



He is Risen!

Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025



Wilbraham United Church

*A Congregation of the United Church of Christ
and the United Methodist Church*

500 Main Street

Wilbraham MA 01095

Phone: (413)596-2511

www.wilbrahamunitedchurch.org

Facebook.com/WilbrahamUnitedChurch

April 20, 2025

EASTER SUNDAY

10:00AM

We ask that everyone wear nametags so that we can be welcoming to all. There are listening devices available for those that may need them. An usher will be happy to assist you. Following the service, everyone is invited to enjoy a cup of coffee on the Front Lawn as the children partake in the Easter Egg Hunt. Please make a left out of our sanctuary, down the hall, and out the front door. For those who are not able to use the stairs, coffee can also be available in the Zeckhausen Room.

**All who are able to stand, may do so.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Piano: Nocturno (Richard Cuoco, French Horn)

F. Strauss

Bells: Festivity on Llanfair

arr. K. Meyer

WELCOMING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

WELCOME

***GATHERING HYMN #302** (UMH) verses 1,2,3,5

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

CALL TO WORSHIP

Marty Lyman

Liturgist: Christ has risen!

People: Christ has risen indeed!

Liturgist: Let us share the joy of the Easter promise, for Jesus Christ has made us glad. The Lord has done great things for us and today all things are made new.

People: Our sins have been forgiven, our hope has been revealed. The Lord's love endures for always and we are the blessed recipients.

All: Thanks be to God

UNISON PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Eternal God, We give you thanks for this wonderful Easter day. We thank you, that by your great love you have opened the door to everlasting life. Help us to be worthy to receive this great gift given to us by the sacrifice of your son Jesus, who has taken away the sting of death. Free us from despair and let us embrace the Good News who has made all things new. Amen

***SONG OF PRAISE # 2284 (FWS)**

*There'll be joy in the morning on that day,
There'll be joy in the morning on that day,
For the daylight will dawn when the darkness is gone,
There'll be joy in the morning on that day.*

***SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL MOMENT

Amigos de Christo
Junior Choir

J. Ylvisaker

MOMENT FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 65: 17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating, for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days or an old person who does not live out a lifetime, for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat, for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well.

Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys and Concerns

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.

Sung Response # 186 (UMH)

*Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia*

GOSPEL READING

John 20: 1-18

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. 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.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

One: This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

SERMON

He Has Risen!

Rev. Janet

***HYMN #315 (UMH) verses 1,2,3,5**

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS AND OURSELVES

Invitation to Give

Offertory

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

arr. C. Curry

Chancel Choir with Richard Cuoco, trumpet

John Colkos, drums

The congregation is invited to join the choir during the anthem. The choir will indicate the appropriate time to join in!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!

Our salvation have procured, Alleluia!

Now above the skies he's king, Alleluia!

Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

***Doxology #94 (UMH)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise God the source of all our gifts. Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

***Prayer of Dedication**

***PARTING HYMN #306 (UMH)**

The Strife Is O'er, the Battle Done

***FOLLOWING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD**

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ## 665 (UMH)**

*Go now in peace, go now in peace,
May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.*

MUSIC FOR SENDING FORTH

Piano and Trumpet: Easter Alleluia Medley

Welcome Visitors! *Is this your first visit to United Church? If you wish to be contacted by a member of the church or our pastor, please leave your contact information with one of the ushers or place a visitor card in the collection plate. We invite you to join us in our time of Fellowship after the service. Our ushers or a member of the ministry team will be happy to accompany you and help you find your way!*

*UMH – The “red” United Methodist Hymnal
TFWS – The “small black” book Faith We Sing Hymnal*

MINISTERING TO YOU TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Janet Sandquist-Skagerlind

Music Director: Roberta Morkin

Technical and Artistic Director: Deb Trimble

Ushers: John Colkos and Matt Capen

Liturgist: Marty Lyman

Greeter: Sandy Harris

Guest Musician: Richard Cuoco



Please Pray For: Susan Pereira, Catherine Tucker, Connie Law, Shey McAbee, Michelle McBride, Sharon McAbee, Jim Trimble, Bill McCullough, Catherine Gardner, Larry Harris, David Pierangelo, The victims of violence and their families in our country. Our troops, our country and our world.

*If you are in need of Pastoral Care, please contact Rev. Janet or the Church Office.
After office hours, Rev. Janet can be reached at (978)350-3463.*

Wilbraham United Church Staff

Rev. Janet Sandquist- Skagerlind: Pastor (pastor@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x 103

Deb Trimble: Administrator (admin@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x100

Bobbie Morkin: Music Director (musicdirector@wilbrahamunitedchurch.org) (413)596-2511 x106

“News for the Pews” for the Week of April 20, 2025

The children are invited to meet in the Zeckhausen Room following the service to prepare for the Egg Hunt, which will take place on our front lawn.



Repair the Roof

Be a Shingle Sponsor!

Sponsorship is \$50 and will include your name on our Repair the Roof Dedication List proudly displayed in our church!

Donations are tax-deductible!

Wilbraham United Church
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Wilbraham, MA 01095
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This Week at Wilbraham United Church

Sunday, April 20, 2025

Easter

10:00 a.m. –Worship

11:15 a.m. – Egg Hunt

**11:15 a.m. – Fellowship Time
(outside/ZR)**

5:00 p.m. – Al-Anon (YR)

Monday, April 21, 2025

Church Office closed

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 2:30

**8:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast
Group**

**11:30 a.m. – Women's
Fellowship (ZR)**

2:00 p.m. – Bible Study (ZR)

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Church Office 10:30 – 2:30

11:00 a.m. – Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m. – Praise Band (Sanc)

Thursday, April 24, 2025

Church Office 8:30 – 1:30

6:30 p.m. – Al Anon (YR)

Friday, April 25, 2025

Church Office closed

Saturday, April 26, 2025

Church Office closed

1:00 p.m. - WUP(FH)

Sunday, April 27, 2025

10:00 a.m. –Worship

**11:15 a.m. – Fellowship Time
(FH)**

**11:15 a.m. – Work of the
Interim**

1:00 p.m. – WUP (FH)

5:00 p.m. – Confirmation Class



Easter Flower Dedications

Shelly & Matt Capen

In memory of Margaret Fickett and Michael McCutcheon

The Colkos Family

In memory of Loved Ones

Candy & Skip Dearborn

In memory of Loved Ones

Joyce Emerle

In memory of Larry Emerle

Karen Gatchell

In loving memory of family and friends

Sandra and Larry Harris

for those who have passed before us

Greg & Marty Lyman

In memory of John and Polly Lyman

Judy Marek

In memory of Eunice & Donald Lamb, Ken Lamb, Chris Burnor

Terry & Poppy Nelson

Remembering Denise and our parents

Janet & Steve Niederfringer

In memory of Loved Ones

Alesia & Wendy Peck

In Loving memory of our parents, Alan & Lois Peck

Samantha, Kelsy & Aleena

In loving memory of Poppy & Grammy

Chrissy Plumb

In memory of John Marek, Theresa O'Neil and Linda Plumb

Tim & Kathy Timpson

In memory of Loved Ones

Tom Toman

Vivian Toman - Loving You
Louise Capron - Thinking of You

Catherine Tucker

In memory of Loved Ones

Will Vieira & Nan Shepard

In memory of Herb & Josephine Vieira

Phyllis Walsh

In memory of Jane Godfrey

Suzanne Zeckhausen

In memory of Rev. Dr. Paul Zeckhausen





EASTER

WORD SEARCH



JESUS

RISEN

CHURCH

CHRIST

EASTER

SPRING

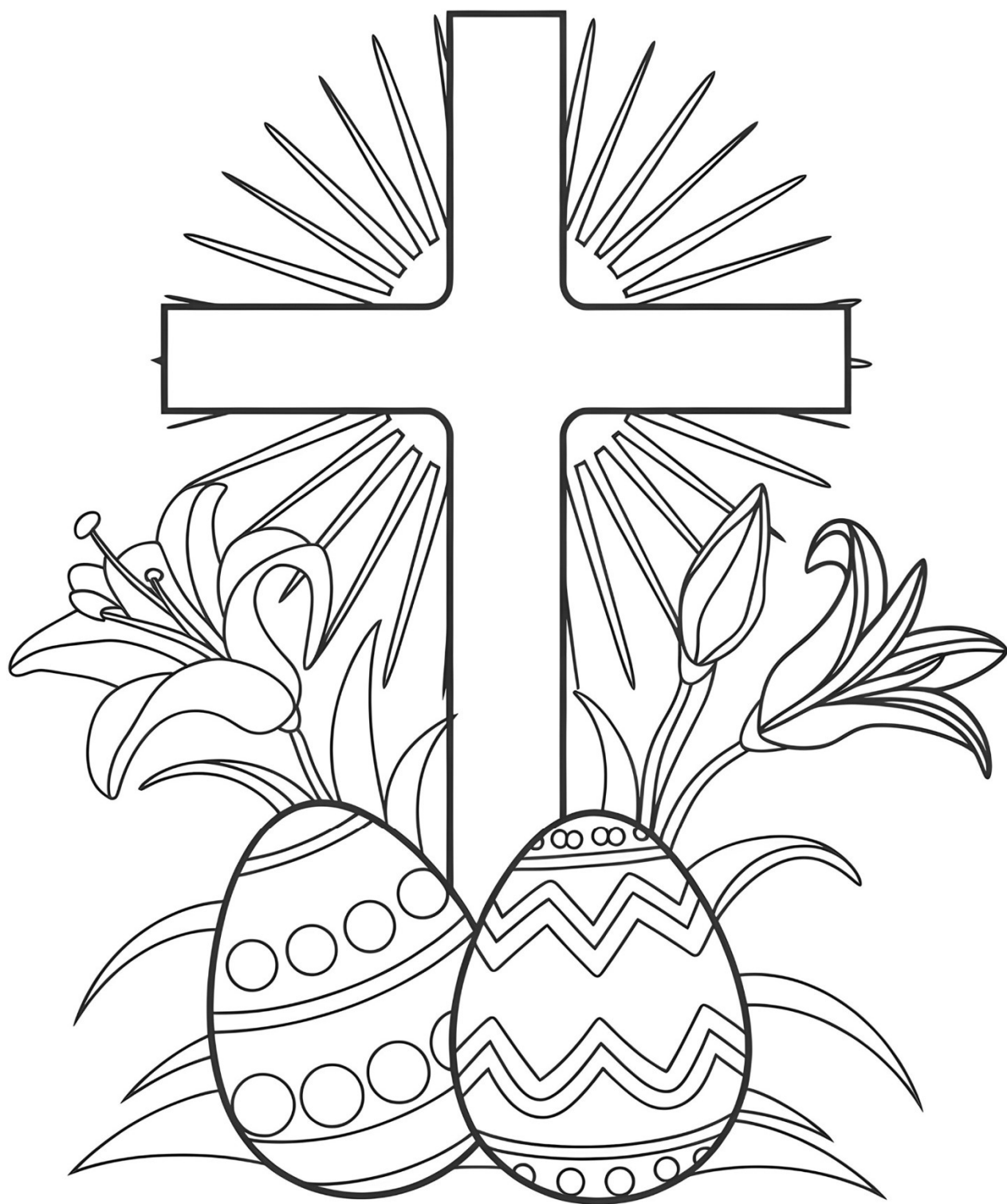
LAMB

REDEEM

CROSS

HOLY





READ IT

This week's Bible story is
The Empty Tomb
from Luke 24:1-12.



Easter Day

Jesus is alive! God does amazing things!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Women
- Tomb
- Angel
- Jesus

At the time that Jesus died, women cared for a loved one's body after he or she had died. They would wash the body and rub it with oils and spices to help prevent the smell of decay. Then the body was placed in tomb. This was usually a rock or cave shelter above the ground.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 482-487

Spark Bible pages 1167-1168

Family Prayer

Say this prayer together while everyone holds a rock.

Thank you, God for bringing life out of death, joy out of sorrow. Thank you for Jesus and for the gift of hope and assurance that you are always working for good. AMEN.

TALK ABOUT IT



Family Conversations

- 1 How does your family celebrate Easter?
- 2 The Easter story is an amazing one! What other amazing things do you see God doing?
- 3 What are some signs of new life that we see in the springtime when we celebrate Easter?
- 4 Tell about funerals you have attended. What sort of service was it? Who was there? What was celebrated? What was said about Jesus? What did you sing or do in the service?



Eye Spark

When you see an Easter egg, remember this story of the very first Easter.



Ear Spark

When you hear someone talk about God or Jesus, remember that God is always doing something amazing in our world!

LIVE IT

For families to do together

Create a centerpiece for your meal table that celebrates Easter. Think of signs of new life like Easter eggs and butterflies. How could you feature the Easter story in your centerpiece? A picture or a quote? What about candles or flowers? Create something wonderful!

For younger kids

Decorate some Easter eggs to celebrate this story. You can dye real eggs or make some from clay or with paper. Make them really beautiful — just like this story!

For older kids

Research Easter customs from other cultures. The web is a great source, and your local or church library probably has some good resources, too. Are there new ways to celebrate Easter that your family could try?



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