

The image features three white lilies with prominent yellow and red stamens, set against a dark blue, textured background. The lilies are arranged in a cluster, with one at the top right and two below it. The overall mood is serene and celebratory.

Easter Joy

*Because I live,
you will live also.*

JOHN 14:19 (NKJV)

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Easter Sunday
April 17, 2022

*We welcome people as they are,
share Jesus as He is, and serve
our community and the world in love.*



Transitional Ministers: *Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case (Pastor Emeritus)*
and *Reverend Eugene Bacon*

Organist & Choir Director: *Kat Tomaszewski*

Office Administrator: *Judy Suszek*

Treasurer: *Denise Fusina*

Custodian: *Mike LaMarre*

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201 South Second Avenue • Alpena, Michigan 49707

Welcome, All Worshipers

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey,
you are welcome here.

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." ~John 1:5

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(\* indicates when those who are able will stand  
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Prelude

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LYNN BORKE, LAY READER

CENTERING SONG – ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! GIVE THANKS TO THE RISEN LORD

Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the risen Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia! Give praise to his name.

(sing through twice)

*OPENING HYMN: #233 – CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY ALL VERSES

*Easter Acclamation

Pastor: Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

*Call to Worship

Leader: Rejoice, Heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels!

All: Jesus Christ, our light, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Leader: Christ the Lord is Risen today!

All: Christ the Lord is Risen today!

Leader: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your Sovereign! Christ has conquered! Glory fills us! Night vanishes forever!

All: Rejoice, O servant church! Exalt in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

*Opening Prayer

All: We rejoice mighty God, that you have raised Jesus Christ from the dead. We praise you and glorify your name. New life blossoms where dead hopes were buried. Today the world is made new. Be known among us in the resurrection power; through Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. Amen.

***Easter Song of Praise #236 -- Halleluja**

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 24:1-12, 23, ACTS 9:1-5

ANTHEM: GLORY TO GOD, HOSANNA IN THE HIGHEST

CHOIR

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CONFESSION OF SIN

LEADER: EASTER MORNING TAKES US BY SURPRISE, AWAKENING US TO THE DOUBT AND DESPAIR THAT HAVE BEEN ROOTED IN OUR LIVES. LET US NOW CONFESS TO GOD. IF AT TIMES, WE DENY YOU:

ALL: GOD FORGIVE.

LEADER: IF AT TIMES, WHEN THE RISKS OF DISCIPLESHIP ARE HIGH, WE ARE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND:

ALL: GOD FORGIVE.

LEADER: IF AT TIMES, WE WASH OUR HANDS OF RESPONSIBILITY:

ALL: GOD FORGIVE.

LEADER: IF AT TIMES, WE CAST OUR LOT WITH POWERFUL OPPRESSORS AND SEEK TO BUY FREEDOM WITH SILVER:

ALL: GOD FORGIVE.

LEADER: IF AT TIMES, FEAR KEEPS US FROM WITNESSING TO YOUR TRUTH, OR PREJUDICE KEEPS US FROM BELIEVING IT:

ALL: GOD FORGIVE. IN THE BRIGHT LIGHT OF EASTER MORNING, OUR SIN IS EXPOSED, BUT YOUR GRACE IS REVEALED. TENDER GOD, WE ARE BOLD TO COME BEFORE YOU AND ASK YOU TO FORGIVE US. HELP US TO LEAVE BEHIND OUR FOOLISH DOUBT SO THAT WITH JOY WE MAY WITNESS TO YOUR AWESOME DEEDS IN JESUS, THE RISEN ONE.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LEADER: HEAR THE GOOD NEWS: IN RAISING JESUS FROM THE DEAD, GOD HAS BROUGHT LIFE AND IMMORTALITY TO LIGHT. AND HEAR THE GOOD NEWS: BY GOD'S GREAT MERCY, WE HAVE BEEN BORN ANEW TO A LIVING HOPE THROUGH THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST FROM THE DEAD. IN THE NAME OF JESUS, I SAY TO YOU: YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN. ALL THINGS ARE MADE NEW. DOUBT NO MORE; CHRIST IS WITH US ALWAYS. ALLELUIA! AMEN!

CHILDREN'S SERMON

***HYMN: #245 – THE DAY OF RESURRECTION ALL VERSES**

SERMON: DARKNESS TO LIGHT

REV. ROBERT CASE

***RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL VOWS**

PASTOR: LET US REAFFIRM OUR BAPTISMAL VOWS. DO YOU REAFFIRM YOUR RENUNCIATION OF EVIL AND RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT TO JESUS CHRIST?

ALL: WE DO WITH THE HELP OF GOD. HOLY AND GRACIOUS GOD, WE THANK YOU FOR UNITING US BY BAPTISM IN THE BODY OF CHRIST. GRANT IN THE DAYS AHEAD OUR LIPS THAT HAVE SUNG YOUR PRAISES MAY SPEAK THE TRUTH, OUR EYES WHICH HAVE SEEN YOUR LOVE MAY LOOK WITH COMPASSION ON THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD. MAY THE SPIRIT OF THE RISEN CHRIST RENEW AND REFRESH US, ENRICH US, STRENGTHEN US, AND FILL US WITH LOVE AND FORGIVENESS.

PASTOR: WILL YOU CONTINUE IN THE APOSTLE'S TEACHING AND COMMUNITY MADE IN THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND IN PRAYER?

ALL: WE WILL WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

PASTOR: WILL YOU STRIVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE AMONG ALL PEOPLE, RESPECTING THE DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING?

ALL: WE WILL WITH THE HELP OF GOD.

PASTOR: ETERNAL GOD, YOU HAVE COME TO US IN JESUS CHRIST, GIVEN US A NEW BIRTH BY WATER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND FORGIVEN ALL OUR SINS. BLESS US NOW WITH THE GRACE WE NEED TO FULFILL WHAT WE HAVE PROMISED.

ALL: KEEP US FAITHFUL TO OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST, FOR EVER AND EVER. AMEN.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER

***CLOSING HYMN: #240 – JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY ALL VERSES**

***BENEDICTION**

All: Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who make the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind.

Minister: And the blessing God who made us, who loves us, and who travels with us, be with you now and forever. Amen.

***UNISON RESPONSE: And God will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of God's hand. Amen.**

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Postlude

OUR APPRECIATION IS EXTENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP MINISTRY

Lay Reader: **Lynn Borke**
Altar Guild: **Sandy Jarmuzewski**
Ushers: **Ashley Wedge and Nancy Wedge**

Live Stream Operators: **Jay Kettler**
and **Lynn Borke**
Fellowship Hosts: **Gary & Sandy**
Jarmazewski and Sid Hausding

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	April 17	6:30 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service & Breakfast
		10:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship Service
Monday	April 18	9:00 a.m.	Office Closed
		5:30 p.m.	Board of Directors Meeting
Tuesday	April 19	5:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
Wednesday	April 20	1:15 p.m.	Mysticism Class
Thursday	April 21	7:00 p.m.	Welcoming Committee Mtg. (virtual)

Announcements:

- ❖ *Feed A Family program listing for Salvation Army food pantry needs:* Hamburger and hotdog buns, Sloppy Joe mix, Hamburger/Tuna/Chicken Helper packs, Pasta & Sides and Rice & Sides, individual packages of peanut butter & crackers, cheese & crackers, cookies or pretzels, or Doritos. (Dollar Tree sells these in packages of 6. They are great for families with children!) Thanks for supporting our Feed A Family program! -- Missions Committee
- ❖ The Welcoming Committee will meet at 7:00pm Thursday, April 21. The meeting is via Zoom, and all are welcome to attend. To join us just click the "Join Fellowship Hour Here" button on our church webpage. We continue to share ideas for our church's exploration as a welcoming church.

A unisex handicap-accessible restroom is located through the doors to your left as you exit the sanctuary. A ladies' room is near the Lockwood Street entrance. A men's room is in the middle hallway.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!
Mor-tal tongues and an-gels say: Al-le-lu-ia!
Raise your joys and tri-umphs high, Al-le-lu-ia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth re-ply: Al-le-lu-ia!

2. Let the Vic-tor's peo-ple sing, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al-le-lu-ia!
Dy-ing once, Christ lives to save, Al-le-lu-ia!
Where your vic-to-ry, O grave? Al-le-lu-ia!

3. Love's re-deem-ing work is done, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fought the fight, the bat-tle won, Al-le-lu-ia!
Death in vain for-bids Christ rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
God has o-pened par-a-dise, Al-le-lu-ia!

4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!
Fol-lowing our ex-alt-ed Head, Al-le-lu-ia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al-le-lu-ia!

Matt. 28:5–8; 1 Cor. 15:20–22; 54–57

Halleluja

236

Traditional

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-ja.

Hal-le-lu-ja, hal-le-lu-ja.

I Come to the Garden Alone

237

(In the Garden)

C. Austin Miles, 1912

1. I come to the gar-den a-lone,
while the dew is still on the ros-es;
And the voice I hear, fall-ing on my ear,
the Son of God dis-clos-es.

Refrain:

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own,
And the joy we share as we tar-ry there,
none oth-er has ev-er known.

2. He speaks, and the sound of his voice
is so sweet the birds hush their sing-ing;
And the mel-o-dy that he gave to me
with-in my heart is ring-ing.

Refrain:

The Day of Resurrection

John of Damascus, 8th century

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.

1. The day of res-ur-rec-tion! Earth, tell it out a-broad;
the Pass-o-ver of glad-ness, the Pass-o-ver of God.
From death to life e-ter-nal, from earth un-to the sky,
our Christ has brought us o-ver with hymns of vic-to-ry.

2. Our hearts be pure from e-vil, that we may see a-right
the Christ who reigns e-ter-nal in res-ur-rec-tion light;
We lis-ten for the teach-ings once heard so calm and plain,
for we, too, want to fol-low and raise the vic-tor strain.

3. Now let the heavens be joy-ful, let earth its song be-gin,
the whole world keep high tri-umph, and all that is there-in;
Let all things seen and un-seen their notes of glad-ness blend,
for Christ a-gain has ris-en, our joy that has no end.

Mark 16:1–6

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

St. 1 transl., *Lyra Davidica*, London, 1708

St. 2–5 transl., *The New Century Hymnal*, 1994

1. Je-sus Christ is risen to-day, Al-le-lu-ia!
Our tri-um-phant ho-ly day, Al-le-lu-ia!
Who did once up-on the cross, Al-le-lu-ia!
Suf-fer to re-deem our loss, Al-le-lu-ia!
2. To the tomb the wom-en bring, Al-le-lu-ia!
Spic-es rich, an of-fer-ing, Al-le-lu-ia!
Ask-ing where might Je-sus be, Al-le-lu-ia!
Sav-ior come to set us free, Al-le-lu-ia!
3. There the an-gel clothed in white, Al-le-lu-ia!
Tells the news with great de-light, Al-le-lu-ia!
This the news the an-gel gives, Al-le-lu-ia!
That the Sov-ereign glo-rious lives, Al-le-lu-ia!
4. “Has-ten now to Gal-i-lee,” Al-le-lu-ia!
“Tell the oth-ers what you see!” Al-le-lu-ia!
With ex-cite-ment trem-bling, Al-le-lu-ia!
Off they run, good news to bring, Al-le-lu-ia!
5. Christ ap-pears in full ar-ray, Al-le-lu-ia!
Sing with joy this Pas-chal day, Al-le-lu-ia!
Christ now from the dead is raised, Al-le-lu-ia!
Ho-ly Trin-i-ty be praised, Al-le-lu-ia!

Matt. 28:1–10; Mark 16:1–8; Luke 24:1–10

Scripture Readings

Luke 24:1-12, 23

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ²They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³but when they went in, they did not find the body. ⁴While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. ⁶Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." ⁸Then they remembered his words, ⁹and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. ¹²But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. ²³and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive.

Acts 9:1-5

9 Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest ²and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. ³Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" ⁵He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting."



The Easter Flowers

For this morning's service are dedicated by:

*Dennis and Jan Artley
in honor of all our family*

≈≈≈

*Rev. Gene and Karen Bacon
in memory of Karen's mother, Doris Mull Beday*

≈≈≈


*Joe and Kay Beland
In honor of our family*

≈≈≈

*Deborah Butler
in honor of my parents, Alton and Mae Bennett*

≈≈≈

*Jeff and Ann Gerow
in honor of our children and their families
and in memory of our mothers,
Joyce Galla and Charlene Gerow*





Anonymous in memory of David Rusfeldt



Anonymous in memory of Ted Sherwood



*Lois Gibbs and Dan Kibbe
in honor of our family*



*The Gordon Nethercut family
in loving memory of Gordon Nethercut*



*Joy and Dave Shoemaker
in memory of Barb and Chuck Frederick*



*Bonnie Watkins
in loving memory of her husband, Tom Watkins*



*Becky Wells
In loving memory of her husband, Jim Wells*

