

Christ the Lord Is
Risen Today!

Alleluia!

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



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

Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026

*Please stand, as you are able.

Prelude

George Olson

*Welcome

Rev. Peter Johnston

Call to Worship

Leader: The darkness is banished!

People: The brightness of God's love floods in on us!

Leader: Christ is risen from the dead!

People: Christ is alive forevermore!

Leader: Hallelujah!

People: Hallelujah!

ALL: AMEN.

*Sharing the Peace of Christ

*Hymn

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Red Hymnal #182

Prayer of Confession:

Dear God, we have journeyed through the wilderness and valleys, to the mountaintops to the courtyard, the garden and the cross. Now you bring us to the empty tomb and to the joyous news of the truth of Christ. Forgive us when we so easily doubt the truth of his resurrection. Forgive us when we feel we have to have absolute proof of everything. Your love in Jesus Christ is all the proof we need. You conquered death and sin; you brought us to new life. We praise your holy name and sing our unending song of hope and thanksgiving. Christ the Lord is risen today. Alleluia! AMEN.

Assurance of Grace

Leader: Hear the good news: Through Jesus Christ, we are accepted, loved and forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Time for All Ages

Unboxing the Alleluias!

Following the time for all ages, children are invited to a special activity and to enjoy a snack! Parents can meet their children downstairs after the service.

Anthem

Scripture Readings

Psalms 118:1-2; 14-24

1 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever! 2 Let Israel say, "His steadfast love endures forever."¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. ¹⁵ There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

“The right hand of the Lord does valiantly; ¹⁶the right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.” ¹⁷ I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord. ¹⁸ The Lord has punished me severely, but he did not give me over to death. ¹⁹ Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. ²⁰ This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. ²¹ I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. ²² The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. ²³ This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. ²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Matthew 28:1-10

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

***Gloria Patri**

Glorify 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.

Sermon

Go and Tell: The First Easter Sermon

Rev. Peter Johnston

***Sermon Hymn**

Alleluia! The Strife Is O'er

Red Hymnal #181

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

A Time of Prayer

Call to Prayer



Lead me, guide me, a - long the way, for if you
lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each
day with thee. Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Lord's Prayer (unison)

Sacrament of Holy Communion

*Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

Red Hymnal #288

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Minister: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them up to God.

Minister: Let us give thanks to God most high.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Minister: Holy God, our loving Creator, close to us as breathing and distant as the farthest star, we thank you for your constant love for all you have made. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection and for the calling forth of your church for its mission. Therefore, with angels and archangels, we praise your Holy Name by saying:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayer of Consecration

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Closing Hymn

Thine Is the Glory

Red Hymnal #193

*Benediction

Postlude

Easter Lilies Given By:

Al Alexander in memory of Loved Ones

Priscilla Cedrone in memory of C. Louis Cedrone

Alan and Janet Cook in memory of Loved Ones

Mary and Stephen Dunn in memory of Loved Ones

Mary Lou Gifford in memory of Mark Gifford

Ruth Hall in memory of Loved Ones

Louise Jackson in memory of Parents

The Kelly Family in memory of John and Phyllis Settele

Dean and Glenda Larson in memory of Loved Ones

Bob and Elisabeth Meader in honor of Doris Fredrickson

Dayna Scribi in memory of Loved Ones

The Shaws in celebration of their 55th anniversary

Rev. Deborah Spratley in memory of Jason and Dick Spratley

Cynthia Taylor in celebration of Easter love

Maddie and Hal Thomas in memory of Nancy Merrifield

Karen Tripp in in memory of Dot and Herb Tripp

Dave and Sandy Vaughn in memory of Loved Ones

Cynthia Woods in memory of Loved Ones



Our Prayer List

The Patt family on the passing of Debbie's sister, Kim.

The family of Susan Briggs Richardson, who passed March 15

Tony, surgery to insert shunt in brain

Bonnie, in ICU

*Chad, hospitalized

Gracie, who is hospitalized

Sherri, Lynn White's sister, recovering from a stroke

Kathy Talbot, in rehab at Webster Park in Rockland

Bob Rafferty, recovering from a procedure

The family of Ken Carpenter, Adrienne Rafferty's uncle, on his passing March 9

The Fiske family on the passing of their cat

Darius Fiske, who is struggling

Janet Cook, recovering from a serious fall

Vince Mood, friend of Hal Thomas, who lost his house in a fire

Matthew, who has mental health issues

Libby, granddaughter of Sue Jones, at Children's Boston for cancer

Continue Our Prayers for Those with Long-Term Needs:

Barbara Itz, at BrightView in N. Andover

Lynn White, at the Pat Roche Hospice Home in Hingham

Kerri, Bill & Patti MacLennan's daughter, brain cancer

Donald, brother-in-law of MaryBeth Tarnauskas, with cancer

Rick, brother of Dennis Falcione

Irene & Wally Reed

Ericka Penney

***Send cards to**

Chad Weirick
Room 335
Sturdy Hospital
211 Park Street
Attleboro, MA 02703



Serving in the House of the Lord

Our sanctuary is decorated with flowers given by the congregation.

Greeters are Ted Adami, JD and Eli Barrett.

The Lay Reader is Ginny Hunt.

Coffee Hour is hosted by Kerstin and Nora Barrett.

The Deacon of the Month is Priscilla Cedrone.



Building the Jerusalem Road



Hunting for Easter Eggs





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 and place it in the offering plate, or hand it to a minister. Please take a moment to meet the ministers following the worship service.

Large print copies of the bulletins and hymnals are available from the ushers.

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.

Restrooms are located on the lower level of the church. There is an elevator behind the door at the front right of the church.

Join us! Following worship, you are invited to a time of fellowship and refreshment downstairs in the Vestry. (Just follow the crowd.)



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United Church of Christ

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