Sunday. Young children may go the nursery.)

*This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

Proclaiming the Word

GOSPEL LESSON

Luke 24:1-12

SERMON

Why Do You Seek the Living Among the Dead?

Rev. Chris Myers

*HYMN

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

Refrain

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give

thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, give praise to his Name.

Verses

1. Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
3. We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
4. God has pro - claimed his gra - cious gift:
5. Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

D.C.

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
Now we shall live for ev - er.
Life e - ter - nal for all who be - lieve.
Joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

***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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Fanfare and Canticle for Easter

**Chancel Choir,
Bells and Brass**

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

Lord in your mercy... **Hear our 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 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.

Sending

*HYMN

Crown Him With Many Crowns



1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.
2. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave,
3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
4. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,



Hark! how the heaven-ly an-them drowns all mu-sic but its own.
and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save.
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied.



A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
His glo - ries now we sing, who died, and rose on high,
His reign shall know no end, and round his pierc - ed feet
All hail, Re-deem-er, hail! For thou hast died for me;



and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
fair flowers of par - a - dise ex-tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.



*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Note about offering: During the pandemic we are not passing the offering plate. We thankfully receive your gifts, tithes and offerings in the offering plate on the back table. You can use the QR Code to give electronically. Your generosity is the engine that powers our church community. Thank you.

Reprinted music used by permission under the following licenses:
OneLicense.net A-703731; CCLI License 2892021

Assisting in today's worship service are:

Liturgist:	9:00 am <i>Jean Smith</i>
	10:30 am <i>Jill Paulson</i>
Cantor:	<i>David Reilly</i>
Coffee Fellowship:	<i>Easter Breakfast Served by the Youth</i>
Deacons:	9:00 am <i>Karen Lloyd, Marshall Skule, Sheila Peterson, Jena Most, Suzanne Hagen</i>
	10:30 am <i>Cindy Gandrud, Traci Hagberg, Peter Rayne, Linn Lawrence, Lois Martin</i>
Organist:	<i>Marsha Pearson</i>
Welcomers:	<i>Lance, Larissa, Brodie, Fallon Lueck</i>
Nursery:	9:00 am <i>Kaye Anderson</i>
	10:30 am <i>Kahla Fuller</i>
Video Team:	<i>Jeff Hoffman, Mike Stifter, Ryan Luedtke</i>
Trustee:	<i>Matthew Thurston</i>
Counters:	<i>Janice Healy, Trish Graves</i>
Music Coordinator & Bell Director:	<i>Jamie Mills</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Sarah Plum</i>
Church Moderator:	<i>Joel Larsen</i>
Office Administrator:	<i>Missy Luedtke</i>
Youth Pastors:	<i>Alex and Sarah Plum</i>
Minister for Community:	<i>Rev. Dave Ostendorf</i>
CE Minister:	<i>Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers</i>
Senior Pastor:	<i>Rev. Chris Myers</i>

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Apr 10, 2022</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Fund Income*	\$ 4,975	\$ 180,752
General Fund Operational Needs	\$ 9,909	\$ 148,635

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

*Includes annual and monthly gifts.



Offering QR Code

1. On your mobile device, open your Camera app or QR Code app
2. Point your camera at the QR Code
3. Click the tab 'Give Online'

Please remember the following in your prayers this week:

Those who are ill or recovering:

Roger Hirstein, Jim Kuhn, Rosalie Harper (cousin on JoAnn Lentz), Donna Moseman, David Lewis (friend of Jan Hansen), Deb Larson (Jen Meyer's mother), Zeke Wells, Margaret (friend of Dave Reilly), Dan Turner (father of Mike Danielson), Dale Kliebenstein (brother of Rose Rude), Natasha Rayne, Neil (son of Yvonne Benson), Suzie May and Nick Simpson, Loral Kiel, Claire Miller, Glenn Hansen, Sydney and Gloria Johnson (Tanya Larsen's folks), Lana Tiede, Mallory and Olivia, Sterling Trautmiller, Harold Fosmo, Sally Baillargeon (sister of Kathryn), Jean Smith

Prayers for the ministry of our congregation:

- For our deacons, pastors and musicians leading our Holy Week and Easter worship services, that they may kindle hope and renewal in us all
- For the Krueger clan and our youth who are gearing up for cooking and serving an awesome breakfast on Easter Sunday, may we all be fed
- For our choir as they present the first Good Friday choir cantata since 2019, may their hard work deepen our faith
- For our Trustees planning to clean inside and outside the church building on Saturday, April 30 from 9am to noon, may many hands make light work
- For the Among Friends Program, a respite program for families dealing with dementia, who reopened on Tuesday, March 15, that it may provide families with comfort and peace
- For Kahla Fuller, our faithful nursery worker who each week greets our youngest guests with a smile, you are a gift
- For those who continue to support our church's ministry with their tithes, offerings, and gifts--you are all a blessing

Prayers for our World:

- For peace in Ukraine, may a better way forward be found
- For stressed out parents trying to keep it all together, may you be given patience and strength
- For high school seniors deciding on college and post-graduation plans, may you be given wisdom and insight
- For teachers, that they may be given patience and encouragement to nurture their students & keep their sanity 😊
- For those helping refugees, especially for churches helping those fleeing in Ukraine
- For our divided nation that we may work together to solve our real problems

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

- For the over \$10,700 given by church members to help refugees fleeing Ukraine, may it quickly make a difference
- For the Krueger clan, their helpers, and our youth who fed us at the Easter breakfast, God bless you!
- For our musicians and choir who pull out all the stops to celebrate Easter, we are thankful
- For Pat Anderson, Marlys Peterson, and their crew who served the funeral meal for the Hagberg family, thank you for offering Jean's family this gift
- For Diane Welsh who does our church laundry each week, thank you for doing this needed task
- For the Lu Lueck and Linn Lawrence getting the church garden ready for spring, may it enable spring to finally arrive
- For those who will be fed from our generosity as we again support the ministry of Feed My Starving Children through our M&M Christmas offering—please have them returned by April 15!

-For those grieving the loss of loved ones:

- For the family of Dianna Michele Rice Carpenter, daughter of Art Rice, who died of Covid at the age of 56, may she rest in God's strong care
- For the family of Judy Permann planning a Celebration of Life for Judy on June 18, may the Holy Spirit fill you with strength and gratitude
- For those mourning Jean Hagberg, Peg Thompson and Judie Henning may you not mourn alone
- For the 985,000 Americans and over 6.2 million worldwide who have died of Covid, may they not have died in vain

If you have people you wish to include on our prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the pastors.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

GOSPEL LESSON: Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.