



Everyone is welcome here

UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BINGHAMTON

ACT JUSTLY • PRACTICE KINDNESS • WALK HUMBLY WITH GOD



Sunday, April 20, 2025 • 10:00am

Resurrection Sunday

▶ Our worship service is livestreaming on our YouTube Channel: [upcbgm.org/youtube](https://www.upcbgm.org/youtube)

Join via phone call on Zoom: (+1) 646-558-8656, Meeting ID 865 274 8433

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Welcome to the Celebration!

April 20, 2025 • 10:00am

Perplexity and terror, confusion, disbelief, and finally confidence in their Risen Lord came when he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. In a world where grief and loss seem to rule the day, hope beckons when we gather together to hear and understand the promise that believers have told since that first Easter day: Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again.

We Gather as a Community of Faith

OPENING BELL *The bell tolls to center our hearts and minds for worship.*

GATHERING MUSIC “Alleluia! Christ Is Risen”

UPC Choir

Alleluia, alleluia! Christ, the Lord, is risen, Christ is risen from the dead.
Christ, the Lord, is risen from the dead. Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

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WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (*responsive*)

Luke 24:1–12, CEB

One: ¹Very early in the morning on the first day of the week, the women went to the tomb, bringing the fragrant spices they had prepared.

All: ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.

One: ⁴They didn't know what to make of this.

All: Suddenly, two men were standing beside them in gleaming bright clothing.

One: ⁵The women were frightened and bowed their faces toward the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? ⁶He isn't here, but has been raised.

All: “Remember what he told you while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Human One must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” ⁸Then they remembered his words.

One: ⁹When they returned from the tomb, they reported all these things to the eleven and all the others.

All: ¹⁰It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles.

One: ¹¹Their words struck the apostles as nonsense, and they didn't believe the women.

All: ¹²But Peter ran to the tomb. When he bent over to look inside, he saw only the linen cloth. Then he returned home, wondering what had happened.

* = *Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*SONG OF GATHERING "The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done"

Refrain (before verse 1 and after verse 4)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done,
 2 The powers of death have done their worst,
 3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped,
 4 He broke the age - bound chains of hell,

now is the vic - tor's tri - umph won; O let the
 and Je - sus has his foes dis - persed: let shouts of
 Christ ris - es glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry
 the bars from heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of

to Refrain after verse 4

song of praise be sung. Al - le - lu - ia!
 ho - ly joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!
 to our ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise his tri - umph tell. Al - le - lu - ia!

Words: Latin, 17th c.; trans. Francis Pott. Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (VICTORY); arr. William H. Monk. Public Domain.

We Gather at the Lord's Table, Where All Are Welcome

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

adapted from a prayer by Jonny Baker

This is a table of new expectations.
This is a table where everyone can come to receive.
This is a table where the host is often in the dependent position.
This is a table where we are reconciled.
This is a table where uncomfortable things happen.
This is a table that was the natural place to be.
This is a table that was the place to meet people.
This is a table where strength is restored.
This is a table where there is safety and acceptance.
This is a table that welcomes, invites, provides, unites.
This is the table of the Lord.

THE WORDS OF REMEMBERING

We remember the stories that Jesus's friends tell,
stories of bread broken and shared, feeding a multitude,
stories of being gathered together, enemy and friend, around tables,
stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

They say that
it was on a night of both celebration and betrayal
that he took the bread leftover on the table,
blessed it and broke it;
reminding them that it is
in the breaking that we become whole,
in losing our lives that we find them,
in serving that we are served.
As the grain scattered becomes one in the loaf,
when we eat this bread, we become one with one another.

They say that then he took the cup, also leftover on the table,
poured out and sharing,
remembering with them, the life-giving breath
even now pounding a rhythm through our veins,
the breath of life from whence we come,
the breath that precedes and follows all that we can see.
As the grapes find life in the vine,
when we drink this cup,
we become at one with the source of life itself.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION (*together*)

And so we pray:

Come, holy Spirit, come.

Bless this bread and bless this cup.

Bless all of us in our eating and drinking

that our eyes might be open,

that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst,

indeed in one another.

Come, holy Spirit, come.

For we pray in the words of our ancestors

that we claim as our own ...

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*together*)

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!

SHARING OF THE ELEMENTS (*responsive*)

If your elements of Communion are with you at home, rest your hands lightly upon them. If you are here in person and they are in the front of the sanctuary, open your hands to be sacramental, filled with the power to change your heart and the world. We ask God's grace on us and on all those who are in our prayers this morning, and God's blessing on our elements and our hands.

One: As we gather from many places,

let us receive the gift of God, the bread of heaven.

All: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

One: Let us, with our many needs and many blessings,

receive the gift of God, the cup of blessing.

All: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Aimée Backus, *flute*; Rebecca Mebert, *piano*

"In the Darkness of the Morning" (KAS DZIEDAJA, Latvian melody; harm. Geoffrey Laycock, © 1995 GIA Publications)

"Hymn of Promise" (PROMISE by Natalie Sleeth, © 1986 Hope Publishing Company)

"Celebrate with Joy and Singing" (EVELYN CHAPEL by R. Bedford Watkins, © 1990)

"Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil" (by John L. Bell, © 1997 WGRG The Iona Community [admin. GIA Publications, Inc.])

"Now the Green Blade Rises" (NOËL NOUVELET, French carol, 15th c.; harm. Martin Shaw)

"That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright" (PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, Trier ms., 15th c.; adapt. Michael Praetorius; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward)

"Alleluia No. 1" (by Donald Fishel, © 1973 The Word of God Music [admin. The Copyright Company])

PRAYER AFTER THE MEAL (*together*)

**Generous God,
through your Son, Jesus Christ,
you have shown us what it means to love.
And you call us to follow your example —
to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.**

**Continue to write your law of love on our hearts.
Give us an unwavering passion for justice,
and a tenacious faith that will not rest
until the hungry are fed,
the oppressed find relief,
and the outsider finds a welcome. Amen!**

We Tell and Hear the Word

FOCUS LESSON *Luke 24:13–35, CEB*

¹³ On that same day, two disciples were traveling to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴ They were talking to each other about everything that had happened.

¹⁵ While they were discussing these things, Jesus himself arrived and joined them on their journey. ¹⁶ They were prevented from recognizing him.

¹⁷ He said to them, “What are you talking about as you walk along?” They stopped, their faces downcast.

¹⁸ The one named Cleopas replied, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who is unaware of the things that have taken place there over the last few days?”

¹⁹ He said to them, “What things?”

They said to him, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth. Because of his powerful deeds and words, he was recognized by God and all the people as a prophet. ²⁰ But our chief priests and our leaders handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him. ²¹ We had hoped he was the one who would redeem Israel. All these things happened three days ago. ²² But there’s more: Some women from our group have left us stunned. They went to the tomb early this morning ²³ and didn’t find his body. They came to us saying that they had even seen a vision of angels who told them he is alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women said. They didn’t see him.”

²⁵ Then Jesus said to them, “You foolish people! Your dull minds keep you from believing all that the prophets talked about. ²⁶ Wasn’t it necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then he interpreted for them the things written about himself in all the scriptures, starting with Moses and going through all the Prophets.

²⁸ When they came to Emmaus, he acted as if he was going on ahead. ²⁹ But they urged him, saying, “Stay with us. It’s nearly evening, and the day is almost over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ After he took his seat at the table with them, he took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Weren’t our hearts on fire when he spoke to us along the road and when he explained the scriptures for us?”

³³ They got up right then and returned to Jerusalem. They found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying to each other, “The Lord really has risen! He appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then the two disciples described what had happened along the road and how Jesus was made known to them as he broke the bread.

REFLECTIONS “Recognizing Resurrection”

Rev. Kimberly P Chastain

We Respond to the Word

*SONG OF RESPONSE “Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks” (see page 8)

WE SAY WHAT WE BELIEVE (*together*)

from “A Song of Faith”, United Church of Canada, 2006

**The Risen Christ lives today,
present to us and the source of our hope.
In response to who Jesus was
and to all he did and taught,
to his life, death, and resurrection,
and to his continuing presence with us through the Spirit,
we celebrate him as
the Word made flesh,
the one in whom God and humanity are perfectly joined,
the transformation of our lives,
the Christ.
Alleluia! Amen!**

WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

You are invited to support the ministry of this congregation through online giving at upcbgm.org/give, or by sending a check to the church office or putting an offering in the plates by the door.



MUSICAL OFFERING “My Joyous Praise”

United Ringers handbell choir

Music: Howard F. Starks. © 1982 Singspiration (a div. of The Zondervan Corporation). All rights reserved.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*together*)

**Loving God,
we come to you in thanksgiving,
knowing that all we are and all we have
is a gift from you.
In faith and love, help us to do your will.**

**We offer to you this day all the facets of our lives,
whether it be at home, at work, or at school —
to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy.**

(continued on page 9)

Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks

Refrain (Unison)

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give thanks to the ris-en Lord, Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give praise to his name!

Harmony

1 Je - sus is Lord of all the earth.
 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth;
 3 We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ.
 4 Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

He is the King of cre - a - tion.
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en.
 Now we shall live for - ev - er.
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - ior.

Words and Music: Donald Fishel (ALLELUIA NO. 1), © 1973 The Word of God Music (admin. The Copyright Company). All rights reserved.

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**Give us the wisdom and insight
to understand your will for us
and the energy to carry out our good intentions.**

**We offer our gifts of time, talent, and possessions to you
as a true act of faith,
to reflect our love for you and our neighbor.**

**Help us to reach out to others
as you our God have reached out to us.
Amen!**

We Go Forth in Gratitude to Serve

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

***SONG OF SENDING** “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” (see pages 10–11)

BLESSING

As Christ burst forth from the tomb,
may new life burst forth from us
and show itself in acts of love and healing to a hurting world.
And may the same Christ,
who lives forever and is the source of our new life,
keep your hearts rejoicing
and grant you peace this day and always. Amen.

SHARING OF CHRIST’S PEACE

One: And may the peace that passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God’s son, Jesus Christ, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and abide with you today and always.

Peace be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please exchange a greeting of peace with those around you as our worship concludes.)

SENDING MUSIC “Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven” Rebecca Mebert, *organ*; Aimée Backus, *flute*;
Sara Lieberman, *trumpet*; Nathan Raboy, *trombone*; Austin Shadduck, Phil Westcott, *saxophones*

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven (HYMN TO JOY); adapt. Edward Hodges. Public Domain.

After the service, everyone is invited to join us in the lobby for a time of fellowship and refreshments.

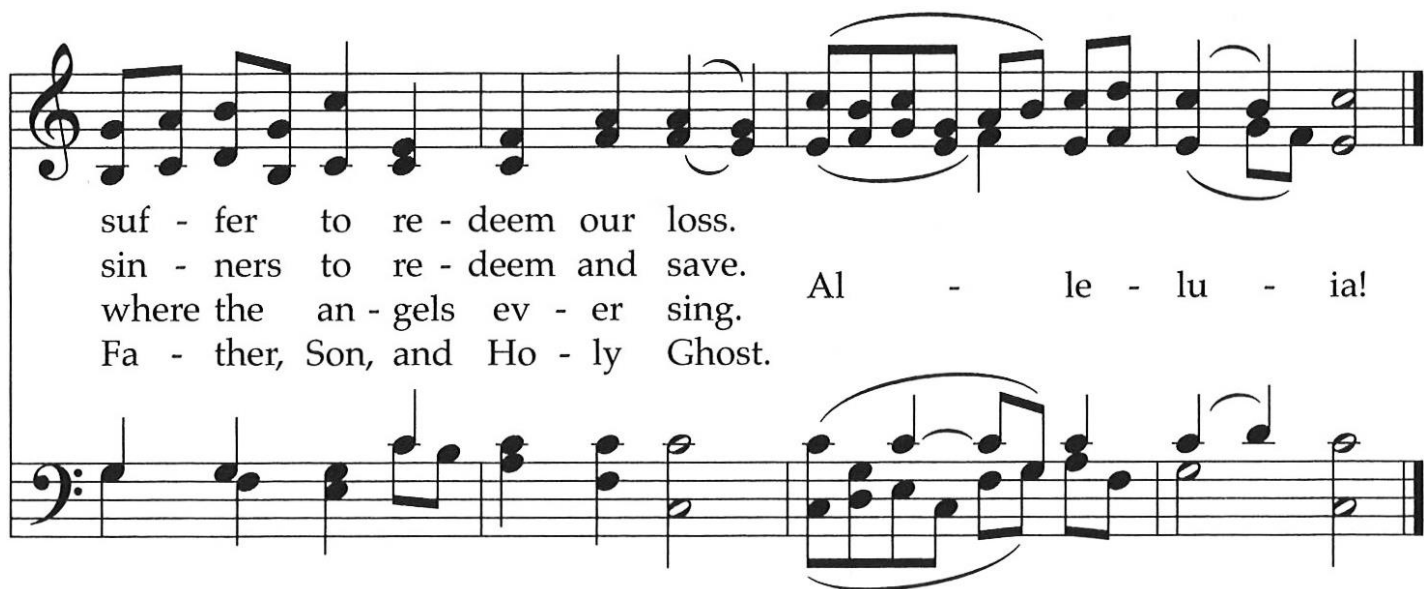
232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
 praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise our God, ye heaven - ly host,

Words: Stanzas 1-3, *Lyrica Davidica*, 1708; stanza 4, Charles Wesley. Music: EASTER HYMN, *Lyrica Davidica*, 1708; adapt. from *The Compleat Psalmist*, 1749. Public Domain.



The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The lyrics are written between the two staves. The music is in a common time signature and features a melody in the treble staff and a bass line in the bass staff. The lyrics are: "suf - fer to re - deem our loss. sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia! where the an - gels ev - er sing. Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost." The word "Al - le - lu - ia!" is written with a long dash between "Al" and "le", and another long dash between "lu" and "ia".

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
where the an - gels ev - er sing.
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



Gathering at the Lord's Table — Our Communion Elements:

We are celebrating communion during today's worship service. Our communion bread is gluten-free, and our shared cup is cherry juice, so that all may partake of the same elements during our communion. Please speak to one of the technicians at the back of the sanctuary if this creates any difficulties for you.

Children in Worship: "Let the little children come to me..." —Matthew 19:14

We are glad that your children are here today, and we hope that you know that they are welcome and encouraged to be in worship with you. We truly believe that a community of faith is made up of people of ALL ages. There is a PrayGround space with coloring sheets and quiet toys in the front of the sanctuary to use there or can be taken to another pew, if that suits your family's needs. Sunday school materials are mailed to our families once a month to do together at home.



There is also a nursery space at the end of the hall at the front of the sanctuary that is open for use with a parent or guardian. It has a changing table, a rocking chair, and some toys appropriate for age two and under. There is a speaker in the room so you can listen to the service. Please let us know if you have questions.

Easter Egg Hunt: After worship, children and youth are invited to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn. Young children are asked to please bring a parent or guardian to help supervise.



COVER IMAGE: Daniel Bonnell, "The Road to Emmaus", 2011. Oil on canvas.

PRAYER CREDITS: **Invitation to Communion** adapted from a prayer by Jonny Baker, posted on re:Worship re-worship.blogspot.com.
We Say What We Believe from "A Song of Faith: A Statement of Faith of The United Church of Canada," © 2006.

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Pastors Rev. Kimberly P Chastain and Rev. Becky Kindig ~ **Reader** Sharon Landon

Musicians Aimée Backus, *Music Coordinator*; Rebecca Mebert, *accompanist*;

Austin Shadduck, *United Ringers director*; Andrea Gilebarto, Sara Lieberman, Starletta Noll-Long, Nathan Raboy, Phil Westcott, the United Ringers handbell choir, and the UPC choir

Technicians Andy Chadwick, Matt Johnson, Scott Kindig, Shawn Landon, Ken Mebert