

## **WE GATHER IN CELEBRATION**

### **Prelude**

*Fanfare on "The Strife is O'er"*  
By Phil Lehenbauer

### **Call to Worship:**

One: We have travelled a long way to come here,  
from many places, through Holy Week to Easter.

**Many: Now we gather in God's name in God's place.**

One: We have told the story of Jesus' suffering and death,  
and remembered how the disciples were scattered in despair.

**Many: Now we celebrate Christ risen from the dead.**

One: We have been silent in the face of failure and fear;  
but now we have found our voices and know your hope.

**Many: Now we shout the good news, hope is alive in  
Jesus the Christ!**

**Introit/Processional Hymn** *Raise Your Joys and Triumphs High*  
*(and Christ the Lord Is Risen Today)* arr. Mary McDonald  
Words and music on page 6  
*Please stand when indicated*

### **Words of Welcome**

### **The Passing of the Peace**

One: Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace  
we now share with each other.  
Christ is risen!

**Many: Christ is risen indeed!**

One: Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

### **Children's Moment**

Karma Cloud

*Following the Children's Moment, all children are invited to participate in an  
Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn of the church. Children will rejoin their  
families prior to communion.*

## **WE OFFER OUR PRAYERS**

### **Prayers of the People**

**Response:** One: God, in your mercy,  
Many: hear our prayers.

## Lord's Prayer

**ALL:** Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.  
Your kin-dom come.  
Your will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For Yours is the kin-dom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Sung Response to Prayer *Alleluia*



## Offering

### Offertory Hymn

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*  
Words and music on page 7

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WISDOM

### God's Word in Scripture Luke 24:1-12

24But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3but when they went in, they did not find the body. 4While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5The 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. 6Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7that the Son of Man must be handed over to

sinner, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” 8Then they remembered his words, 9and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. 11But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12But 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.

One: May God’s wonder be revealed to us through the mystery of these words.

**Many: Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** “Holding On To Hope” Rev. Ann Ralosky

**Anthem** *Hope is Alive!*

Words by Susan Bentall Boersma, music by David Lantz III

## **WE CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Invitation**

#### **The Great Thanksgiving**

One: God is with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Open your hearts.

**Many: Our hearts are open to the God of new life.**

One: Let us give thanks to the maker of this day.

**Many: It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Let us pray,...

...So now, in gratitude, we join our voices with our siblings in all of creation as we say together our great hymn of praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy  
God of power and light.  
The whole universe shines with your light.  
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Holy God, as we come to share the riches of your table,  
we cannot forget the rawness of the earth.

We cannot take bread and forget those who are hungry.

**Many: Lord, put our prosperity at the service of the poor.**

One: We cannot take juice and forget those who are thirsty.

**Many: Lord, put our fullness at the service of the empty.**

One: We cannot hear your words of peace and forget the world at war.  
 Many: **Show us quickly, Lord, how to turn weapons into welcome signs  
 and the lust for power into a desire for peace.**

One: We cannot celebrate the feast of your family and forget our  
 divisions. We are one in spirit, but not in fact.  
 History and hurt still dismember us.

**ALL: Lord, heal your church, your world and your people in every  
 brokenness.**

## Words of Institution

## Consecration

## Sharing the Gifts of the Table

Communion Music *Wondrous Love* Elizabeth Honer, *soloist*  
 American Folk Hymn, arr. Paul Halley

## Thanksgiving after the Meal

**ALL: God of resurrection and new life,  
 we thank you for the nourishment we  
 have found around this table.  
 You have met us in bread and cup,  
 and surprised us with your joy.  
 As we have been healed, let us heal others;  
 as we have been loved, let us love others;  
 as we have been fed, let us now feed the world.  
 Send us out dancing with delight  
 and with hallelujahs ringing in our hearts,  
 to share your justice and praise. AMEN.**

## Sung Response *Halleluja*

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

## WE GO INTO THE WORLD

### **Responsive Commission & Benediction**

One: For those still following

**Many: Christ is risen!**

One: For those, like Peter, still denying

**Many: Christ is risen!**

One: For those, like Caiaphas, still controlling

**Many: Christ is risen!**

One: For those, like Mary, still searching

**Many: Christ is risen!**

One: For those, like Pilate, still washing their hands

**Many: Christ is risen!**

One: For those, like Thomas, still doubting

**Many: Christ is risen!**

One: For those, like Judas, still betraying

**Many: Christ is risen!**

One: Go in peace and tell the world

**Many: Christ is risen!**

One: And may the love that has newly defeated death  
be with you, not just for now,

**Many: but forever. Amen!**

### **Postlude**

*Easter Joy ("Mfurahini Haleluya")*

By Phil Lehenbauer

# Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a basso continuo. It is in 4/4 time and G major. The melody is a well-known hymn tune. The lyrics are arranged in four systems, each with a vocal line and a basso continuo line. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

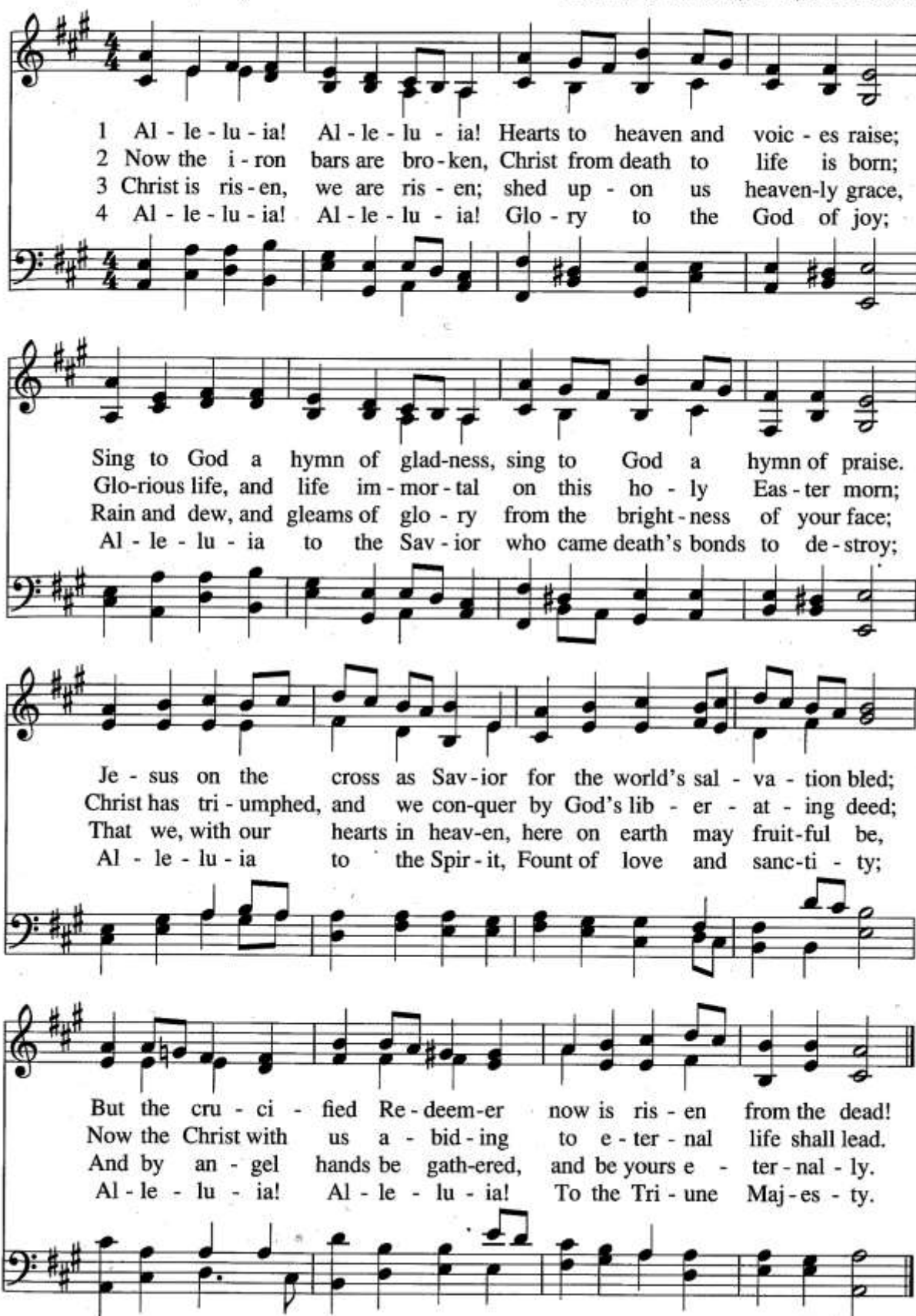
Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

# Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

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Christopher Wordsworth, 1872; alt.

Matt. 28:5-8; Rom. 5:21; 6:4-11; 1 Cor. 15:20-22



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise;  
 2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born;  
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en; shed up - on us heav - en - ly grace,  
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to the God of joy;

Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
 Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal on this ho - ly Eas - ter morn;  
 Rain and dew, and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of your face;  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who came death's bonds to de - stroy;

Je - sus on the cross as Sav - ior for the world's sal - va - tion bled;  
 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by God's lib - er - at - ing deed;  
 That we, with our hearts in heav - en, here on earth may fruit - ful be,  
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Fount of love and sanc - ti - ty;

But the cru - ci - fied Re - deem - er now is ris - en from the dead!  
 Now the Christ with us a - bid - ing to e - ter - nal life shall lead.  
 And by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be yours e - ter - nal - ly.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.

## SERVICE NOTES

*Thank you to our volunteer worship leaders this morning.*

**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Ann Ralosky

**Liturgist:** Phyllis Stone

**Reader:** Emily Smith

**Ushers:** Rev. Heather Cherrey, Jared DeLancy, Teya Eaton, Rich Gilfert,  
Deirdre Nance, Stella Wilkins

**Coffee Hour Host:** Loaves and Fishes

**Coffee Hour Setup Team:** Steve Cutaia, Tim Duhamel, and Mike Harney

**Music Leaders:** Julie Morgan and David Salyers

**AV Techs:** Janson Jinson and Joe Mondo

*A donation has been made to the food bank by Nancy Pi-Sunyer in honor of Luis Pi-Sunyer's 84th birthday.*

*Gratitude to the Iona Community for use of some of our worship language.*



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**CHECK:** If you give by check it must be made out to  
“First Congregational Church,” (not “FCC”) and can be put in the  
offertory basket, or mailed to 40 So. Fullerton Avenue, Montclair, NJ, 07042.

*Thank you.*