

A vertical rectangular card with a soft-focus background. In the foreground, a large, vibrant yellow lily flower with dark brown stamens is in sharp focus. Behind it, a large, yellowish, cracked stone is visible, suggesting an Easter story. The background is a mix of green and yellow tones, possibly representing grass or a garden. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

easter  
SUNDAY  
*Christ Is Risen!*

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Congregational Church, United Church of Christ  
Amherst, New Hampshire

April 4, 2021

Easter Sunday

10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE

*Lift High the Cross*  
Wendy Valeri, handbells  
Michael Havay, piano

Sidney Nicholson/  
arr. Larry Sue

GREETING AND NOTICES OF PARISH LIFE

EASTER PROCLAMATION

One: Rejoice in the good news! Christ is risen!

Many: **Christ is risen indeed!**

One: Let all the earth proclaim this joy!

All: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We are not eye-witnesses to the event,  
as were Mary and the disciples;  
we have not journeyed  
through a dangerous city  
to seek answers or consolation;

Many: **We have not seen angels  
gathering at the rim of this day,  
or wept in the garden this morning  
because we could not find Him.**

One: But we are here to attest to a story  
that has not lost its power  
during twenty centuries  
of change and conflict.

Many: **We are here because those before us  
carried this story  
as if it were precious gold;  
cherished it as if it were  
the key to a hidden wisdom.**

One: Siblings in Christ,  
take your places here today  
in celebration and in awe.  
What you are about to hear again,  
has the capacity to change the world.

Many: **Our very presence attests  
to the rising up of life  
from the tomb of despair,  
and to the uncontrollable power of God.**

All: **It is Easter morning again:  
and we will celebrate!**

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION and THE LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Living God, long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Help us to be an Easter people. Believing that out of despair will come hope, out of darkness will come light, out of sadness will come joy, and out of death, new life will rise. May we feel your Spirit moving among us, as we pray the words of Jesus: **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 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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of God be with you. AND ALSO WITH YOU.

HYMN

*Jesus Christ Is Risen Today*

verses 1, 2 & 4

Chancel Choir

THE SCRIPTURE LESSON

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you."

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

SERMON

“When the Sun Had Risen”

ANTHEM

***A Jubilant Celebration***  
Chancel Choir directed by Sara Phelps  
Michael Havay, piano  
Sue Werst, flute

Joseph Martin

JOYS AND CONCERNS and PASTORAL PRAYER

INVITATION TO SHARE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Generous and surprising God, when we thought that death had claimed your only Son, you amazed us with the resurrection. Surprise us again with your ability to turn these humble offerings into gifts that will transform the world through our witness to your love. We lay our very lives at your feet, O God, knowing that you will use us to proclaim and embody the gospel – the Good News that you are with us always. Amen.

COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST GOES OUT INTO THE WORLD

POSTLUDE

***Festival Postlude on "Llanfair"***  
***(Jesus Christ is Risen Today)***

Robert Williams/  
arr. Mary McDonald

***Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service  
obtained from One License with license #A-731944.***

***Portions of the liturgy have been adapted from: Ann Siddall,  
Stillpoint Spirituality Centre. <http://www.stillpointsa.org.au/>***



**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF AMHERST**  
A Welcoming, Open and Affirming Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ



**“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey,  
you are welcome here.”**

*We, the members of the Congregational Church of Amherst, New Hampshire, United Church of Christ, believe God’s Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ call us to love all our neighbors as we would want to be loved. We are called to be as one body, seeking to walk together in the full life and ministry of our church.*

*We welcome each individual as a child of God. As covenant members of Christ’s church, we celebrate God’s love for people of all races and ethnic backgrounds, all mental and physical abilities, all socioeconomic backgrounds, all sexual orientations, all gender identities and gender expressions, and all of the other diverse attributes woven into the fabric of humankind.*

*With God’s grace, we invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry and fellowship, worship and sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of our church.*

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Our membership is open to all those who choose to walk with us in our witness. Please speak with any of our deacons or pastors should you have any questions regarding our church or our membership.

Here’s how to reach us: by telephone 673-3231, or by email [info@ccamherst.org](mailto:info@ccamherst.org). If we are unavailable by phone, please feel free to leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Visit our church’s website at [www.ccamherst.org](http://www.ccamherst.org), and follow us on Facebook at Facebook.com/ccamherst.

**Current Reopening Information:** Are you wondering where things stand? Through the members section on our website, we have a page dedicated to communicating with our church family on both current policies and procedures for use of the building during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the progress of our ad hoc Reopening Team. Documents will be posted as they are made available. If you have any questions or concerns about any of this information, please reach out to any member of the team: Pastor Maureen Frescott, Jessica Greer, Pastor Kate Kennedy, Keith Lammers, Susan Manchester, Kathy Skoglund, Paul Spiess, Kate Thompson, Doug Topliffe, Sue Werst, Tom Werst.

***Grounded in God’s Love—Serving Neighbors Near and Far—Welcoming to All***

## PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Members and Friends of The Congregational Church

Rev. Maureen R. Frescott

Rev. Katherine R. Kennedy

Sara L. Phelps

Michael Havay

Wendy Valeri

John Swanson

Ministers to the World

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Director of Music

Organist/Accompanist

Bell Choir Director

Liturgist

**CHURCH SCHOOL:** *The Easter Story, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you."* (John 17: 1); *"I glorified you on Earth, by finishing the work that you gave me to do."* (John 17:4) As Jesus prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, he acknowledged his Father's plan. Jesus' story is recorded by John, continuing throughout Holy Week, rising, and reappearing amongst his followers. Children might ask questions about the Easter Story; some are too little to understand it, but the message must be about God's love and Jesus' willingness to die for us, so that man be saved. Jesus' life teaches what we must do to be saved.

**Protect the Environment** is April's theme. **Brown Bag lessons** are being created and distributed to children in April. Protecting our environment is a faith and spiritual lesson that can be found in Genesis 1:24-30 (NRSV).

**FAITH PROMISE:** Our new fiscal year **Stewardship Campaign** is ongoing. As of Friday, April 2, we have received pledges from 70 families, totaling \$182,183. Thanks to all that have responded so far. To those who are still considering your pledge, you can email your intents to Andrea at [andrea@ccamherst.org](mailto:andrea@ccamherst.org), mail in your pledge intentions, call Andrea (673-3231) or go to the church website <https://www.ccamherst.org/stewardship-pledge/>.

### Our Church Calendar

April 4—20, 2021

Most events are taking place virtually.

Links are sent out directly by email, and a list of recurring meetings with their links can be found in the member section of our website.

Today	10:00 a.m.	Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Fellowship
Monday	10:00 a.m.	Woman's Association
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.	Men's Fellowship
	1:30 p.m.	Small Group Ministry
	6:00 p.m.	Church Council
Wednesday	10:00 a.m.	<i>A New Look at the Old Testament</i>