



First Church in Windsor, UCC: *Living by Faith, Known by Love, A Voice of Hope*

Easter Sunday

April 9, 2023, at 10 a.m.

Holy Vessels: Seeking Wholeness During the Season of Lent

The Tomb is a Holy Vessel

Prelude

Welcome

Threshold Moment

Song

Celtic Alleluia

Words and music by Christopher Walker
© 1985 OCP Publications. All rights reserved.
Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725621

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia!

Opening Prayer (based on Jeremiah 31)

**God of new dawns, new awakenings, new life,
we hear your voice this morning saying,
“I have loved you, my people, with an everlasting love.
With unfailing love I have drawn you to myself.”
On this Easter day, you tell us we will be rebuilt and made new.
In gratitude we hear you, Living God, and we believe you.
And so we will celebrate the gift of new life in Christ,
even in the midst of fear.
You give us eyes to see through tears,
songs to sing with throats tight with emotion.
We know you help the weary rise up out of the ashes.
Give us the courage to celebrate your light,
to be your light in this world today.
Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

Response: **And also with you.**

Please make sure to wave to our online community, send a text message of peace to someone, or pass the peace in the chat on Facebook.

Opening Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
Words and music by Christopher Walker
C 1985 OCP Publications. All rights reserved.
Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725621

**Christ the Lord is ris'n today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heav'ns, 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!**

Children's Moment

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Scriptures

Jeremiah 31:1-6

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. ²Thus says the Lord: The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness; when Israel sought for rest, ³the Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. ⁴Again I will build you, and you shall be built, O virgin Israel! Again you shall take your tambourines, and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers. ⁵Again you shall plant vineyards on the mountains of Samaria; the planters shall plant, and shall enjoy the fruit. ⁶For there shall be a day when sentinels will call in the hill country of Ephraim: "Come, let us go up to Zion, to the Lord our God."

Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ²And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵But the angel

said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. 6He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 7Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” 8So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. 10Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Sermon

Pastor Nicole

“The Place Where He Lay”

Anthem

Risen! Christ Is Risen!

By Lloyd Larson

© 2006 Beckenhorst Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-725621

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Prayer Response

Sanctuary

Words and music by John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs

© 1982 Whole Armor Publishing Company

Used by permission. CCLI License #11115938

**Lord prepare me
To be a sanctuary
Pure and holy
Tried and true
And with thanksgiving
I'll be a living
Sanctuary, for you**

Announcements

Online Giving

Offering Plates are on the tables back of the church. If you wish, you may give online [here](#).

Hymn

Thine Be the Glory

Music by G. F. Handel

Words by Edmund L. Budry

Public domain

**Thine is the glory, resurrected one!
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won!
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded graveclothes where your body lay.
Thine is the glory, resurrected one!
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.**

**Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb,
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
For our Lord is living, death has lost its sting.
Thine is the glory, resurrected one!
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.**

**No more we doubt you, glorious prince of life,
Life is naught without you, aid us in our strife.
Make us more than conquerors, through your deathless love,
Bring us safe through Jordan, to your home above.
Thine is the glory, resurrected one!
Endless is the victory you o'er death have won.**

Benediction

Postlude

Alleluia from Exultate, Jubilate

By W.A. Mozart

Public domain
