



A special thank you to Laurel & Peter Caputo and Kathi Martin for decorating the chancel for today's service. Volunteers will meet at the front of the sanctuary following the service to pick up flowers to be delivered to shut-ins and those recently bereaved.



The Church Nursery is open today for children ages 0-4. Older children are invited to stay for the Easter Worship Service. If your child needs some space during the service, please feel free to accompany them into the Fireside Room where the service can be watched on the large screen.



**Worship Notes.**

Music licenses: One License with license #A-733437, and CCLI License #A-2267261 and Streaming #CSPL169342, Size A

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

United Church of Christ

5 Summer St. Lynnfield MA 01940

781-334-3050 [www.Centre-Church.org](http://www.Centre-Church.org)

We Welcome Everyone: An Open and Affirming Church

Rev Thomas Bentley, Pastor

Douglas W. Hodgkins, Organist/Choir Director

Leah O'Brien, Director of Tower Day School



**“The Space Between the Sacred and the Sublime”**

*Rev. Thomas Bentley*

**CENTRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

United Church of Christ

5 Summer Street, Lynnfield, Massachusetts

**Easter Sunday**

**March 31, 2024 10:00 am**

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Linda Ladd

Leader: Out of the darkness of grief and despair comes a message of hope.  
Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen, indeed.**

Leader: We run to the tomb to see for ourselves. And it is true. Christ is risen.

**People: Christ is risen, indeed.**

Leader: We hear a voice call our name, and we know our risen Lord is with us now and always.

**People: Christ is risen.**

Opening Prayer *(unison)*

Linda Ladd

O God of Easter joy, we come this morning with glad shouts of acclamation.  
Christ is risen. Christ is risen, indeed! May this time of worship help us to truly and fully experience this Risen Christ. May we be transformed-transformed into your butterfly people, winging through the earth with messages of beauty, hope and life. Amen.

\*Opening Hymn

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

#233

New Testament Reading

Linda Ladd

*The Message*

Acts 10:34-43

Peter fairly exploded with his good news: “It’s God’s own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he’s doing it everywhere, among everyone.

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain p. 230

**1** Come, you faithful, raise the strain  
of triumphant gladness:

**God hath brought all Israel  
into joy from sadness;  
Loosed from Pharaoh’s bitter yoke  
Jacob’s sons and daughters,  
Led them with unmoistened foot  
Through the Red Sea waters.**

**2** Spring has dawned on earth today;  
Christ has burst from prison,  
And from three days’ sleep in death,  
As a sun has risen:

**All the winter of our sins,  
long and dark, is flying  
From the light, to whom we, give  
Laud and praise undying.**

**3** Now the joyous season, bright  
With the day of splendor,  
With the royal feast of feasts,  
Comes its joy to render;  
Comes to glad Jerusalem,  
Who with true affection  
Welcomes in unwearied strains  
Jesus’ resurrection.

**4** Neither might the gates of death,  
Nor the tomb’s dim portal,  
Nor the watchers, nor the seal,  
Hold you as a mortal.  
But today amid the twelve  
You still stand bestowing,  
Peace and joy which evermore  
Passes human knowing.



# “The Day of Resurrection”

p.245

**1 The day of resurrection!  
Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the Passover of gladness,  
the Passover of God.  
From death to life eternal,  
from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ has brought us over  
with hymns of victory.**

**2 Our hearts be pure from evil,  
that we may see aright  
the Christ who reigns eternal  
in resurrection light;  
We listen for the teachings  
once heard so calm and plain,  
for we, too, want to follow  
and raise the victor strain.**

**3 Now let the heavens be joyful,  
let earth its song begin,  
the whole world keep high triumph,  
and all that is therein;  
Let all things seen and unseen  
their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ again has risen,  
our joy that has no end.**

“You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached a total life-change. Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this because God was with him.

“And we saw it, saw it all, everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem where they killed him, hung him from a cross. But in three days God had him up, alive, and out where he could be seen. Not everyone saw him—he wasn’t put on public display. Witnesses had been carefully handpicked by God beforehand—us! We were the ones, there to eat and drink with him after he came back from the dead. He commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn witness that he is in fact the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we’re not alone in this. Our witness that he is the means to forgiveness of sins is backed up by the witness of all the prophets.”

**Anthem**

**“Out of the Shadows”**

**Purifoy**

**Children’s Time**

*Children are invited to return to sit with their families for the service (coloring and bags of quiet activities are available at the back of the church).*

**\*Hymn**

**“Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain”**

**#230**

**Call to Offering**

**Offertory**

**“He Is Risen”**

**Harlan**

**\*Hymn of Praise**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Living God, who we adore.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

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.

Gospel Reading:

Mark 16:1-8

Linda Ladd

Pew Bible p. 929

Message: "The Space Between the Sacred and the Sublime"

Closing Song:

"The Day of Resurrection!"

#245

Benediction:

Rev. Tom Bentley

Postlude

"Festive Postlude"

Williamson



Our ushers today are Kathi Martin, Raden Sorli Hawk,  
Steve Riley and Phil Fisher

We welcome our visitors! If you have any questions or would like information about Centre Church, anyone wearing a nametag with red bars can be of assistance.

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today" page 233

1 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!

2 Let the Victor's people sing, Alleluia!  
Where O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!  
Dying once, Christ lives to save, Alleluia!  
Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

3 Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!  
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!

4 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!