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EVERYTHING [IN] BETWEEN

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Easter: Grief & Hope

~ Welcome Visitors! ~

**Guide to the bulletin:** An asterisk (\*) indicates an invitation to rise in body and/or spirit. Text printed in **BOLD** indicates everyone says them together. **NCH** is the New Century Hymnal next to your pew chair.

**Children:** Children are always welcome here. We know youth grow – in the love of God and the love of others – when they have opportunities to worship in community. There are a variety of quiet activities and fidgets the youth (and adults!) can do available by the sanctuary doors. There is also a [Prayer Ground](#) set up at the front of the sanctuary. There are several quiet activities prepared for children. We know many of us need to wiggle a bit to be comfortable. Kids do too!!! Adults are welcome to sit in this area as well! #ChildofGod. You and/or your children are welcome to get up during the service to select something to do.

**GATHERING TOGETHER**

**Prelude**

**Christ Arose**

Larry Shackley

**Welcome and Community Connections**

**\*Call to Worship<sup>1</sup>**

**One:** My dear friends, we have known grief.  
We have known loss.  
We have known the long road, tired and winding.  
We have whispered prayers on bended knees.  
We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.

But today—

**All: today we know hope.**

**One:** Today we know life.

**All: Today we know the sound of Alleluias.**

**One:** Today we know that death does not have the last word.

**All: Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.**

**One:** It is Easter. May hope find you.

And may you know, deep in your bones, that today is a new day.

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*Call to Confession****\* Prayer of Confession**

**Pastor Kris:** The Gospel of Luke says: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told the apostles [of the resurrection]. But these words seemed to the disciples an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb."

**All: Forgive us, God, when good news lands in our lap and we refuse to believe it.**

**Forgive us, God, when grief and fear crowd out any room in our hearts for hope.**

**Forgive us, God, when we dismiss the stories of others and minimize the voices of our neighbors.**

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<sup>1</sup> Liturgy adapted from a prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

**Pastor Kris:** In a world that teeters between grief and hope, show us how to be like Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, the other women with them in the duskiness of the early morning, and Peter.

**All: Show us how to hold onto hope. Show us how to run toward you. Amen.**

**\* Words of Forgiveness**

**Pastor Peter:** Family of Faith, at first, the disciples didn't believe that Jesus had risen. They stayed locked in an upper room, shaking and afraid. The Marys, Joanna, their circle of friends, and Peter were the original exceptions. Fortunately, Jesus loves us on our best days and our worst days.

**All: God's grace exists for us when we are hopeful and when we're grieving, when we're shouting and when we're silent, when we're full of faith and when we're full of fear. God's grace exists for us on the best days, the worst days, and every day in between. Thanks be to God for this good news! Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*Hymn**                      *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*                      NCH 233 vss 1, 2, & 4

**HEARING THE WORD**

**First Reading**                      Luke 24:1-12

**Special Music**                      *Rejoice, the Lord is King*                      Darwall, Arr. Pfohl  
Feat. Mark Sieger, trumpet

**Message for All**                      Pastor Kris

**Prayer 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.**

*After the Message for All, children are invited to sit by their family in the sanctuary or at the Prayer Ground—God’s story (and Pastor Kris’ reflection) is for everyone*

## **Reflection**

### **SHARING OUR LIVES**

**Call to Prayer**

***Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***

Medema

## **Prayers of the People**

*During our online worship service, we invite you to type your prayers in the comments section on your screen. Or you can text prayers to Pastor Kris at 608-438-6307 or Pastor Peter at 608-338-2268. They will collect the petitions and read them during the service. Know that prayers shared this day are public. If you have prayer request you would like to remain private, you may email them to: [pastorkris@memorialucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@memorialucc.org) and/or [pastorpeter@memorialucc.org](mailto:pastorpeter@memorialucc.org)*

### **SHARING A MEAL**

*Come to God’s Extravagant Table—wherever you are. Those who are blessing and receiving the sacrament at home, please prepare a slice or small loaf of bread, corn tortilla, or rice cake to share and a cup or small cups of juice — perhaps grape or cranberry — or wine, with or without alcohol.*

## **Invitation to the Table and Words of Remembering**

### **\* Sharing the Bread and the Cup**

*Please come forward. Those serving communion will place a piece of bread in your hand. You may eat the bread right away, or dip it one of the cups and eat the bread with juice or wine. The bread is gluten free. The grape juice is white; the wine is red. If you are worshipping at home, you may serve yourself. Or, if you are with others consider serving each other. All are welcome at this meal.*

**Interlude**

***Emmaus Sunrise***

Eric Lewis

### **\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**God of the mountain, the valley, and every step in between,  
may this meal be a fresh start.**

**May this moment, where all are fed and all are welcomed,  
be the start of something new.**

**Show us how to carry the love we experience here from the walls of  
this church into the world we encounter in the days ahead. Show us  
how to leave breadcrumbs of good news along our path and  
everywhere in between. With deep hope we pray, amen.**

### **GOING OUT TO THE WORLD**

**\*Affirmation of Faith**

**Pastor Kris:** In the dark before dawn,

**All: we believe that God is alive.**

**Pastor Kris:** In the midst of our grief,

**All: we believe the Spirit is at work.**

**Pastor Peter:** In the chaos of our broken world,

**All: we believe that love is on the loose.**

**Pastor Peter:** For no stone could keep God at bay,

**All: and no violence could keep God's love from us.**

**Pastor Kris:** So today we sing,

**All: Alleluia!**

For somewhere in between our belief and doubt,

**All: hope lives.**

**Pastor Peter:** Christ has died,

**All: and Christ has also risen.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Song for Going Out**

***This is the Day***

NCH 84

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

***Thine Is the Glory***

Lee Dengler

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**Worship Leaders:** Jonathan Schroerlucke (Dir. of Music), Jeff Darwin  
(Pianist), Pastor Kris Gorton, and Pastor Peter Morris

**Readers:** Sonjia Short and John Rosch

**Ushers:** Jeanne Prueher and Jay Johnson

**Communion Preparation:** Karen Bryant and Susan Webb

**Media Room:** Scott Oebser

**Fellowship:** Chuck and Jan Gietzel

Memorial UCC uses photographs and video for social media communication with our members and friends. If someone does not wish to be photographed or in a video, ushers will help them find a seat out of camera view.

Memorial UCC's ONE LICENSE for streaming: #A-711042



**Hearing Loop and Listening Devices:** For those who have hearing aids, Memorial UCC has a t-coil compatible hearing loop. Listening devices are also available for people who are hard of hearing. See an usher if you need assistance.

**Bathrooms:** There are two bathrooms near the main entrance of the church. A third Gender Neutral and Accessible bathroom is in the hallway by the nursery. If you need assistance finding the restrooms, an usher will gladly help you



**Giving Options—Ever-Widening Opportunities:** Checks can be mailed directly to the church or dropped off during office hours. Please indicate any special designation in the memo line. You can give securely via PayPal with your credit card, debit card, or direct withdrawals. Giving online through PayPal is fast and secure, and you do not need a PayPal account to make

one-time or recurring donations. Visit [memorialucc.org](http://memorialucc.org) and click the "giving" link in the upper right-hand corner or scan the QR code here. If you are interested in monthly automatic withdrawals, please email Cathy Halpin at [halpincjo@gmail.com](mailto:halpincjo@gmail.com), and she will get you signed up.

**Want to Know More About Us?** Co-pastors Kris and Peter would be happy to set up a time to chat further. Feel free to contact either of them at [pastorkris@memorialucc.org](mailto:pastorkris@memorialucc.org) or [pastorpeter@memorialucc.org](mailto:pastorpeter@memorialucc.org). You don't need to be a formal member to get involved here. There is a lot of information on our website at [www.memorialucc.org](http://www.memorialucc.org). You can also follow us on Facebook (@FitchburgMemorialUCC), Twitter (@MemUCC), or join our Facebook group Memorial UCC: Ever-Widening Circles.

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## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

*The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.*

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias  
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

## This Is the Day

Ps. 118:24; Luke 24:1-7; Acts 2:1-4

St. 1 paraphr. by Les Garrett, 1967; alt.  
St. 2-3, traditional; alt.

Unison

E $\flat$ B $\flat$ 7

1 This is the day, this is the day that our God has made, that our  
 2 This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, Je - sus  
 3 This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came, when the

God has made; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be  
 rose a - gain; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be  
 Spir - it came; we will re-joyce, we will re-joyce and be glad in it, and be

glad in it. This is the day that our God has made, we will re-joyce and be  
 glad in it. This is the day Je - sus rose a - gain, we will re-joyce and be  
 glad in it. This is the day when the Spir - it came, we will re-joyce and be

glad in it; This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day Je - sus rose a - gain.  
 glad in it; This is the day, this is the day when the Spir - it came.

The first stanza of this hymn was written by Leslie Garrett, who

Tune: THIS IS THE DAY Ir.