



April 27, 2025

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Eastertide

## Service of Word

---

**† Please stand in body or spirit**

Prelude

*Fantasy Prelude on an Easter Hymn*

Gilbert M. Martin

Greeting

The Lord be with you  
**And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

We thank God for these opportunities for fellowship and service.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**† Call to Worship**

Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen, indeed!**

Alleluia! Celebrate God in this sacred space!  
Celebrate God in all places under heaven!  
**Give praise for God's mighty deeds!**  
**Give praise for God's resurrecting power!**

Praise God with a fanfare of trumpets.  
**Praise God with the harp and the cello!**

Praise God with tambourines and dancing!  
**Praise God with flutes and guitars!**

Praise God with cymbals and drums!  
**Let everything with life and breath praise God!**

Let us worship God!

† Opening Hymn

*Easter People, Raise Your Voices*

REGENT SQUARE

1. Eas - ter peo - ple, raise your voic - es, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
2. **Fear of death can no more stop us from our press - ing here be - low.**  
3. Ev - ery day to us is Eas - ter, with its res - ur - rec - tion song.

5  
Christ has brough us heav - en's choic - es; heav - en - ly mu - sic, let it ring.  
**For our Lord em - pow - ered us to tri - umph o - ver ev - ery foe.**  
When in trou - ble move the fast - er to our God who rights the wrong.

9  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Eas - ter peo - ple, let us sing.  
**Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! On to vic - tory now we go.**  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! See the power of heav - en - ly throngs.

† Invocation

God of the Resurrection, you open the tomb and invite us to sing and dance in the new life you give us. In Jesus Christ, whose wounds are not erased but glorified in resurrection, touch our wounds that they may be transformed into channels of healing for others. Holy Spirit, breathe into us the power to forgive so that all may have new life. In the name of Jesus we pray.

**Amen.**

Let us sing praise to God.

**We will continually praise God's holy name.**

† Gloria Patri

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

Paul M. Vasile

Glo - ry to God, whose good - ness shines on me, and to the  
 World with - out end, with - out end. A - men. World with-out

3  
 Son, whose grace has par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, whose love has  
 end, with - out end. A - men. World with-out end, with-out

6  
 set me free, As it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.  
 end. A - men.

1. Je - sus loves me! This I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so.

5  
 Lit - tle ones to him be - long; they are weak, but he is strong.

Children's Moment

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

Hymn

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God*

TRENTHAM



1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Fill me with life a - new,  
 2. **Breathe on me, Breath of God, Un - til my heart is pure,**  
 3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, Till I am whol - ly thine,  
 4. **Breathe on me, Breath of God, So shall I nev - er die,**



That I may love what thou dost love, And do what thou wouldst do.  
**Un - til with thee I will one will To do and to en - dure.**  
 Un - til this earth - ly part of me Glows with thy fire di - vine.  
**But live with thee the per - fect life Of thine e - ter - ni - ty.**

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.



1. When Tho - mas heard from Je - sus, "Now come and fol - low me," He  
 2. When Je - sus spoke of heav - en, bold Tho - mas dared to say, "We  
 3. When crowds be - gan to mur - mur and lead - ers raised their cry, Brave  
 4. What joy on Eas - ter eve - ning when man - y saw the Lord! Yet  
 5. That man of faith saw Je - sus at break - fast by the sea; At



sure - ly went with glad - ness, for there was much to see. He  
**don't know where you're go - ing! How can we know the way?" He**  
 Tho - mas spoke out firm - ly, "Let's go with him and die." He  
**Tho - mas was not with them and would not trust their word. When**  
 Pen - te - cost he wit - nessed so oth - ers would be - lieve. O



wit - nessed Je - sus' teach - ing and saw his heal - ing touch; He  
**want - ed un - der - stand - ing of what he could not see. Then**  
 ate at Je - sus' ta - ble, par - tak - ing wine and bread; Yet  
**Christ ap - peared be - fore him, his doubts were quick - ly gone; He**  
 Lord, may we like Tho - mas keep grow - ing day by day; In -



found a faith to guide him, a friend he loved so much.  
**Je - sus re - as - sured him, "The way is here through me."**  
 la - ter with the oth - ers, he saw the cross and fled.  
**glad - ly knew that eve - ning the joy of Eas - ter dawn.**  
 crease our faith and guide us, for Lord, you are the Way.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger

here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Reverend Dr. Greg Gray

Sharing our Concerns

For all these persons and all who are in need.  
**Hold your people near, O God.**

Sharing our Joys

We give thanks to God for these blessings.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Pastoral Prayer



Lord's Prayer

**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.**

† Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you.**

## Response to the Peace

*May Peace Flow*

Mark A. Miller

6 May peace flow through me as mu-sic through an in - strument, let it flow through me  
 12 like the warmth from the sun, may peace flow through me so that I may be a ves-  
 - sel of the love of God forev - 'ryone, forev - 'ryone.

## Invitation to the Offering

God gives new life to all that is, including ourselves and all that sustains us. So let our tithes and offerings be our songs of praise and thanksgiving in response to the God who loves us and frees us!

## Offertory

*Now the Green Blade Riseth*

arr Michael McCabe

## † Doxology

*Easter Doxology*OLD 100<sup>th</sup>

Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, And sing to - day with one ac - cord. The  
 5 life laid down, the life re - stored; Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

## † Prayer of Dedication

Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them into healing for the wounded, hope for the disheartened, courage for the frightened, and faith for the embittered. In the name of Jesus Christ, your faithful witness, the first resurrected, and ruler of the sovereigns of the earth. **Amen.**

† Closing Hymn

*Show Me Your Hands, Your Feet, Your Side*

DETROIT



1. Show me your hands, your feet, your side; I will not be de - ceived. Un -  
2. **Fear not! Let peace be in your soul. Reach out and touch and know I**  
3. Not e - ven Eas - ter takes a - way The marks that Je - sus bears. The  
4. **So blessed are those who have not seen Yet cry, "My Lord and God!" Who**

5



less I see, how can I trust The news that I've re - ceived?  
**died and yet I am a - live With wounds that ev - er show.**  
Ris - en Christ still wears the wounds Of scourge and nail and spear.  
**touch earth's pain in Je - sus' name And tell good news a - broad.**

† Benediction

Postlude

*Festive Postlude on "Truro"*

Mary McDonald



## **WISE FOR MENTAL HEALTH COVENANT**

We, Enfield UCC, commit ourselves to providing and promoting education, activities, and resources for individuals and families, as well as advocating for legislative action and collaborating with other mental health organizations. To that end, we joyously extend our church's compassionate welcome and love to members and non-members alike who experience mental illnesses or are touched by them.

## **WELCOME STATEMENT**

We covenant with God and each other to live as Jesus has taught. Following God's example, we strive to be a Christian Community welcoming you no matter who you are. No matter your physical or mental ability, race, ethnicity, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, marital status, or economic status, you are truly welcome. We acknowledge past hurts individuals may have experienced and look to offer a safe, non-judgmental space for all who want to know God in Christ. This covenant includes the right to participate equally and fully in all aspects of the life and ministry of this congregation. In a spirit of understanding, we strive for collaboration as we seek to become the fully inclusive community of faith that God calls us to be.

## **ENFIELD UCC GUN POLICY**

Gun violence continues to exist in the United States as a public health issue, one that requires reform in policy and culture. Enfield UCC is a gun-free zone, and no one may bring a firearm on the premises unless explicitly authorized by the pastor and/or moderator.

The United Church of Christ is a proponent of gun safety and gun control and supports policies including:

- strengthen the licensing and registration of handgun transfers
- restrict firearm possession by persons convicted of violent crimes and by juveniles
- limit handgun purchases to one per month
- strengthen regulation of gun dealers
- increase civil and criminal liability for misuse of firearms
- prohibit semiautomatic assault weapons, Saturday night specials, explosive ammunition and large capacity magazines
- require gun safety devices
- require training in the safe use of firearms as a condition of licensing

We encourage everyone to be in touch with legislators, urging them to pass legislation that restricts the sale of firearms.