



# First Congregational Church of Hanover

United Church of Christ

We Strive to Be a Church that Welcomes All and Empowers All in  
Christ to Share their God Given Talents.

*Christ  
is  
Risen!*

**Sunday, March 31, 2024 at 9:30 AM**

# *Easter Sunday*

## **First Congregational Church of Hanover, United Church of Christ**

\*Please stand as you are able.

### **Prelude**

*Please enter a quiet time of reflection when the prelude music begins.*

### **Welcome**

### **Introit**

**Minister:**

This is the day which the Lord has made;  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Choir and Congregation:**



A - - le - lu ia!

Now is Christ risen from the dead  
And become the first fruits of them  
that have slept.



A - - le - lu - ia!

Blessed be our Lord Jesus Christ, who,  
according to His abundant mercy,  
brings us new hope through His  
resurrection from the dead, to an  
Inheritance incorruptible and undefiled,  
and that fadeth not away.



A - - le - lu - ia!

**\*Processional Hymn**

*Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

Red Hymnal #182

### **Morning Prayer**

Christ the Lord is Risen today! Alleluia! Our hopes and dreams have come true. We do not have to fear death, for Christ goes before us. Praise be to God who has raised Christ from the dead and given to us new life. Open our hearts to receive your wondrous words of love, O God. Help prepare us for the opportunities to serve you by serving others. In Christ's Name, we pray. AMEN.

**Time for All Ages**

**Anthem**

## Choral reading of John 20:1-18

Reader 1: Early,  
Readers 1,2: on the first day of the week,  
Readers 1,2,3: while it was still dark,  
Readers 1,2,3,4: still dark,  
**Congregation: still dark,**  
Reader 1: Mary Magdalene came to the tomb  
Readers 1,2,3: and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb.  
Reader 4: So she ran,  
Readers 1,2,3,4: she ran,  
**Congregation: she ran,**  
Reader 4: and went to Simon Peter  
Reader 3: and the other disciple,  
Readers 1,2,3: the one whom Jesus loved,  
Reader 2: and said to them,  
**Congregation: "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,**  
Readers 1,2,3: "and we do not know  
Readers 1,2,3,4: "where they have laid him."  
Reader 2: Then Peter  
Readers 1,2,3: and the other disciple  
Readers 1,2,4: set out  
Reader 3: and went toward the tomb.  
Reader 4: The two were running together,  
Reader 1: but the other disciple outran Peter  
Readers 1,2,3: and reached the tomb first.  
Reader 2: He bent down to look in  
Readers 1,3,4: and saw the linen wrappings lying there,  
Readers 1,2,3,4: lying there,  
**Congregation: lying there,**  
Readers 1,2: and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head,  
Readers 3,4: not lying with the linen wrappings  
Readers 1,2,3,4: but rolled up in a place by itself.  
Reader 1: Then the other disciple,  
Readers 2, 3: who reached the tomb first,  
Reader 4: also went in,

### Choral reading of John 20:1-18 continued

Readers 1,2,3: and he saw,  
Readers 1,2,3,4: he saw,  
**Congregation:** **he saw,**  
Reader 3: and he believed;  
Reader 4: for as yet they did not understand the scripture,  
Readers 1,2,3,4: that Jesus must rise from the dead.  
Reader 2: Then the disciples returned to their homes.  
Readers 1, 2: But Mary stood weeping,  
Readers 1,2,3,4: weeping,  
**Congregation:** **weeping,**  
Reader 1: outside the tomb;  
Readers 1,2: and she saw two angels in white,  
Readers 1,2,3,4: sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying,  
Reader 4: one at the head  
Readers 3,4: and the other at the feet.  
Reader 4: They said to her,  
Readers 1,2: "Woman,  
Readers 1,2,3,4: "Woman,  
**Congregation:** **"why are you weeping?"**  
Reader 1: She said to them,  
Readers 3,4: "They have taken away my Lord,  
Readers 1,3,4: and I do not know where they have laid him."  
Reader 3: When she had said this,  
Readers 2,3,4: she turned around,  
Readers 1,2,3,4: turned around,  
**Congregation:** **turned around,**  
Reader 4: and saw Jesus standing there,  
Reader 2: but she did not know that it was Jesus.  
Reader 3: Jesus said to her,  
Readers 1,2,3: "Woman,  
Readers 2,3,4: "Woman,  
**Congregation:** **"Woman,**  
Reader 3: "Why are you weeping?  
Readers 1,2,3: "Whom are you looking for?"

### Choral reading of John 20:1-18 continued

Reader 1: Supposing him to be the gardener,  
Readers 2,3,4: she said to him,  
Reader 3: "Sir,  
Readers 1,4: "if you have carried him away,  
Readers 1,2,3,4: "tell me where you have laid him,  
Reader 4: "and I will take him away."  
Reader 2: Jesus said to her,  
Readers 1,2,3: "Mary!"  
Readers 1,2,3,4: "Mary!"  
**Congregation: "Mary!"**  
Reader 2: She turned  
Readers 2, 3: and said to him in Hebrew,  
**Congregation: "Rabbouni!"**  
Reader 2: which means teacher.  
Reader 4: Jesus said to her,  
Readers 3,4: "Do not hold on to me,  
Readers 2,3,4: "because I have not yet ascended to the Abba.  
Reader 4: "But go to my disciples  
Readers 1,2,3: "and say to them,  
Readers 1,2,3,4: 'I am ascending to my Abba  
Reader 2: 'and your Abba,  
Readers 1,2,3,4: 'to my God  
**Congregation: 'and to your God.'"**  
Reader 1: Mary Magdalene went  
Readers 3,4: and announced to the disciples,  
Readers 1,2,3: "I have seen the Lord;  
Readers 1,2,3,4: "I have seen the Lord,  
**Congregation: "I have seen the Lord."**

### Choral Response

Sermon

\*Hymn

*Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain*

Rev. Peter Johnston

Red Hymnal #185

**The Offertory**

Invitation to Giving

Offertory

\*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise God, all creatures here below.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

**Easter Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer (unison)**

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.

\*Closing Hymn

*Alleluia! The Strife Is O'er*

Red Hymnal #181

\*Benediction

Postlude

Please remain seated until the end of the Postlude

*Serving in the House of the Lord*

**Our Choral Readers:**

Ava Sigsby, Bob Meader, John Fox, and Karen Tripp

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**Flowers**

Our sanctuary is decorated with Easter lilies provided by the congregation.

**Deacon of the Month**

Al Alexander

*Easter Lilies Given By:*

Al Alexander in memory of Loved Ones  
The Briggs family in memory of Kristine Briggs Coose  
Priscilla Cedrone in memory of C. Louis Cedrone  
Bob and Janet Cluett in memory of Loved Ones  
Alan and Janet Cook in memory of Loved Ones  
The Frattalone Family in memory of Beverley  
The Frattalone Family in memory of Loved Ones  
Mark and MaryLou Gifford in honor of our pastor, Rev. Peter  
Linda and Gary Gilardi in memory of Loved Ones  
Ruth Hall in memory of Loved Ones  
Jim and Pam Hoyes in memory of Loved Ones  
Dean and Glenda Larson in memory of Auntie Rose  
Florence McNeilly in memory of her brother Foster  
Florence McNeilly in honor of Her Family  
Bob and Elisabeth Meader in memory of Loved Ones  
Donald Morrison in memory of Johanne Morrison  
Don and Christine Nelson in memory of Our Parents  
Wayne and Cindy Shaw in memory of Our Parents  
Maddie and Hal Thomas in memory of Nancy Merrifield  
Karen Tripp in memory of Loved Ones  
Dave and Sandy Vaughn in memory of Loved Ones  
Cynthia Woods in memory of Loved Ones





We are grateful that you are with us this morning. We hope you find nurture in our worship and warmth in the fellowship of our congregation.

**If you are worshipping with us for the first time**, please take a brochure from the pew racks and fill out a Connect Card, fill it out and place in the offering plate, or hand to a minister. Please take a moment to meet the ministers following the worship service.

**Children** are welcome to stay with their parents, go to the Pray Station at the front, or leave during the singing of the Gloria Patri to attend faith formation in the downstairs vestry.

**We are a praying church.** If you would like to lift joys or concerns during the time of prayer, please fill out a prayer card, found in the pews. These will be collected during the second hymn, and read by the minister. You may also lift names aloud during the time of prayer.

**Large print** copies of the bulletins are available from the ushers.

**Restrooms** are located on the lower level of the church.



**First Congregational  
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United Church of Christ

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