

**Worship from Home**  
**First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC**  
**Sunday, April 4, 2021**  
**Easter Sunday**

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude                    *"Thine is the Glory"*                    - Pastor Lisa on Trumpet

Call to Worship

**One:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Many: And also with you.**

**One:** Christ is risen! Alleluia!

**Many: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**One:** This morning and always, may we keep our heads up and hearts open for wonderful new-life surprises!

**Many: This morning and always, may we rejoice in the gift of resurrection that God's gift of grace extends to us!**

**One:** Jesus Christ is risen today, and each day!

**All: Alleluia! Amen!**

\*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!

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!

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!

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!

Unison Prayer of Invocation And Repentance (from The Rev. Richard Fairchild)

**Lord God, we gather in the name of the Risen Christ to pour forth our praises in glad Easter Celebration. We rejoice that you have not left us without hope, but have come back to us in the victory of the resurrection and given us the assurance of eternal life with Christ Jesus, the one whom you lifted from the tomb and have made Lord of all. Praise be to your name for your everlasting mercy - both now and forevermore.**

**Breath of life, liberator of the imprisoned, healer and hope of the world, even in this day of victorious celebration, we confess that we too often live entombed. We find it difficult even to imagine what freedom or fullness of life would be like. Open the tombs in which we shroud ourselves; burst open the shroud with which others have wrapped us; breathe into us that resurrection breath. Christ is risen; so may we be, too. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

A Reading from the Epistles

*Colossians 3:1-4*

- read by Jane Haldane

<sup>1</sup> Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. <sup>3</sup> For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

A Reading from The Gospels

*John 20:1-18*

- read by Jane Haldane

<sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

<sup>3</sup> So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. <sup>4</sup> Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, <sup>7</sup> as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. <sup>8</sup> Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

<sup>11</sup> Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb <sup>12</sup> and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

<sup>13</sup> They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." <sup>14</sup> At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?" Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Sermon

*"This Resurrected Life"*

- Pastor Lisa

\*Hymn

*"God Loved the World"*

God loved the world, and loving gave  
A wondrous gift, the lost to save,  
That all who would in Christ believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

Be of good cheer, for God in Christ  
Forgives the flock, by sin enticed,  
And justified by Jesus' blood  
Your baptism grants the highest good.

Prayers of the People (*sharing of joys and concerns*)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (*debts and debtors*)

Invitation to Give

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Loving God, we thank you for this Easter Day, with its promise of new life and new opportunities. Use us and our gifts to love and to serve you, and to witness to Jesus our Christ, whom you have raised. Amen**

## **THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION**

**INVITATION**

**CONSECRATION**

**SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (From Thom Shumann)

**We thank you, loving God, that here at the Table graced with creation's gifts, we discover the world you intend. Here where your love enlivens the bread and the cup, we thank you that we are given more than enough of everything we need. Sharing deeply in the Spirit, we thank you that we can give hope its wings, as it carries us to serve the broken all around us. Strengthened by the grace with which you feed us, we can join together to sustain the weary of the world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

\*Hymn                    *"The Day of Resurrection"*

God loved the world, and loving gave  
A wondrous gift, the lost to save,  
That all who would in Christ believe  
Should everlasting life receive.

Be of good cheer, for God in Christ  
Forgives the flock, by sin enticed,  
And justified by Jesus' blood  
Your baptism grants the highest good.

\*Benediction