



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN NEW CANAAN

Where Faith, Families & Friends Connect

Easter • April 4, 2021 • 10 a.m.

178 OENOKÉ RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG

Please prayerfully allow the silent, sacred space of where you are,
and the quiet stirrings of the Spirit to prepare your heart and mind for worship.

THE GATHERING

Prelude

Hilariter

Richard Dirksen/arr. Mark Broshinsky

Call to Worship

Courtney Steininger

Leader: For those disciples who first went out in the early dawn,
when it was still hard to see, in search of a reason to hope,

People: **there was fear, and surprise.**

Leader: For us, resisting the impulse to sleep in on a long weekend,
and risking boredom with a well-known story,

People: **we open our hearts and minds to something new!**

Leader: So let us open ourselves to the astounding possibility

People: **that God can be present to us at any moment!**

Leader: Let us challenge the thought that we have life all figured out and so carefully planned

People: **that there will be no surprises!**

Leader: Let us face the fact that the walls of this sanctuary, and the life of our institution

People: **cannot contain the crucified-risen Lord!**

Leader: So, we come to worship you, Loving God, who
By the power of the Holy Spirit offers renewal for us and all creation

People: **surprising us again with the hope of Easter new life in Jesus Christ!**

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,

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.

Invitation to Confession

Cindy Graziano

Leader: Like those first disciples we come with our doubts and fears, our sin and brokenness, not knowing for sure what will come next. But the good news is that God always meets us with grace. So let us with confidence approach the throne of grace trusting in God's mercy and forgiveness for us. Let us pray:

Confession of Sin

People: Loving God, we confess that at times we do not share in the joy of the resurrection but are caught in the worries of the world. We confess that we do not always live in the spirit of new life but remain discontent, grumbling and anxious. Forgive us for not living out the Good News. Forgive us when we find it more comfortable to worry and complain than to risk the joy and encouragement of new life in Christ. Call us back to Your ways, O God, to seek hope and reconciliation, restoration and peace. In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Silent confession...

Assurance of Pardon

Mark Magnusen

Leader: Friends, this statement is completely reliable and should be universally accepted. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Christ rose again for us. Christ reigns in power and prays for us. If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation. Everything has become new. So, hear and believe the good news:

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free for new life. Amen!

Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

(Please greet one another with a sign of the peace of Christ.)

THE WORD

Unison Prayer For Illumination

George Post

O risen Christ, open us to the power of your resurrection as we hear the Good News proclaimed anew this day, that we too might rise to new life in you. Amen.

First Lesson – I Corinthians 15:1-11

Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson – Mark 16:1-8

Alexandra Gillespie

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.” So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Minister: Holy wisdom, holy word.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Surprise Endings”

The Rev. Scott Herr

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Presentation of Tithes, Offerings and Ourselves

Vivi Reeves

Offertory

Antiphon from Five Mystical Songs

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!
The heavens are not too high, his praise may thither fly,
the earth is not too low, his praises there may grow.
Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!
The church with psalms must shout, no door can keep them out;
but, above all, the heart must bear the longest part.
Let all the world in every corner sing, my God and King!

THE EUCHARIST

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Courtney Steininger

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Rev. Scott Herr

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise...

Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

Breaking the Bread

The words of institution are spoken here.

Anthem*Most Glorious Lord of Life*

Gary Davison

Most glorious Lord of life, that on this day,
Didst make thy triumph over death and sin:
And having harrow'd hell, didst bring away
Captivity thence captive, us to win:

This joyous day, dear Lord, with joy begin,
And grant that we for whom thou diddest die,
Being with thy dear blood clean wash'd from sin,
May live for ever in felicity.

And that thy love we weighing worthily,
May likewise love thee for the same again:
And for thy sake, that all like dear didst buy,
With love may one another entertain.

So let us love, dear love, like as we ought,
Love is the lesson which the Lord us taught.

Prayer after Communion (unison)

God of Surprise Endings, we give you thanks for the hope we have in Jesus, who died but is risen. We praise you for your presence with us even now. Because Christ is alive, we look for new life, knowing that nothing past, present, or yet to come can separate us from your great love. Send us into the world with anticipation and expectation for the emerging possibilities you have for us and for all creation. Send us in the joy of your Life-Giving Spirit. In Christ, with Christ, through Christ, and for Christ we pray. AMEN.

SENDING

Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns

DIADEMATA

Arranged by Richard Webster

1 Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne;
2 Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,
3 Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
4 Crown him the Lord of years, the po - ten - tate of time;

hark, how the heaven-ly an - them drowns all mu - sic but its own!
rich wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau - ty glo - ri - fied:
from pole to pole, that wars may cease, ab - sorbed in prayer and praise.
cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, in - ef - fa - bly sub - lime.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
no an - gel in the sky can ful - ly bear that sight,
His reign shall know no end; and round his pierc - ed feet
All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
but down-ward bends his burn-ing eye at mys - ter - ies so bright.
fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

Charge and Benediction

The Rev. Scott Herr

Ringing of the Church Bell

Postlude

Toccata from Symphonie No. 5

Charles-Marie Widor

Welcome! Today the sermon is given by Rev. Scott Herr, and through the lectionary texts of I Corinthians 15:1-11, and Mark 16:1-8, we will see how God still surprises us with joyful endings and new beginnings.



Easter Egg Hunt. Happy Easter! At 9:30 am, we had an Easter Egg hunt for the children over on the playground. If there are still eggs out there, the “young at heart” are invited to look for them after the service! ☺ As always, there will be childcare during the Sunday service and children's worship during the sermon on resurrection hope. There will be no virtual Sunday School during coffee hour this week so that you may all enjoy Easter day with your children!

CALLING ALL YOUNG ADULTS: Our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries is also trying to compile a list of all young adults (college students and recent graduates to a few years out of school) affiliated with our congregation who are currently in the New Canaan area. Please send contact info to courtney@fpcnc.org.

Please consider volunteering to help with our Sunday service. As we honor the requirements of COVID, please be aware that we need all our congregation to help with our services, whether on LocalLive, or in person. Please consider volunteering to read, carry the cross, greet and/or usher during our in-person service. Signing up is easy: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday>.



FPCNC Men's Fellowship – 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. FPCNC's Men's Fellowship is a great opportunity for the men to get to know each other a little better and do some bible study together. It is held twice a month from 7 to 8 am, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays. **At our next meeting on Wednesday, April 7, Rev. Scott Herr will lead us in a discussion on “That's Not a Way to Run a Resurrection!”** All men are welcome and feel free to invite any friends.

The Women's Ministry Gathering meets again on Wednesday, April 7 from 4-5:30 pm. All FPC women and friends are invited to our monthly gathering (online during COVID; in-person eventually!). Welcome, prayer, and a short talk by **Cindy Graziano about her faith journey** -- will be followed by discussion and virtual fellowship. We hope you can join us!



New Members' Orientation Class, via Zoom, April 11 at 11:30-1:00 pm. Despite the Pandemic, the First Presbyterian Church of New Canaan is alive and well, albeit worshipping and connecting in different ways. Some of you have expressed an interest in becoming members of the church, so we will offer a 90-minute orientation class on Zoom. We will cover three main questions: “Who are we?” “What do we believe?” and “How do we live out our faith?” All are welcome! Contact tina@fpcnc.org, if you are interested and for the Zoom link.

Listening Assist System: For people now attending in-person services at FPC, we have a new Listening Assist system for those needing hearing or listening assistance. The new devices are located on the table at the rear center of the Sanctuary in front of the stained-glass windows. The receiving devices are in a new charging station and the ear-pieces are in a basket on the table. If you need assistance with the device, please ask an usher.

Please keep the following people in your hearts. *New Concerns:* for the family of John DeLucia. ***Continued concerns:*** Tim and Kate Albert (friends of the Holden family); Catherine Armstrong; Frank Banko; Gloria Bridgman; John Edwards; Mary Bolling Hoffman; Denise Lynch; Joan Trefts; Debbie Murphy Williams; The Abo Noktah family (our Syrian refugees): father Khaldoun, mother Khawla Alzob, daughters Hanin, Zain and Hayat, and sons Yaman and Ahmed, and Khaldoun's mother, Nam Abo Noktah.

THIS WEEK at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of NEW CANAAN

SUNDAY, APRIL 4: EASTER

9:30 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

**10 a.m. Holy Communion via LocalLive
and in-person (see Protocol info)**

The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr preaching

10:15 a.m. Children's Worship

11 a.m. Coffee Hour, via Zoom

MONDAY, APRIL 5: EASTER MONDAY

(Offices closed)

1 p.m. Pastoral Care Team, via Zoom

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

11 a.m. Memorial Service for John DeLucia

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

7 a.m. Men's Fellowship

4 p.m. Women's Ministry Gathering

SATURDAY, APRIL 10

2 p.m. Memorial Service for Norma Collier

SUNDAY, APRIL 11

**10 a.m. Worship Service via LocalLive
and in-person (see Protocol info)**

The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr preaching

10:15 a.m. Children's Worship

11 a.m. Coffee Hour, via Zoom

11:30 a.m. Adult Ed and Sunday School, via Zoom

11:30 a.m. New Member's Class, via Zoom

Participating in today's service:

Singers: The Flanagan Family and The Wallace/McNickle Family

Instrumentalists:

Matthew Anderson, trumpet

Carl Stanley, trumpet

Laura Weiner, horn

Burt Mason, trombone

Mark Broschinsky, bass trombone

Greeters: von Jena family

Ushers: George Benington, Angela Johnson, Bob Spangler

Cross Bearer: Stephan von Jena

Lay Reader: Cindy Graziano

MINISTERS

The Entire Congregation

OUR PASTORS

The Rev. Dr. R. Scott Herr, Senior Pastor • The Rev. Mary Marple Thies, Parish Associate

OUR STAFF

Victoria Shields, Director of Music and Arts • Sherry Tate, Cherub Choir Director

Courtney Steininger, Director of Youth and Children Ministries

Jim Riehl, Interim Church Administrator • Tina St. Armand, Office Manager

Kate Stringfellow, Operations Manager

Easter Flowers

In Loving Memory Of

Their parents, **George & Emilie Thompson**, and **Perry & Midge Bartlett** by Dede and Jim Bartlett

Their parents, **Stephen & Madeleine Benko**, and **Donald & Pearleen Baer** by Steve and Sue Benko

Howard Blose & Ann Blose Eydt by Marion Blose and her family

James M. Bridgman by his family

To the glory of God and in honor and memory of **members** of the Kiernan and Brix families

Bob Brownley by his family

Roger E. Clark by Kate, the kids, and grandkids

Andrew Clarkson by his family

Kathryn & Charles Cunningham by their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren

Peter R. Adams and David B. Findlay Jr., from Mimi Findlay

Their parents, **Carl & Frieda Nolte**, & **Jim & Bunny Otto**, by Len & Cindy Graziano

Chuck Gulden, Alan Wentzel, & loved ones by the Gulden/Wentzel Family

Bill Hart by the Swan-Hart Family

In Loving Honor of **our parents** from Kim and Scott Herr

Gordon and Marilyn Jones, by John and Lanah Holden, their children & spouses, & their grandson

George Hooker by his family

In celebration of our parents and grandparents, Maxine & Tracey Mackle,
from Julie, Michael, Spencer, Kate and Vivi Reeves

Robert McKay by Sandy McKay Nissley

George & Kevin Megrue by his family

Linda Moore Post, & George B. Post, Jr, from their family

Robert Schneider by his family

Her husband, **Peter Schurman**, & her brother, **Don Calhoun**, by Judy Schurman

Edmund "Ned" Swanberg by his family

In loving memory of Covid victim **David Morriss Thomas**, gifted church musician, by Ellen Taylor Sisson

Charlotte, David & Isabel Brown, by Sue Speers and family

Margret & William Marple, parents of Mary Marple Thies, & **Eleanor Kamphoefner**, mother of Armin Thies

Craig B. Tate, William F. & Hazel S. Graham, Elizabeth Krebs, & John & Evelyn Tate by the Tate Family

Ronald Watkins by his family

Robert Witt by his family

COVID VACCINE APPOINTMENTS - APRIL 1st

Governor Ned Lamont today announced that the State of Connecticut is on track to expand its COVID-19 vaccination program to the final group of adults, including all individuals between the ages of 16 and 44, on Thursday, April 1, 2021. Individuals in this age group will have access to schedule appointments.

To schedule an appointment, Connecticut residents should visit ct.gov/covidvaccine and enter their zip code in the space provided. From there, they will be presented a list of the closest available clinics and instructions for how to make an appointment at each clinic. Those without access to the internet can call Connecticut's Vaccine Appointment Assist Line at **877-918-2224**. The assist line is available seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Appointments are required in advance at all vaccination clinics in the state.

Individuals who are 16 and 17 years old are reminded that they should only sign up for a clinic that is offering the vaccine made by Pfizer, as that is the only vaccine at this point that has been approved for those ages by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

“With the recent increase in cases in Connecticut, it is crucial that everyone who wants a vaccine, gets one as quickly as possible,” **Connecticut Acting Public Health Commissioner Dr. Deidre Gifford said**. “I am extremely proud of everyone involved in our vaccine program – the federal government, our local health departments and community partners, our vaccine providers, the National Guard – and thankful for the leadership of Governor Lamont and his team, who have all helped to speed up Connecticut’s delivery of vaccines and make tomorrow’s final expansion to all adults possible. Through everyone’s efforts, we are now able to offer vaccine to all adults’ months earlier than originally planned. While general availability of vaccines is a cause for celebration, we must also remember to keep up our guard against the spread of COVID-19. Even after you are vaccinated, you should continue to wear masks, social distance, avoid large gatherings, and test and isolate if you are sick.”

All eligible age groups aged 16+ are encouraged to fill out a new request with this link if you are still in need of an appointment so the Health department has a current list. You must receive an appointment from the Health department and no walk-ins are permitted at the clinics. The link to the voluntary COVID 19 vaccination sign-up form can be found in the email of this message at <https://forms.gle/aNMu4eEPajyVJQDr6> and in the red COVID box on the town website. You must be a New Canaan resident.

Besides VAMS, eligible residents may also try one of the pharmacies on the CT Covid-19 Vaccine Pharmacy list that is posted on the town website (www.newcanaan.info) in the red COVID alert box. The list has the pharmacy name and address, but you will have to Google search for the phone number. The closest area pharmacy is the Walgreens in New Canaan on Pine Street. You can try Walgreens by visiting their website (www.walgreens.com) to find any appointments that may be available in the area. Some pharmacies are listed in VAMS and others have their own direct scheduling via their websites.

New Canaan residents that are eligible may try to register for vaccination appointments at Stamford Hospital which has a newly expanded community super COVID 19 vaccination site located at 1 Elmcroft in Stamford’s Harbor Point in addition to their vaccine clinic on the hospital campus in the Wheeler building. For more information and to sign up directly with Stamford Hospital please visit [COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#) at Stamford Hospital’s website. You will be asked a few questions to determine if you are eligible to be vaccinated with them. If you do not have an email address you may call 203-276-7300.

Another source of helpful information about vaccination appointments is the State of CT search tool at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/COVID-19-Vaccination-Scheduling-Options> Those that need computer assistance may call the Vaccine Assistance Line at 1-877-918-2224 or 2-1-1.

Governor Ned Lamont and Attorney General William Tong are warning Connecticut residents to be on alert for scams related to COVID-19 vaccines.

One scam reportedly involves fraudsters posing as vaccine manufacturers Moderna and Pfizer seeking response to a "COVID-19 survey" and then asking consumers for a credit card, supposedly for "shipping purposes."

Another involves a letter impersonating the governor's office that suggests the vaccines are dangerous. Consumers are then directed to a website that attempts to obtain money and personal information.

And a third scam has fraudsters impersonating vaccinators who ask for sensitive information such as Social Security numbers and bank information.

State officials are offering the following tips for consumers to protect themselves against vaccine-related scams:

- Do not pay anything to sign up for the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Ignore sales ads related to the vaccine.
- Beware of unsolicited emails or texts concerning the vaccine, including offers of rewards or payments.
- Do not share personal, financial, or health information with unfamiliar people.

If anyone becomes aware of a vaccine-related scam or believes they may be the victim of a scam, they should file a complaint with state and local authorities:

- Suspicious activities related to vaccine distribution practices or concerns for public health should be reported to local law enforcement or local public health officials.
- Suspected fraud or business-related scams can be reported to the Department of Consumer Protection by visiting ct.gov/DCP or sending an email to dcp.complaints@ct.gov.
- If anyone believes they have been the victim of a scam or have been contacted by a scammer, they should contact the Office of the Attorney General at 860-808-5318 or attorney.general@ct.gov.



Let's Talk About It New Canaan is a website that provides *behavioral health resources* for the citizens of New Canaan. Behavioral health is the scientific study of the emotions, behaviors, and biology relating to a person's mental well-being, ability to function in everyday life, and concept of self. This is an excellent resource for you and your neighbors, friends, and colleagues at school and at the office (online or in-person colleagues). Please take a moment to browse the "Let's Talk About It" website to discover various resources for promoting the health of our community: <https://letstalkaboutitnc.org>. Or see the promotional video at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1d5PEm_rpM Special thanks to Dede Bartlett, a member of FPCNC who has been working with The NCCF Behavioral Health Partners over the past few years to provide a website with resources for the larger community.