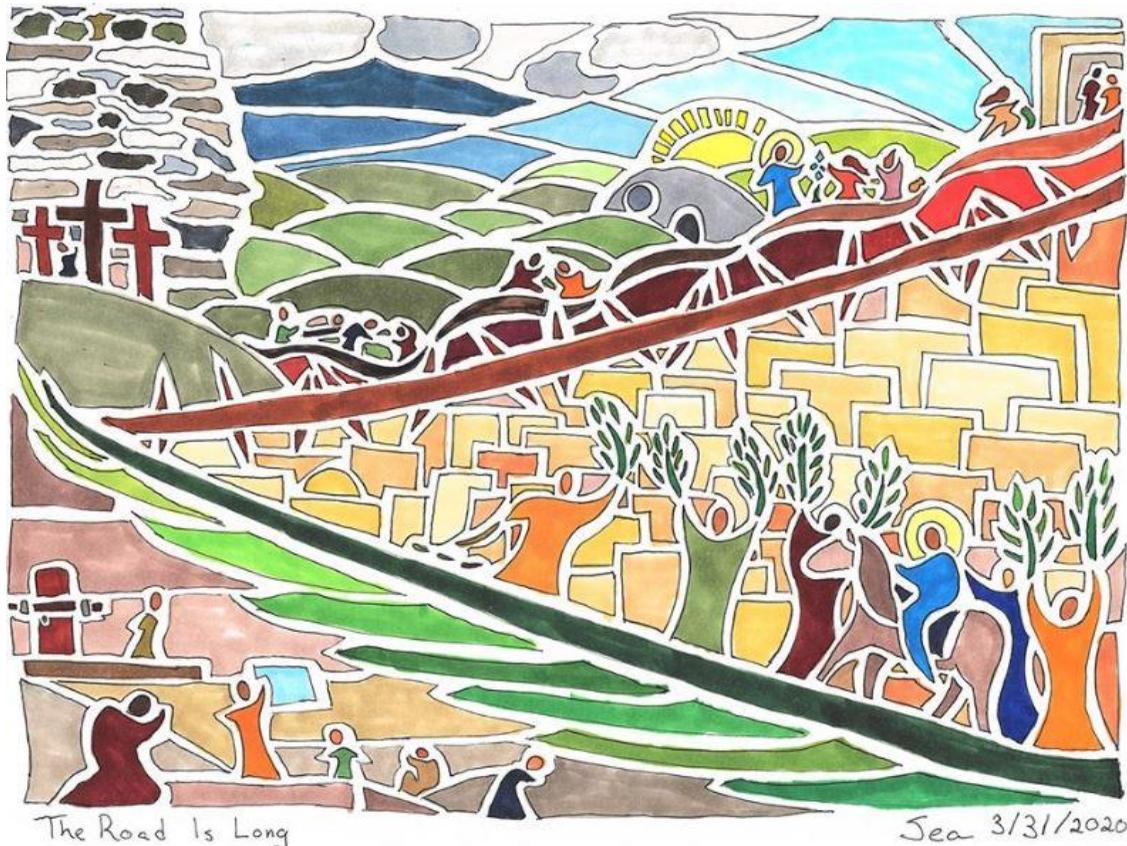


WOODFORDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Seamaire Art, "The Road is Long," www.seamaire.com

Easter Sunday ***April 12, 2020***

We are a Just-Peace Church and an Open-and-Affirming Congregation
in the United Church of Christ.

Our Mission and Vision Statement
Creating community, championing justice and growing with God

ORDER OF WORSHIP

10:00 AM

April 12, 2020

Liturgical Colors: White/Gold

GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE DIVINE

Music for Gathering

“Voluntary” – J. Stanley

Welcome

ENTERING THE STORY

Introduction - Crossing the Threshold

Call to Worship

Leader: We come to this moment,
seeking Jesus in the familiar story of our faith.
Do not meet us only now, O Living Christ,
but surprise us with Resurrection power

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
in all the places of our lives!

Leader: We gather to sing and pray the story we know by heart,
a story of loving triumph and powerful grace.
This story of “Alleluia!” means great joy
for the One who lives and the ones who witness to this new life

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
in all the places of our lives!

Leader: We rejoice and thank you for the life of your son,
resurrected by the power of your loving, vibrant Spirit.
Let this same Spirit fill us,
that we may know the truth of resurrection

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
in all the places of our lives!

Leader: We join our hearts in song and sing
“Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!”
for Christ is living and so are we!

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
Alleluia indeed!

Opening Hymn

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Invocation

Leader: Good News God,
in the midst of deep sorrow and grief,
your angels appeared to the faithful women of Jesus’ company,
bringing them news more awe-inspiring than they could imagine –
Christ is Risen!
Surely your angels can interrupt our lives, too,
breaking into our losses and sorrows
and offering a message of tremendous joy to change our lives.
Come this Easter morning, we pray,
and fill us with the joy of the women disciples,
the first witnesses to your resurrection,
that our lives may also be renewed in hope and glory.
Let us roll back the stone of the grave
and sing Alleluia once again!
In Christ we pray,

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
Amen.

RENEWING OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

Prayer of Confession

Leader: God, we confess to you
that while we know well the story of your victory over the grave,
it is not a story we always live.
We are dragged down by all manner of death.
Fear may suffocate us: the loss of dreams and hopes –
for ourselves, our families, our communities, and our nation.
Sorrow may wall us off like a grave,
isolating us with anger, frustration, and grief.

Silence

Yet the stories of our faith are inscribed
not with the marks of death,
but with the word “Alleluia!”
So on this Easter morning,
we pray that you will fill us with “fear and great joy”
so that, like those women who came to the tomb expecting death,
we may instead find the radiant new life
that is ever before us in your Resurrection!

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Just as Christ did not come to condemn but to liberate,
so too is Christ raised from death not to judge but to celebrate.
Cast off the yoke of sorrow and instead raise up the scepter of joy.
Christ lives! We live!
All is made new on this Resurrection morning!

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
Alleluia and amen!

Sharing the Peace

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD AND WISDOM

Scripture Readings

The Inclusive Bible Translation

Epistle:	Acts 10: 34-43
Gospel:	John 20:1-18

Easter Message

“Emerging from the Tomb”

Rev. Alyssa Lodewick

Anthem Meditation

“He Is Not Here” – R. Nagy

Woodfords Chancel Choir

RESPONDING TO HOLY GENEROSITY

Invitation to Act as Jesus' Hands in the World

Prayer of Dedication

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*

**O God, you have become our light and our salvation –
let these gifts open the gates of joy
to all who hunger and thirst for your holy presence
on this and every day.**

**May they bear the gifts of Alleluia which we hold so dear,
and give away with great joy.**

We pray in the name of our Risen Savior, Jesus the Christ! Amen.

CARING FOR THE WORLD – THE BODY OF CHRIST PRAYS

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Known and treasured by individuals throughout the ages and around the globe, The Lord's Prayer deeply connects to heart and memory. For many people, it possesses special meaning because it is one of the earliest prayers learned in childhood. Please feel free to modify the words written below and offer your favorite version of the Lord's Prayer. Say the prayer in the language that feels most comfortable, using whatever words best speak to your soul.

Said out loud, wherever you may be.

Our Mother 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.

ENTERING THE WORLD AS EASTER PEOPLE

Benediction

Leader: Here is the Easter call for us today:
We will seek the risen Jesus in every time and place.

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
We will connect across the miles, through technology and prayer.

Leader: We will not seek comfort only in the familiar, but dare to risk newness
of thought and newness of action.

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
We know that Resurrection makes all things new!

Leader: We will not cling to all the old, expected notions about God, Jesus, and
Spirit, but go forth and celebrate this truly new Good News:

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
Because Christ lives, new possibilities are ever before us!

Leader: We will speak for life and justice, hope and courage, in these trying
days.

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
Because Christ lives, we live!

Leader: While the church buildings may be closed this Easter morning,

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
The Church is alive, just as Christ is alive!

Leader: Christ is Risen Indeed!

People: *Said out loud, wherever you may be.*
Alleluia and amen!

Postlude

“Hallelujah Chorus” – G.F. Handel

“Christ the Lord Has Risen Today”

Jeff Jordan

Leading in Worship

Rev. Alyssa Lodewick - Pastor

Paul Schnell - Director of Music, Organist

Mitchell and Matthew Rosengarten & Kristen and Robert Crean - Scripture Readers

Woodfords Chancel Choir

Jeff Jordan, Trumpet

Woodfords Easter Brass and Percussion Players:

Meg Hausman, Trombone

Mark Mumma, Tuba

Yvonne Mumma, French Horn

Catriona Shepherd, Trumpet

Nancy Smith, Tympani

Don Strickland, Trumpet

Music Notes: Beckenhorst Press, "He Is Not Here," composed by Russell Nagy. All music recorded at Woodfords Church in 2017 and 2018. Music and text used with permission. OneLicense.net – GIA #A724346. CCLI # 11021967.

Worship Notes: **Alleluia! in All the Places of our Lives! Service Prayers for Easter Day** was written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dilley, Minister and Team Leader for MESA (Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization), UCC. She and the rest of the national staff are praying for all our congregations this Easter season. Copyright 2020 Justice and Local Church Ministries, Faith INFO Ministry Team, United Church of Christ, 700 Prospect Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44115-1100. Permission granted to reproduce or adapt this material for use in services of worship or church education. All publishing rights reserved.



Christ the Lord is Risen Today

C. Wesley/Lyra Davidica 1708

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens and earth reply, Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened Paradise. Alleluia

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!