



**The First Church of Monson, Congregational
United Church of Christ
Third Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 14, 2024**

*As a Christian community of faith and love,
we at First Church strive to accept and respect all people.*

- Core Values, 2022

The Earth Is Turning toward the Sun 848

G C G G/D D7 G

1. The earth is turn - ing toward the sun And
 2. Let all who seek the Ho - ly One Be -
 3. And let us has - ten, side by side, Up -
 4. Then may we know the stran - ger's face As

D G D7 Em G7

dark - ness toward the light. All crea - tures, rise and
 gin a - new to - day, Re - nounc - ing false and
 on our life - long quest To greet with joy the
 One for whom we long And, turn - ing al - ways

C G D G G/D D7 G

praise your God For rest and peace of night.
 emp - ty gods Who lead our hearts a - stray.
 Christ, who comes In ev - 'ry friend and guest.
 toward the Light, Lift heart and voice in song.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b.1939, © 2011, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: MARTYRDOM, CM; Hugh Wilson, 1764-1824

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April 14, 2024**

Prelude

Meditation

- Dorothy VanAndel Frish

Welcome and Announcements

Introit

***Passing of the Lord's Peace**

A Time for Children

***Call to Worship**

L: Sing praises to God, you faithful; give thanks to God's holy name!

P: *Weeping may linger for a night, but joy comes in the morning.*

L: Holy one, you turn our weeping to dancing; you remove the garments of mourning and clothe us in gladness.

P: *May we praise you and not be silent! We will give thanks to you, Holy One, forever!*

***Opening Hymn** *The Earth Is Turning toward the Sun* (Page 1)

***Morning Prayer** (RCD)

Holy One, we come before you in Easter joy, seeking to be a people of the resurrection. Be known among us; grant us the assurance of your presence, your love, and your renewing

power. Through your word and Spirit, reveal to us your purpose in our lives. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Anthem

Jesus Loves Me
First Church Sunday School

- Anna Bartlett Warner
(1827-1915)

Giving of Ourselves

Call to Offering

Since our cups run over with the gifts of grace, let us respond with our love and ourselves and with our gifts.

Offertory *Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain* (Page 6)

***Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

***Prayer of Dedication**

(RCD)

Holy One, we thank you that Christ has entrusted us with the task of feeding your people. Make us faithful and courageous in our ministry of love that we may use these gifts to your glory. Amen.

Scripture Reading

Luke 24:36b-48

³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”

³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

***Sermon Hymn**

They Disbelieved for Joy

(Page 7)

Sermon

“Opened Understanding”

Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father and Mother, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

***Closing Hymn**

Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Page 8)

***Benediction**

Postlude

Chaconne

- L. Couperin (1626-1661)

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

First Tune

Attr. to John of Damascus, c.696-c.754
Tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866

ST. KEVIN 7.6.7.6.D.
Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842-1900

1 Come, ye faith - ful, raise the strain Of tri - umph - ant glad - ness;
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day; Christ hath burst his pris - on,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright With the day of splen - dor,
4 Neith - er might the gates of death, Nor the tomb's dark por - tal,

God hath brought his Is - ra - el In - to joy from sad - ness;
And from three days' sleep in death As a sun hath ris - en;
With the roy - al feast of feasts, Comes its joy to ren - der;
Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal Hold thee as a mor - tal;

Loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
All the win - ter of our sins, Long and dark, is fly - ing
Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem Who with true af - fec - tion
But to - day a - midst the twelve Thou didst stand, be - stow - ing

Led them with un - moist - ened foot Through the Red Sea wa - ters.
From his light, to whom we give Laud and praise un - dy - ing.
Wel - comes in un - wea - ried strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
That thy peace which ev - er - more Pass - eth hu - man know - ing. A - men.

RESURRECTION

513 They Disbelieved for Joy

Capo 3: (G)
B \flat

(C)
E \flat

(G)
B \flat

1. They dis - be - lieved for joy When
2. "Peace be with you, my friends! No
3. "Be - hold my hands and feet! Come
4. As Je - sus shared their food, Some
5. The Proph - ets, Law, and Psalms Fore -
6. Let us be - lieve for joy, A -

(C) (G) (D/A) (A) (D) (G) (D/F#) (C/E) (G/D)
E \flat B \flat F/C C F B \flat F/A E \flat /G B \flat /F

Christ ap - peared to them, While hid - ing in the
long - er fear, nor weep. I told you I would
touch me!" Je - sus said, "For I am not a
won - drous truths they heard, For he re - vealed the
told how Christ, God's Son, Would come to bring us
cross both time and space, With oth - ers share the

(Am/C) (C#m7(b5)) (D) (G/B) (C) (G) (DSUS4) (D7) (G)
Cm/E \flat Em7(b5) F B \flat /D E \flat B \flat FSUS4 F7 B \flat

Up - per Room In old Je - ru - sa - lem.
come a - gain. My prom - is - es I keep.
phan - tom ghost. God raised me from the dead!"
hid - den plan That lay with - in God's Word.
back to God, Through love to make us one.
Word of God And wit - ness to God's grace.

Text: Rae E. Whitney, b.1927, © 2000, Selah Publishing Co., Inc.
Tune: FESTAL SONG, SM; William H. Walter, 1825-1893

ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

G Gsus4 G D G D G D

1. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heav'n and voic - es raise;
 2. Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born,
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high;

G Gsus4 G C Am G D G D7 G

1. Sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, Sing to God a hymn of praise.
 2. Glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal, On this res - ur - rec - tion morn;
 3. Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior, Who has won the vic - to - ry;

D G D G D B7 Em A D

1. He who on the cross as Sav - ior For the world's sal - va - tion bled,
 2. Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer By his might - y en - ter - prise,
 3. Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, Font of love and sanc - ti - ty;

G Gsus4 G C Am G D G D7 G

1. Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, Now is ris - en from the dead.
 2. We with him to life e - ter - nal By his res - ur - rec - tion rise.
 3. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! To the Tri - une Maj - es - ty.

Note: When guitar and keyboard play together, keyboardists should improvise using the guitar chords above the melody.

Text: 87 87 D; Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885, alt.

Music: HYMN TO JOY; Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827; harm. by Edward Hodges, 1796-1867.

Serving You Today

Worship Leaders

Ministers of the Congregation	All Members of First Church
Pastor	Rev. Jack Kraaz
Director of Music Ministries	Kiel Krommer
Greeters	Nick & Roseann Vinciguerra
Lay Reader	Mary Newland
Fellowship	Mary Newland

Officers

Moderator	Cindy DeSellier
Clerk	Carol Mullen
Treasurer	Suzanne Kelley
Chair, Board of Deacons	Jeanne Dill
Chair, Board of Trustees	David Sanborn

Members at Large

Lynn Galica
Elaine Harris
Mary Newland

Staff

Church Administrator	Lee Brahen
Sunday School Superintendent	Erin Greene Wallace
Custodian	Linda Whippie

Office Hours, Pastoral Care, and Contact Information

The office is open Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Pastor Jack is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and at other times by appointment. You can always leave a message on the church answering machine at 413-267-3312 when the office is not staffed or contact the office by email at office@firstchurchmonson.org.

IN OUR LOVE AND PRAYERS

Please complete a Prayer Request Form and place it in the offering plate if you wish to include a name in next Sunday's bulletin. Your loved one will remain on the prayer list for one month, after which you may resubmit a request if necessary.

For healing and support:

Kwaku Darko Mensah

Julie

Mike Kurasinski

Martha Warren

Jeannette

Douglas Maliar

For comfort in grief:

The family of Glenn Putek

The family of Ricky Nash

For strength and comfort during war:

The people of Ukraine

The people of Israel and Gaza

For all service people, wherever they may be:

Chelsea Carr

Tim Olson, USN

Michael Wales, USN

Stephen Dill, USN

Malik Pugh, USMC

This Week in the Life of the Congregation

- April 14, Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Worship (S)
11:00-11:30 a.m. - Fellowship (F)
11:30-1:00 p.m. - Church Council (F)
- April 15, Monday
3:00-4:30 p.m. - Girl Scouts (SSA)
- April 17, Wednesday
6:00-8:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts (F/SSA)
7:00-8:00 p.m. - Taizé Rehearsal (C)
- April 18, Thursday
5:30-6:30 p.m. - Zumba Class (SSA)
6:30-8:00 p.m. - Choir Practice (C)
6:30-8:30 p.m. - Prayer Shawl (F)
- April 20, Saturday
7:00-8:30 a.m. - AA Meeting (L)
9:00-10:00 a.m. - Zumba Class (SS)
- April 21, Sunday
OPEN PANTRY
8:00-9:45 a.m. - Let's Eat Breakfast (F/K)
10:00 a.m. - Worship (S)
11:00-11:30 a.m. - Fellowship (F)

C - Julie Sprague Chapel

F - Fellowship Hall

K - Kitchen

L - Library

PS - Pastor's Study

S - Sanctuary

SSA - Sunday School Auditorium

SS - Sunday School Classroom

SSC - Silver Street Chapel

Church News

Messenger Deadline - April 22

Please email carellen7@gmail.com

Tavern Night. This coming Thursday, April 18, is our next fundraising night at the Main Street Tavern. First Church gets 10% of the food, drinks, and take-out on that night. Please come and bring some friends!

Homeless Package Collection. The Sunday School children are putting together homeless care packages and need your assistance. They would like to assemble 20 bags with the following items: feminine products, deodorant, toothpaste/toothbrush, hand sanitizers, socks, gallon-size ziploc bags, bottled water, cross key chain, pocket-sized bible, and sanitizing wipes. If they collect more items, they will create more bags. Items may be left in Fellowship Hall in the donation box. Please donate what you can!

Scholarship Applications. The Dorcas Society H. Leonora Stiles Thomas Educational Trust is offering scholarships to members or affiliates of First Church who meet the following qualifications: (1) member of a current high school graduating class who has been accepted at a school of higher learning; and (2) is a member or affiliate of First Church who has provided some type of meaningful service to the programs of the church. All applications must be completed and returned to the Dorcas Society Trustees by **11:00 a.m. today.**

Also offered by First Church is the H.C. Sanderson Family Scholarship. Recipients must meet the following criteria: (1) be members of First Church; (2) have completed at least one year of post high school education; (3) have strong academics; (4)

participate in extracurricular activities and/or work activities; and (5) exhibit financial need.

Applications for both scholarships may be obtained from First Church's website <http://www.firstchurchmonson.org>, in *The Messenger* mail slot in Fellowship Hall, or from one of the Dorcas Trustees: Elaine Harris, Crystal Kofke, Carol Mullen, or Trish Nolen-Parkhouse.

Hearts Willing Club is sponsoring a Drum Circle on Wednesday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are invited. Dave Curry will be the drum facilitator. If you have a drum, please feel free to bring it; if not, drums will be available to rent for the evening. Be prepared for a fun and informative evening of gentle drumming. **Reservations are required by Sunday, April 21.** There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. There is a \$3.00 drum rental charge, which can be paid at the door. The evening is free if you bring your own drum. Refreshments will be served after the Drum Circle.

Taizé Concert. Under the direction of Kiel Krommer, Director of Music Ministry, First Church of Monson will hold a service of Taizé Music on Sunday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m. This ecumenical service of music and meditation is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the service.

Prayer Shawl. The prayer Shawl group will meet Thursday April 18th from 6:30 pm to 8pm in Fellowship Hall. Please join us. Instruction and yarn are available for beginners. For more information, please contact Jane at 413-267-3453 or Donna at 413-267-5406.

Want to Get the Latest News. If you are not receiving the weekly social media email, please contact the office at office@firstchurchmonson.org or use the [Connect With First](#)

[Church](#) form on our website to update your contact information. We also have a new and improved website that we encourage you all to visit and share with your friends, family, and contacts – www.firstchurchmonson.org. There is a ton of useful information and is a great way to stay up to date on the latest events and doings at the church.



First Church of Monson, Congregational,
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Church
5 High Street, Monson, Massachusetts, 01057
413-267-3312
FirstChurchMonson.org

Welcome to First Church



Welcome! If this is your first or second Sunday with us, we are grateful that you've come to be with us this morning. It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ and God's presence during our worship. If you have any questions at all about where to go or what to do, our deacons, ushers, and church members are here to assist in making you feel right at home, so please do not hesitate to ask.

All members and guests are encouraged to wear name tags. Guests may obtain a temporary adhesive name tag from an usher.

The Sacrament of Communion is offered the first Sunday of the month. All are welcome to partake of the Lord's Supper. It is up to parents to decide whether their children are ready to receive this Sacrament.

Handicapped parking and a wheelchair ramp to the church and Fellowship Hall are on the High Street side of the building. Hearing assistive devices are available from the ushers.

Fellowship Hour begins after worship in Fellowship Hall (just follow the crowd). Please join us for refreshments and conversation.

Our *Let's Eat* breakfast is on the third Sunday of each month. Come enjoy a hearty breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. before worship. Donations are gratefully accepted but not required.

Learn more. If you would like to learn more about First Church, please call us at (413) 267-3312, email to office@firstchurchmonson.org, or visit our website at <http://www.firstchurchmonson.org>.

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here!*