

Mt. Zion United Church of Christ
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Rev. Amy E. Northridge, Associate Pastor
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Mr. Travis Pinci, Accompanist, Children's Music Coordinator, & Church
Administrator
Ms. Donna Gross, Custodian

April 23, 2023

8:00 & 10:30 AM

If you are a guest, thank you for worshiping with us today. We invite you to take a moment to complete a visitor's card located in the back of the pew in front of you and place it in the offering plate when it is passed. We also invite you to sign your name in our guest book located in the back entrance of the sanctuary.

We welcome infants and children and all their wiggles & voices in our worship! For your comfort, we also have a children's corner in the back narthex where your child can relax and play and you can still participate in the worship experience. We also have nursery care downstairs during our 10:30 AM worship service.

Additionally, after the children's message during the 10:30 AM service, children from 3 years old—6th grade are invited to participate in Sunday school in our classroom downstairs. They can choose to attend Sunday school or return to their seats to sit with their parents. Please see a member of the welcoming team for assistance!

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Christ is Risen Medley

arr. Schram

CALL TO WORSHIP¹

L: You break in, O God,

C: on the road

L: you break in, O God,

C: exactly the way we don't believe

L: you break in, O God,

C: and change everything, even things we believe could not change

L: You break in, O God

C: with a call

L: you break in, O God

C: with an invitation

L: you break in, O God

C: with the truth, whether we are ready to hear it or not.

L: You break in, O God

C: with a new realm

L: You break in, O God

C: with a new world

L: You break in, O God

C: with your intent for the future that is bolder and broader in vision than our own.

L: God, this day in worship, break in again

C: and call us to be your workers

L: God, this day in worship, break in again

C: and use the gifts we are to build your realm

L: God, this day in worship, break in again

C: and change our world once more.

L: We are reminded in this Easter season that God is breaking in and breaking through all the things we thought we knew to be true—to open the door to a more wondrous reality than we can imagine. We gather in worship knowing that God is at work here. As you are comfortable, I invite you to stand and sing praises to our God who is making all things new.

***OPENING HYMN NO. 237 NCH** (black hymnal, see p. 4)

In the Garden

***TIME OF CONFESSION**

CALL TO CONFESSION

L: Risen Lord Jesus, what is it that keeps us from recognizing you?

C: When we are so full of ourselves, it is all too easy to block you right out of our lives.

L: Maybe it's the way we interpret Scripture that obscures the signs pointing to you.

C: Perhaps we are guilty of being slow of heart when we don't recognize you in our neighbor, or in the guise of the poor or the dispossessed.

L: Our eyes and ears have become so crammed with the sights and sounds of living that we simply fail to see you or to recognize your voice.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION²

ALL: Risen Lord Jesus, help us to empty ourselves of all that hinders our awareness of your presence with us. Risen Lord Jesus, help us to free ourselves of the things that stop us from growing in you. Fill us with the joy of knowing your continuing presence, so that, like those travelers on the road to Emmaus, we too, hasten to share this great good news with others. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ACT OF PRAISE NO. 233 NCH (v. 3, see p. 5) *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

ALL SING: 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!

(10:30 AM) CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24:13-25

MESSAGE

HYMN NO. 562 NCH (black hymnal, see p. 6)

Take My Gifts

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

A TIME FOR SHARING

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY & DISCIPLESHIP

OFFERTORY

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

by Lemmel

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE (see p. 7)

You Give Us Hope This Easter Day

ALL SING: You give us hope this Easter Day: O God, in Christ, you make us new! As we've been blessed, O Lord, we pray, May these our gifts bless others, too.

O gracious God, you give us life! This gift is one we're called to share.
May we now serve the risen Christ Through these our gifts of love and care.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*CLOSING HYMN NO. 2115 FWS (see p. 8)

Christ has Risen

*BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

Glad Tidings
References

by Eliot

¹The Call to Worship is shared for use and adapted from what was written by Roddy Hamilton, and posted on the New Kilpatrick Parish Church website. <https://www.nkchurch.org.uk/original-liturgy> and accessed through Re:Worship Blogspot on 4/19/23.

²The Prayer of Confession was written by written by Moira Laidlaw, at Liturgies Online and accessed through Re:Worship Blogspot (<https://re-worship.blogspot.com/2011/04/easter-3-prayer-of-confession.html>) on 4/19/23.

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In the Garden

C. Austin Miles

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Piano $\text{♩} = 80$



1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, while the
2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice is so
3. I'd stay in the gar - den with him, though the

dew is still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing
sweet the birds hush their sing - ing; And the mel - o - dy that he
night a - round me be fall - ing; But he bids me go; through the

on my ear, the Son of God dis - clos - es. And he walks with me, and he
gave to me with - in my heart is call - ing.
voice of woe his voice to me is call - ing.

talks with me, and he tells me I am his own, And the joy we share as we

tar - ry there, none oth - er has ev - er known.

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Charles Wesley, 1739

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$\text{♩} = 80$

Piano



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!

5



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!

9



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!

13



Sing, ye 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!

Take My Gifts

Piano $\text{♩} = 80$




1. Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of
2. Take the fruit that I have gathered from the tree your
3. Take what - ev - er I can of - fer gifts that I have

4



all loved me, gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and
Spir - it sowed, har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the
yet to find, skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the

8



set me free, now be - cause your love has touched me,
wine of God, spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter
hand and mind, things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers

11



I have love to give a - way, now the bread of love is ris - ing,
fla - vor of the Je - sus life, tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture,
in the place where I must be: take my gifts and let me love you,

15



loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
God who first of all loved me.

You Give Us Hope this Easter Day

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Hal Hopson, 1972

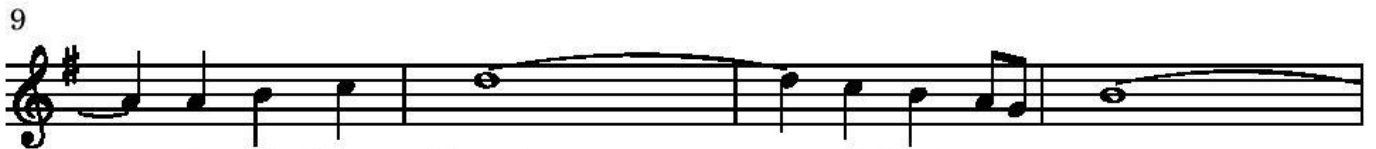
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Piano 

1. You give us hope this Ea-ster Day:
2. O gra-cious God, you give us life!

5 

O God, in Christ, you make us new!
This gift is one we're called to share.

9 

As we've been blessed, O Lord, we pray,
May we now serve the ris - en Christ

13 

May these our gifts bless o-ters, too.
through these our gifts of love and care.

Christ Has Risen

John Bell

William Moore

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Piano 

1. Christ has ris - en while earth slum bers, Christ has ris - en where hope died,
2. Christ has ris - en for the peo - ple whom he died to love and save;
3. Christ has ris - en to com - pan - ion for - mer friends who fear the night,
4. Christ has ris - en and for - ev - er lives to chal - lenge and to change

5 

as he said and as he prom - ised, as we doubt - ed and de - nied.
Christ has ris - en for the wom - en bring - ing flowers to grace his grave.
sens - ing loss and lim - i - ta - tion where their faith had once burned bright.
all whose lives are messed or man - gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.

9 

Let the moon em - brace the bless - ing; let the sun sus - tain the cheer; let the world con -
Christ has ris - en for dis - ci - ples hud - dled in an up - stairs room. He whose word in -
They be - moan what is no long - er, they ex - pect no hope - ful sign till Christ ends their
Christ is ris - en, Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he has been - ev - i - dence of

14 

- firm the ru - mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here.
- spired cre - a - tion can't be si - lenced by the tomb.
con - ver - sa - tion, break - ing bread and shar - ing wine.
trans - for - ma - tion in which God is known and seen.