

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LACONIA
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

APRIL 20, 2025 9:30 A.M.

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING AND JUST PEACE CHURCH



REV. ELIZA TWEEDY, PASTOR
K. ROBERT BENGTON, ORGANIST

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Introit **Christ Triumphant, Ever Reigning**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Call to Worship**

We gather: a community of faith in God's subversive world.

We gather to celebrate that no darkness can extinguish light, to remember that love will always be more powerful than death, and to trust that peace will always be stronger than violence.

We gather as people of faith in the light of God's world.

We gather to worship the risen Christ.

Hymn 243 **Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven**

Tim Hazelton, Trumpet

Prayer of Invocation***

Now we know: all is grace, all is gift.

You give us all good things: life and love; daily bread and water that quenches our thirst; friends and faith. Most of all, in your Son, Jesus, you meet us with a love that will never let us go; you utter words of mercy and forgiveness that override the hurts, and heal our brokenness; you offer new beginnings where we had expected only dead ends.

We give you thanks and praise for the mystery of your suffering love that gives us life. We give you thanks and praise that you know our weakness and hear our prayers. We give you thanks and praise that all our dying and living is held in your good keeping.

Now we know, within our very flesh: all is grace, all is gift. And so we give you thanks and praise.

Anthem **Alleluia! Gracious Jesus**

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in they did not find the body. 4 While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5 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. 6 Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." 8 Then they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. 11 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.

Sermon

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer of Our Savior

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

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Resurrection Alleluias

Tom Fettke

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit One. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

Risen Christ, we celebrate this day because we have borne witness to your resurrection. We have seen the empty tomb in our own lives, the life springing forth where we expected death, the beginnings where there should have been endings. May all that we bring before you today serve to bring that resurrection reality to a broken world: to those for whom suffering and grief are ongoing realities. May we, through our offerings, recommit to being one body with all the world, that through us, your love may continue to work healing and grace. Amen.

Closing Hymn 240

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Benediction

Benediction Response

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

Postlude

**adapted from a prayer written by Cheryl Lawrie and posted on [hold this space].

<http://holdthinspace.org.au/>

***[posted on Christine Jerrett. https://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/](https://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/)

Alleluia! Hallelujah! Easter Flowers 2025

In loving memory of Mom and Dad from the Beane Family

In memory of Allen, Nina, John, and Phyllis Veazey, given by Jane MacFadzen

In memory of Alva McIntyre, given by Jane MacFadzen

In honor of my super sister and brother-in-law, given by Janet Simmon

In loving memory of Edna Jacques, given by Tyler Jacques

In loving memory of my daughter Cara, given by Sylvia Quackenbush

In loving memory of Sam's mom, Stacey, given by Jayla Austin

In honor of Carole's parents, given by Wayne and Carole Domin

Rejoice! given by Mary-Ellen Azem

Happy Easter! from Carol Rawson

In honor of Mary Lou Grevatt, given by Diane Wells

**In memory of Jeff Leduc, Richard Blodgett, Barbara Slater, Meme', Pepe', David & Donna,
Grammy, Grampy, Grandpa and Grammy,
"My family in Heaven," given by Caryn Leduc**

**In memory of David Bastille, Edward Bastille, and our parents,
given by Richard & Maurine Bastille and Louise Bastille**

**In memory of our parents, Martha Jane & Jack Shehadi, and Yvette & Joseph Bouchard, given
by Beth Shehadi and David Bouchard**

In memory of John Kreitler, given by Margaret Kreitler

Happy Easter! from Brad Geltz and LuAnn Mussari

In gratitude for our church family, given by Cindy Carter

In memory of our parents, given by John Walker and Muff Kruse

In appreciation of our church choir, given by David Shaw

In honor of family, given by Dawn & Peter Dupak

Peace on Earth, given by Greg and Hollis Thompson

Happy Easter! from Christopher Krupp and Sylvie Weber

Alleluia! Hallelujah! from Warren & Martha Clement

Book Club – April 23 10:00a.m. in the Library *Frozen River by Lawhon*

Women's Breakfast May 21st, 8:30am at the Water Street Cafe

please RSVP to bettobergstrom@gmail.com

Men's Breakfast May 2nd, 16th & 30th at the Water Street Cafe