RESPONDING TO THE SPIRIT'S PROMPTINGS

INVITATION TO OFFERING:

Mighty God of Resurrection Power: You offer us life that overcomes death, light that overcomes darkness, hope that overcomes our deepest despair! What could we possibly offer in return? Our tithes and gifts, yes; but our minds, hearts, and bodies, as well. May our minds be about understanding who you are and who you long for us to be in this world. May our hearts overflow with your love and compassion for the poor, the oppressed, and the forgotten. May our bodies carry us out of the tombs of isolation to engage our neighbors as sisters and brothers. May the "Alleluias!" we offer leave this place with us to bring hope to everyone we meet! In the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

OFFERTORY:	"Celebrate the Day"	P. Choplin
*DOXOLOGY:		UMH# 94

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

God of great gifts, this morning we give you praise, we give you glory, we give you thanks! With resurrection humming in our hearts, our minds are tuned to your song of peace! We joyfully present these gifts to you, a tangible chorus of thanksgiving, a harmony of hope for your kingdom come! Amen.

*HYMN:	"Lift High the Cross"	
	(Raise your flower in triumph during the last verse of this hymn.)	

BENEDICTION

***HALLELUJIAH CHORUS:**

G. F. Handel

UMH# 159

(Everyone is welcome to join in the singing of the "Hallelujah Chorus." You may come forward during this hymn to stand with the choir in the chancel area. Upon leaving the sanctuary, please return the music by placing them in the special designated baskets by the exits. Thank you.)

POSTLUDE:

"Easter Carillon"

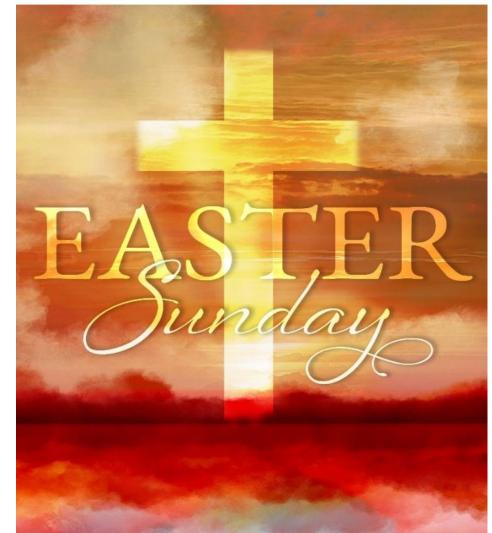
R. Powell

Acolvtes: Adeline & Anja Berke, Mason Hedeen Altar Guild: Chad & Phyllis Thompson **Carillonneur:** Thomas St. Marie Dance Movement Choir Director: Amelia Hays-Rivest Instrumentalists: Kevin Barker, timpani; Vincent Cassotta, trumpet; Mike Ferrigno, trombone; Dan Hendrix, trombone; Patrick Lennon, trumpet. There is no Coffee Hour on Easter Sunday due to the Easter Breakfast. Liturgist: Nate Olin Ushers: Head Usher, Sheila Womble; Margo Sweetland, Lisa Foster, Wendy Regan

Trinity United Methodist Church 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA 01108

A Reconciling Congregation

www.trinityspringfield.org Minister. Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Michael Carney Director of Family Ministries & Connections, Rob Powell Spiritual Director, Cathy MacGovern District Superintendent, Rev. Megan Stowe Bishop, Peggy A. Johnson



EASTER SUNDAY

10:30 A.M.

arr. S. Tucker

MEDITATION

"The future story of the Resurrection begins in this life, as a seed planted in the ground. The new life begins now, right here in the midst of this changing and transient world." –John LaFarge

GATHERING IN THE SPIRIT TO WORSHIP

* Those who are able are invited to stand.

We are invited to observe silence during the prelude. Please turn off cell phones. If you have a prayer request, please write it on a "Prayer Card" found in the card rack, and place it in the offering plate.All prayer requests will be lifted up during the Wednesday morning prayer meeting at 9:30 a.m..

PRELUDE:

"Risen Today!" Trinity Handbell Choir

AN OFFERING OF MOVEMENT AND DANCE Trinity Dance/Movement Choir

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Visitors & members please sign in and date the red folder & pass it on. Please remember late comers.)

INTROIT: "This Is the Day That the Lord Has Made" Choristers, Chamberettes and Jubilee Singers

***CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: Hushed footsteps and subdued voices approach the tomb with ointment and spices for the dead, approach with caution and dread.

Many: Christ is Alive! His tomb is empty!

One: Joy is unbound, only the signs of death remain, the wrappings and trappings of darkness and fear. Where have they taken the body?

Many: There is no corpse. Christ is alive! Death could not hold him!

One: Christ is unbound, and going before us to Galilee and our town, walking on our streets and hiking on our paths.

Many: He's not far off and remote, but near at hand in our lives.

One: Walk and run, whisper and shout, tell the Good News to all. Christ is alive! Many: Christ is alive! Let us rejoice!

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" (vv. 1-4) UMH# 302

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Redeeming God, you bring life out of dead ends and hope in the midst of despair. Forgive us for doubting that you are still at work even in the darkest hour, even in the most painful moments. Forgive us for our hesitant action, our cautious compassion, our too-frequent reluctance. Redeeming God, teach us a stillness that leads to acts of kindness and clarity of vision. Shape in us a trust that leads to faithful witness and bold compassion. Form us in your love that loosens our worry and eases our anger. Make us true disciples—filled with love, acting with justice, and living out hope. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

The One who created you is the One who loves you and redeems you. God desires life and not death. In the name of Jesus the Christ you are forgiven and granted life in God. **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC:	"Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"	W. Wold
	Choristers and Chamberettes	

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

LISTENING FOR THE SPIRIT'S WORD TO US

CHILDREN'S MOMENT:

Rob Powell

UMH#318

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE

THE SCRIPTURE READING:	John 20: 1-18 (NRSV)	N.T. p. 108

RESPONSE TO THE WORD:

One: This is the word of God, for the People of God. Many: Thanks be to God!

***HYMN:** "Christ Is Alive" (No Bible Story Time or Chapel Kids on Easter Sunday.)

SERMON: "A Day of New Beginnings" Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun

April 9, 2023