

# 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



<sup>\*</sup>Those who are able are invited to stand.

# First Church of Monson, Congregational United Church of Christ Third Sunday of Easter 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

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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)		
<b>Giving of Ourselves</b>	S			
Call to Offering	r 5			
Since our cups run over with the gifts of grace, let us				
respond with our love and ourselves and with our				
gifts.				
<b>Offertory</b> C	'ome, You Faithful, Raise t	he Strain (Page 6)		
*Doxology				
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;				
Praise Him,	, all creatures here below;			
Alleluia, all	eluia!			
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;				
Praise Fath	er, Son, and Holy Ghost.			
Alleluia, all	eluia, alleluia, alleluia, al	leluia!		
*Prayer of Ded	ication	(RCD)		
Holy One, w	ve thank you that Christ h	as entrusted us		
with the tas	k of feeding your people.	Make us faithful		
and courag	eous in our ministry of lov	ve that we may use		
these gifts t	o your glory. Amen.	-		

#### Scripture Reading Luke 24:36b-48

<sup>36</sup>While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup>They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup>He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup>Look 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." <sup>40</sup>And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup>While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup>They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence. <sup>44</sup>Then 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." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things.

\*Sermon Hymn

They Disbelieved for Joy

(Page 7)

Sermon

"Opened Understanding"

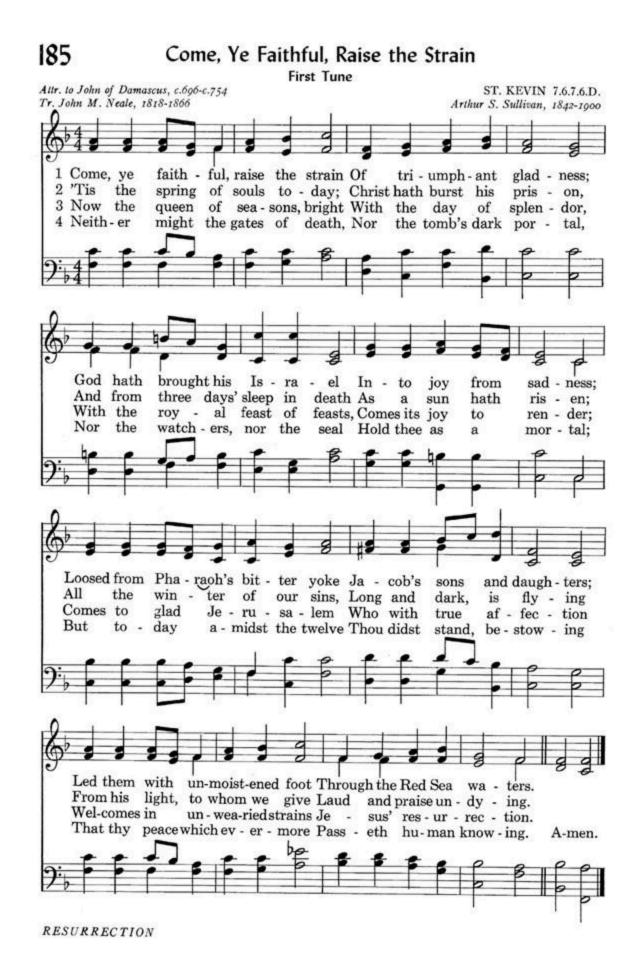
Joys and Concerns

**Pastoral Prayer** 

The Lord's Prayer

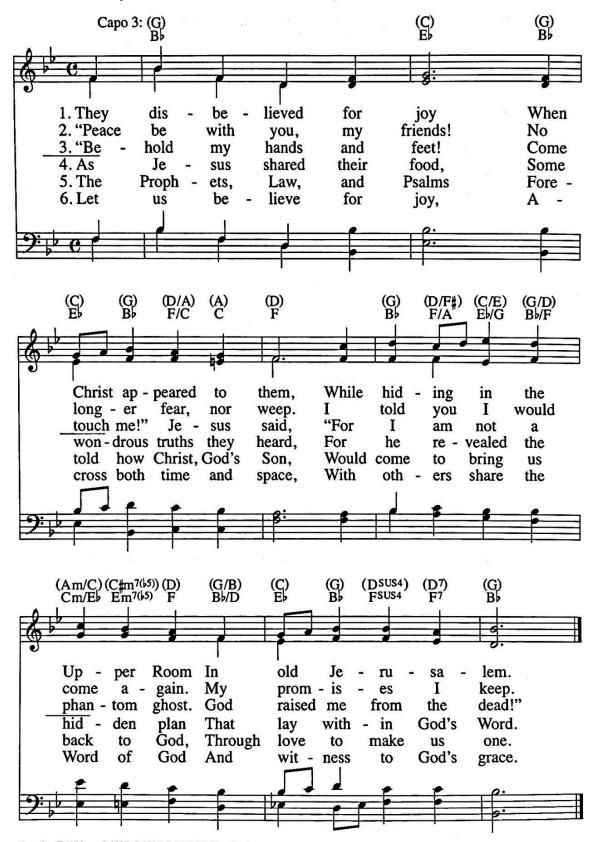
Our Father and Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Closing Hymn	Alleluia! Alleluia!	(Page 8)
*Benediction		
Postlude	Chaconne	- L. Couperin (1626-1661)



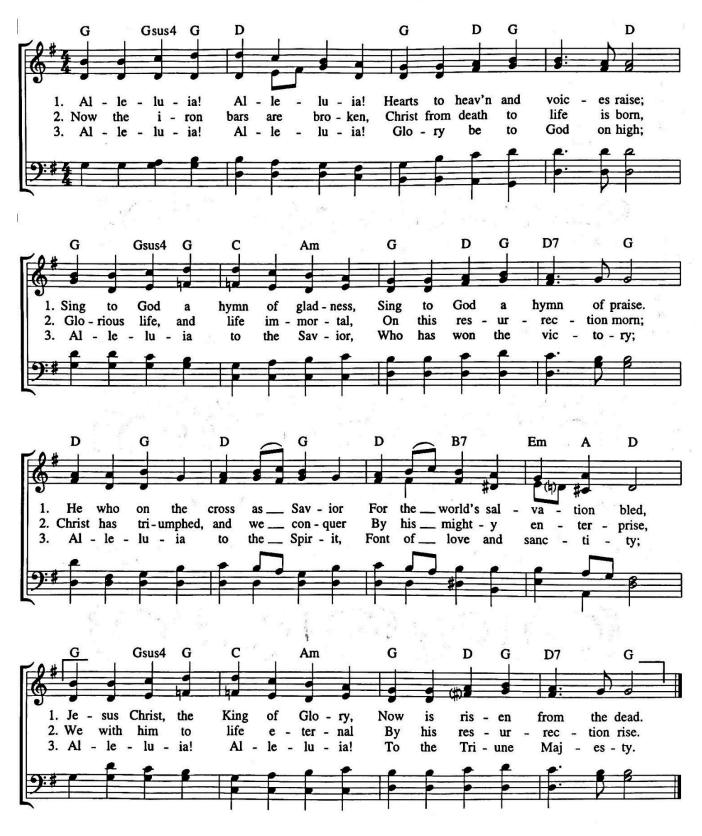
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### 513 They Disbelieved for Joy



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

# ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!



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.

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# Serving You Today

# Worship Leaders

Ministers of the Congregation Pastor Director of Music Ministries Greeters Lay Reader Fellowship

# Officers

Moderator Clerk Treasurer Chair, Board of Deacons Chair, Board of Trustees

Members at Large

All Members of First Church Rev. Jack Kraaz Kiel Krommer Nick & Roseann Vinciguerra Mary Newland Mary Newland

Cindy DeSellier Carol Mullen Suzanne Kelley Jeanne Dill David Sanborn

Lynn Galica Elaine Harris Mary Newland

# Staff

Church Administrator Sunday School Superintendent Custodian Lee Brahen Erin Greene Wallace 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 <u>carellen7@gmail.com</u>

**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 <u>http://www.firstchurchmonson.org</u>, 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 <u>office@firstchurchmonson.org</u> or use the <u>Connect With First</u>

<u>Church</u> 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 – <u>www.firstchurchmonson.org</u>. 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 <u>.org</u>.

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