

**First Parish Church, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Worship Celebration
Easter Sunday
Sunday, April 4, 2021
10:00 am**

Prelude *"Easter Alleluia Medley"* Williams, arr. Lanier
Kevin Tracy and Phillip Sullivan, trumpets

Welcome

Easter Call to Worship

Leader: The tomb is empty.

All: Christ is risen.

Leader: Christ is risen.

All: Christ is risen indeed.

Leader: Jesus is risen indeed.

All: Alleluia! Amen!

Opening Hymn *"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"*

Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness
God has brought all Israel into joy from sadness
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters

Led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters

Spring has dawned on earth today; Christ has burst from prison
And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has risen
All the winter of our sins, long and gray, is flying
From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying

Now the joyous season, bright with the day of splendor
With the royal feasts of feasts, comes its joys to render
Comes to glad Jerusalem who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection

Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim portal
Nor the watchers, nor the seal hold you as a mortal
But today amid the twelve you still stand, bestowing
Peace and joy which evermore passes human knowing

A Prayer of Resurrection (together)

God of endless new beginnings, through the power of Your Holy Spirit,
Jesus has been raised.

Through that resurrection, You showed us that not even death can
separate us from You and the eternal life You created us for. May that
free us to put our trust in You and Your ways.

sinews taught all strings, what key is the best to celebrate this most High Day.

Consort both heart and lute, and twist a song pleasant and long; or since all music is but three parts vie; and multiplied. O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part, and make up our defects with his sweet art.

Prayer Intentions

Time of Silent and Spoken Prayer

Music Meditation *"Thine Be The Glory"* Handel, arr. Williams
Kevin Tracy and Phillip Sullivan, trumpets

The Gospels

Matthew 28:1-10

(New Revised Standard Version Translation)

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

² And 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. ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly

We bring you our gifts of praise; our voices in harmony we raise. We give You the thanks today. The Light is come! He is the Light, Light of the world!

Blessing

Closing Hymn

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

The First Parish Church Virtual Choir

- It is with great joy that we welcome back the First Parish Choir in "virtual form" this morning.
- We offer Easter blessings and gratitude to our guest musicians, Kevin Tracy and Phillip Sullivan
- The Lilies on the altar, are from the Deacons who wish all a Blessed Easter.
- **Please note that as Easter falls on the first Sunday of this month this year, the Sacrament of Communion will instead take place during our Worship time next Sunday, April 11.**
- We encourage all members and friends of First Parish to remain with us immediately after the conclusion of our Worship this morning for our Virtual Friendship Time on Zoom. You can join the meeting by computer, tablet, iPad, or smart phone by clicking this link <https://zoom.us/j/720983063> Password- 244108

Consistent with its mission to support and promote community affordable housing, the MAHT is reaching out to income eligible residents who are experiencing housing rent payment issues.

The MAHT can and wants to help during this difficult and uncertain time. For further information please contact Action, Inc. at 978-282-1000 or live chat at www.actioninc.org<<http://www.actioninc.org>.