



First Congregational Church of Anoka United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation
April 16, 2023 ♦ Second Sunday of Easter



Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Koki Sato

The Church Bell Rings

* Call to Worship (Psalm 111:1 – Amended)

One: Praise the LIVING GOD!

Many: I will give thanks to the ONE GOD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.

One: Great are the works of GOD, contemplated by all who delight in them.

Many: Splendor and majesty are her work, and her righteousness stands forever.

One: She has gained renown for her wonderful deeds; the WOMB OF LIFE is gracious and abounds in mother-love.

Many: She remembers her covenant perpetually.

One: She has declared the strength of her works to her people, giving them the heritage of the nations.

Many: The works of her hands are truth and justice; trustworthy are all her precepts.

One: They stand fast forever and ever, Executed in truth and uprightness.

Many: She sent redemption to her people; she has ordained her covenant forever. Holy and awesome is her name.

One: Awe of the AGELESS GOD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who do have good understanding. Her praise endures forever.

Many: O God of the morning and of the evening hours, you have blessed us by the night's rest and by morning's light. Open us to Your wisdom, show us Your way. Let us live in the spirit of Jesus, joining heart and voice in thanksgiving and praise. Amen.

* Opening Hymn

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today” #240

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!

Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer as they felt the loss, Alleluia!

**To the tomb the women bring, Alleluia! Spices rich, an offering, Alleluia!
Asking where might Jesus be, Alleluia! Savior come to set us free, Alleluia!**

**There the angel clothed in white, Alleluia! Tells the news with great delight, Alleluia!
This the news the angel gives, Alleluia! That the sovereign glorious lives, Alleluia!**

**“Hasten now to Galilee,” Alleluia! “Tell the others what you see!” Alleluia!
With excitement trembling, Alleluia! Off they run, good news to bring, Alleluia!**

**Christ appears in full array, Alleluia! Sing with joy this Paschal day, Alleluia!
Christ now from the dead is raised, Alleluia! Holy Trinity be praised, Alleluia!**

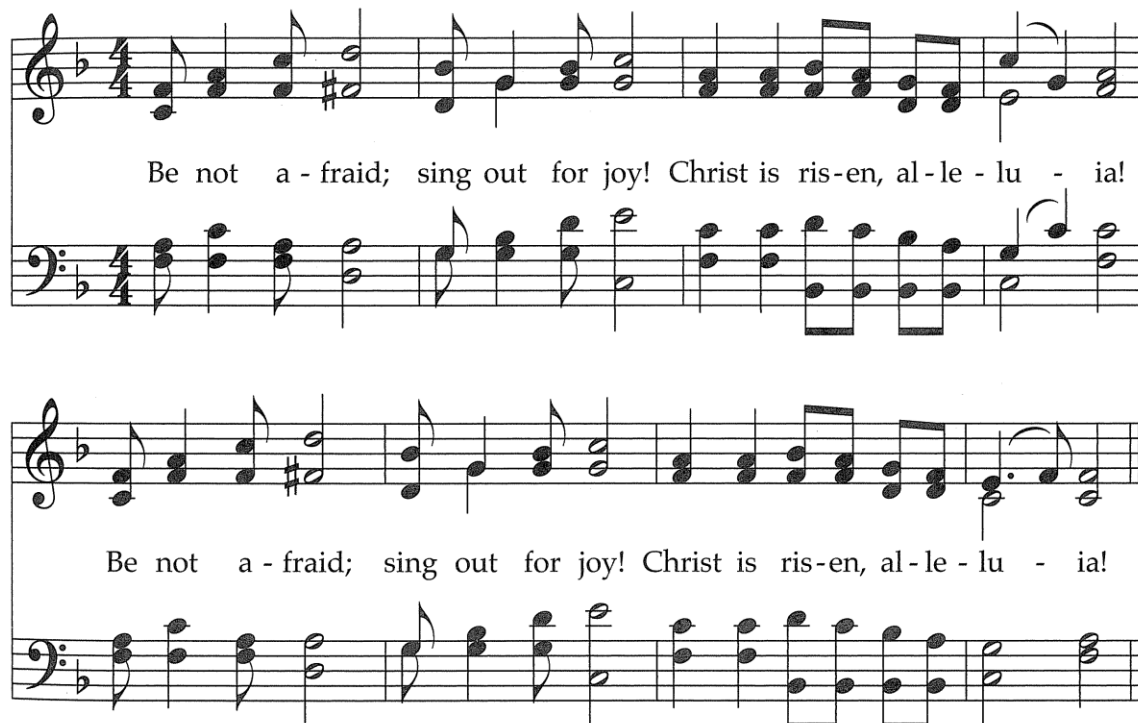
Special Music

“Holy Now”

*Peter Mayer copyright date: 1999 www.petermayer.net
Alice and Randy Getchell*

*When I was a boy, each week / On Sunday, we would go to church
And pay attention to the priest / He would read the holy word
And consecrate the holy bread / And everyone would kneel and bow
Today the only difference is / Everything is holy now
Everything, everything, everything is holy now
And when I was in Sunday school / We would learn about the time
Moses split the sea in two / Jesus made the water wine
And I remember feeling sad / That miracles don't happen still
But now I can't keep track / Because everything's a miracle
Everything, everything, everything is a miracle
Wine from water is not so small / But an even better magic trick
Is that anything is here at all / So the challenging thing becomes
Not to look for miracles / But finding where there isn't one
When holy water was rare at best / It barely we my fingertips
Now I have to hold my breath / Like I'm swimming in a sea of it
It used to be a world half there / Heaven's second rate hand-me-down
But I walk it with a reverent air / Because everything is holy now
Read a questioning child's face / And say it's not a testament
That'd be very hard to say / See another new morning come
And say it's not a sacrament / I tell you that it can't be done
This morning, outside I stood / And saw a little red-winged bird
Shining like a burning bush / Singing like a scripture verse
It made me want to bow my head / I remember when church let our
How things have changed since then / Everything is holy now
It used to be a world half-there / Heaven's second rate hand-me-down
But I walk it with a reverent air / Because everything is holy now*

Easter Acclamation (unison, twice)



The image shows two systems of musical notation for the Easter Acclamation. Each system consists of a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The music is in 4/4 time and the key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "Be not a - fraid; sing out for joy! Christ is ris-en, al - le - lu - ia!"

*(10:30) Children ages 3 and up may depart at this time for Sunday school.
Activity bags are available in the back of the sanctuary for those who might enjoy them.*

Scripture Reading – John 20:19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples were closed for fear of the Judeans, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you all." And having said this, Jesus showed them his hands and his side, and then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Messiah. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you all, just as the Living God has sent me, so I send you all." When Jesus had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit; if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas, one of the twelve who was called Didymus (the Twin) was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Messiah." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." And within eight days his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Jesus came, though the doors were shut, and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you all." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Bring your hand and put it in my side and do not doubt, rather believe." Thomas answered him, saying, "My Savior and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Was it because you have seen me that you believed?"

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written that you may come to believe Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Kelsey Renk

Hymn

“The Day of Resurrection” #245 (v.1-2)

**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.**

**Our hearts be pure and earnest, 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.**

Prayers of the People

If you wish to share a prayer with the congregation (joy, concern, hope, worry, or anything at all), raise your hand and a Deacon will bring you a microphone. Offer your prayer and finish by saying, “God in your love” to which we will all respond, “Hear our prayer.”

Sung Prayer

Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -
cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

Prayer of Our Savior (unison)

*The Prayer has many versions; pray whichever you desire (debts, sins, trespasses, etc.).
We affirm that God has many names, so use one of the suggested or another of your choosing.*

Our Father/Mother/Creator, 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

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If you are watching from home (live or later), please consider adding to the Offering by sending your gifts by mail, text, or online (uccanoka.org/donate).
You can support the church further through the RaiseRight program: www.raiseright.com. Our unique church ID is 9WKLGX8TRZCN.*

Offertory

Koki Sato

* Doxology

EASTER HYMN

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today” #233 (lyrics adapted by CGM)

**Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Let all joyful bells be rung, Alleluia!
Let all songs and joys arise, Alleluia!
God to all gives Love the prize, Alleluia!**

* Benediction

* Easter Blessing

“The Day of Resurrection” #245 (v .3)

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

Postlude

Koki Sato

You may be seated as you listen to the Postlude. If you choose to depart at this time, please speak gently as you exit out of respect for those who choose to listen.

Acknowledgements

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◆ **First Congregational Church UCC, Anoka, MN** ◆



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Keyboardist – Koki Sato

Moderator – Terja Larsen



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Text-to-Give: 844-334-1477

First Congregational Church, UCC of Anoka is an Open and Affirming Christian Community for all. We affirm that the image of God is most fully reflected in diversity. We invite all people to share their energy and talents in full participation with our community. We welcome all individuals and families of any sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, relationship status, race, national origin, socioeconomic status, age, mental and physical health or ability, or belief. Together, we celebrate these and all other facets of one's essential being.