



**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE • March 31, 2024**  
**7:00am • Memorial Garden**  
**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEW CANAAN**  
178 OENOKE RIDGE, NEW CANAAN, CT 06840 • 203-966-0002 • FPCNC.ORG

*Grace and peace to you, and welcome!*

*The Sunrise Service will include the traditional Easter Exclamation – “The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!”  
Feel free to make noise during the exclamation by jingling keys or using the small percussion instruments provided.*

Welcome and Call to Worship (Responsively)

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

Pastor: This is the day that the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Pastor: The kingdom of God is among us!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Christ is Risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Pastor: Christ is Risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Hymn No. 248:

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

*Hymn to Joy*

1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!  
2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.  
3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.

Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.

In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.  
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.  
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"

Heal - ing leaves of grace a-bound-ing bring a taste of love un-known.  
 Je - sus is our strong com-pan-ion. Joy and peace shall nev-er end.  
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho-san - na ev-ery - one!

**First Lesson – Acts 10:34-43**

Stephanie Hare

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. You know the message God 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.”

Reader: Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Solo:**

Oh happy day

Arranged by Bernd Frank

Oh happy day that fixed my choice on thee, my Saviour and my God!  
 Well may this glowing heart rejoice, and tell its raptures all abroad.  
 Happy day, when Jesus washed sins away!  
 He taught me how to watch and pray, and live rejoicing ev’ry day.

‘Tis done, the great transaction’s done; I am my Lord’s, and He is mine;  
 He drew me and I followed on, charmed to confess the voice divine.

Lisa Flanagan – soprano

**Second Lesson – John 20:1-18**

Stacy Arevalo

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' 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 hold on to 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.

Reader: Christ is risen!

People: **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Easter Meditation**

Supposing Him to be the Gardener

The Rev. Scott Herr

**Reading of St. Chrysostom's Easter Homily**

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

**Hymn No. 250:**

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

*Promise*



1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;  
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;  
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;



in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!  
 there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,  
In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,



un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

## Reaffirmation of Faith

Stephanie Hare

Reader: Do you believe in God?

**People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth;**

Reader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord;**

**who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended into Hell;**

**the third day He rose again from the dead;**

**he ascended into Heaven,**

**and sitteth at the right hand**

**of God, the Father almighty;**

**from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

Reader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit;**

**the holy catholic church;**

**the communion of saints;**

**the forgiveness of sins;**

**the resurrection of the body;**

**and life everlasting. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Rev. Mary Marple Thies

### The 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.**

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,  
 2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right  
 3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,  
 the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
 and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
 Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.  
 for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

**Easter Exclamation**

Reader: Christ is risen!

**People: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The Rev. Scott Herr

**Benediction**

The Rev. Scott Herr

Please join us for a light breakfast in the Common Room immediately following the Service.

~~~~~

## **Easter Sunday – March 31**

### **THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD**

#### **10:00am Service with Holy Communion**

Featuring festive music with brass, tympani, organ, our FPCNC Choir, guests, and soloists. All are invited to sing the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel’s Messiah at the close of the Service.

#### **11:30am Easter Egg Hunt**

Immediately following Worship on Easter Sunday, all children (their family and friends!) are invited to participate in an Easter Egg hunt outside. Meet outside by the back patio/lawn off the Common Room for an organized start before the children find their Easter Eggs!

~~~~~

#### **THOSE PARTICIPATING IN TODAY’S SERVICE:**

**Soloist:** Lisa Flanagan – soprano

**Lay Readers:** Stephanie Hare and Stacey Arevalo

#### **MINISTERS**

The Entire Congregation

#### **OUR PASTORS**

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

#### **OUR STAFF**

Terence J. Flanagan, Director of Music and Fine Arts • Stephanie Hare, Director of Family Ministries  
Stacy Arevalo, Seminary Intern • Jim Riehl, Business Administrator • Wendy Starr, Office Manager  
Emily Johnson, Communications Assistant • Kate and Matt Ziance, Operations Managers

**SIGN UP** to Read, Usher or Greet <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4aaaad2aa31-sunday>

**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:**



**DONATE:**

