

Jesus is loose in the world. He is not in our present as a lifeless corpse or in our past as a distant memory. Rather, he goes ahead of us into the future to meet us there and claim us, not on our terms, but on his. We can no longer deal with Jesus as a dead body, safely buried in a tomb, but now we encounter him as a living reality.

There is no escaping him, no containing him, no forgetting him....

— Charles Campbell



## We Gather to Praise God

\* indicates those who are able may stand

EASTER AFFIRMATION *spoken responsively with enthusiasm!*

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: **Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

INTROIT *We Wish for All to Joyous Be*

WELCOME AND SHARING NEWS

ORGAN PRELUDE *Dawned is the Noble Day*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP *responsively* Beth W. Johnston, *adapted*

Leader: Early on the first day of the week  
a rumor began to circulate.  
It grew and grew—  
It spread far and wide—  
It could not be stopped.

People: **Christ is Risen.** (*louder, with greater conviction each time*)

Leader: Excuse me...?

People: **Christ is Risen.**

Leader: Can you repeat that...?

People: **Christ is Risen.**

Leader: What's that you say...?

People: **Christ is Risen indeed!**

All: **Alleluia!**



J. S. Bach



\* OPENING HYMN #216 *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*



\* GREETING ONE ANOTHER *please stand and greet those around you!*

\* RESPONSE *sung by everyone* (Tune #229) 5<sup>th</sup> Century Latin Hymn

**Come, risen Christ, with us abide  
In this our joyful Eastertide,  
That we may give you all our days  
The tribute of our grateful praise.**



INVOCATION *seated in unison*

Lavon Bayler, *adapted*

**With torn curtain, earthquake and terror, you announced your son's death. So now, holy God, appear to us in this worship today. Roll away the stones that separate us from you. Turn our fear into faith, our doubts to delight, as Jesus, who was crucified, becomes for us an abiding presence, an eternal light.**



**We confess that we had lost touch with you. Our minds have been full of worries and distractions, set on things of this earth. Our spirits felt the grip of death. Jesus seemed a legend from the past, not a real person who shared our common human lot, and certainly not a living Savior and true Ruler of this world.**

**But today, you awaken something dormant and yet brand new within us. We hear the cry, "Christ is risen," and we want to respond. Open our hearts, dry our tears, and call our name. We embrace the Good News of Easter. Amen.**



## We Listen for God's Word



GOOD NEWS TOLD TO CORNELIUS Acts 10:34-43

p. 77

SERVICE OF PRAYER

SHARING PRAYER JOYS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER — PASTORAL PRAYER — RESPONSE



ANTHEM

*Amazing Grace*

arr. Ed Lojes

CHILDREN'S TIME

Signs of New Life



PRAYER OF JESUS (using "sins")

HYMN #221

*The Strife Is O'er*



RAISED WITH CHRIST Colossians 3:1-4 p. 834

FATEFUL PORTENTS Matthew 27:50-54 p. 705  
Matthew 28:1-10 p. 706

THE MESSAGE "Torn Curtain and Rolling Stones"



### We Respond to God's Word

THE OFFERINGS OF THE PEOPLE  
OFFERTORY



Thomas Ken (1674)

\* DOXOLOGY #46 (*altered rhythm*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

\* PRAYER OF DEDICATION *by the pastor*



\* CLOSING HYMN #233 *Alleluia! Sing to Jesus*



*Please be seated for the Benediction and remain seated for the Postlude*

BENEDICTION *by the pastor*



POSTLUDE *Praise the Lord with Drums & Cymbals* Karg-Ekert

*Please remain seated throughout the Postlude*

### We Depart to Serve God

*Please join us in the Parish Hall for fellowship and refreshments  
hosted by the World Service Committee*

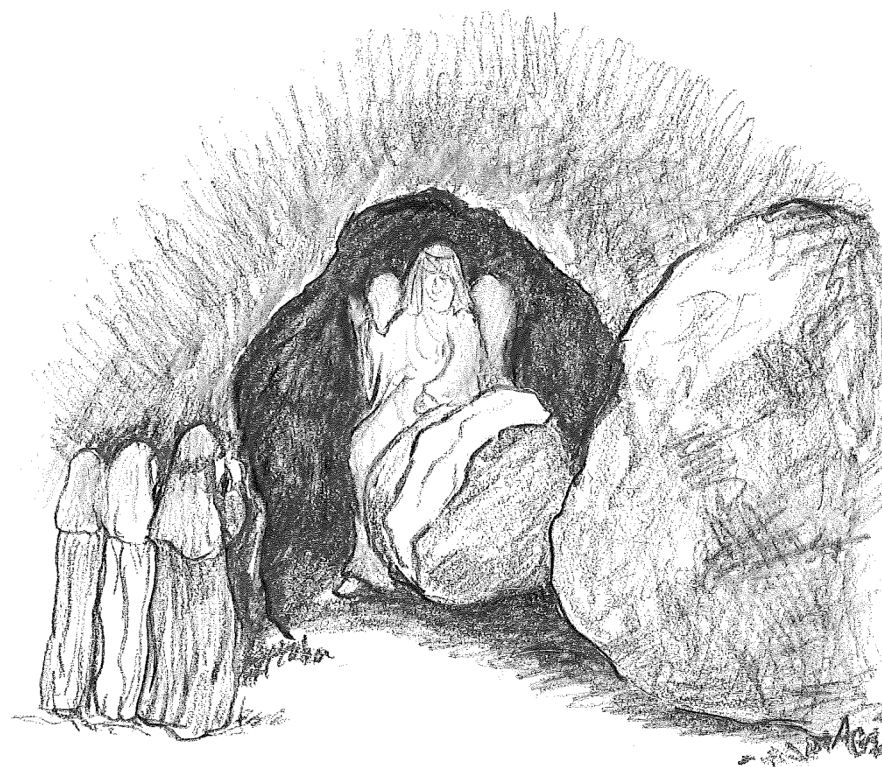
CREDITS: Portions of today's liturgy were adapted and reprinted with permission from *Gathering*, Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2011, p. 39. *Taught by Love* by Lavon Bayler. Copyright © 1998 The Pilgrim Press.

Bulletin Cover illustration: Anna Gibbs  
Gracious thanks to Jeff Thibaudeau,, trumpet and Rick Hochsprung,  
percussion, for their participation in this morning's service.  
Special Thanks to Diane Boisvert

The First Congregational Church of Pembroke

United Church of Christ

*Where Neighbors Meet*



# EASTER

All are Welcome!

April 24, 2011

The First Congregational Church of Pembroke, N.H.

## ***United Church of Christ***

Ministers: All the People!

Pastor: Rev. Jim Howard, D.Min.

Organist: George Bozeman

Secretary: Nancy Jackson

Office hours: Monday-Friday 12:30 to 4:00 p.m.

Office: 603-485-9639

Pastor's home: 603-210-2368

Pastor: [pastor@pembrokechurch.org](mailto:pastor@pembrokechurch.org)

Secretary: [secretary@pembrokechurch.org](mailto:secretary@pembrokechurch.org)

Website: [www.pembrokechurch.org](http://www.pembrokechurch.org)

301 Pembroke Street

Pembroke, NH 03275

*Please join us in the Parish Hall for fellowship and refreshments  
hosted by the World Service Committee*

**WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME** to all who worship with us this morning. Visitors are encouraged to sign the guest book outside the center-aisle entrance at the back of the Sanctuary. Nursery care is provided for infants and young children, and there are rocking chairs at the rear of the Sanctuary for those with a child who needs comforting. Please see an usher if you need assistance. Thank you to those assisting in our service. Judy Pearson read the scripture. Kurt & Jodi Ehler, Randy Shuey, and Dean Hopps served as ushers.

### **THE FLOWER COMMITTEE ...**

Donations of flowers are always welcome for our altar each Sunday morning. To contribute all you have to do is sign up on the flower sheet in the Parish Hall or let the flower committee know of your intention. Please contact Doris Rowden, 485-3664 (May), Robbe MacKenzie, 485-7295 (June), and Lynn Matava, 485-8352 (July).

**BROWN BAG SUNDAY** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month. Your donations which can be left in the parish Hall will go to the Interfaith Food Pantry in Suncook.

### **PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:**

Betty Jacobs – in Pleasant View recovering from a fall

Helen (friend of Doris Rowden) – recovering from a stroke; prayers for healing and for her spirit as well

Vi Boulet – now at home

Prayers for Steve & Erica Peaslee and family – their son Jacob has been diagnosed with Autism

Mary Louise Grandmason's brother-in-law Bob - fighting his 3rd bout with cancer and on chemo.

Abby Duffy – diagnosed with LHON (6 years old)

Stacy Driscoll's dear friend Joanne Kerstetter and her 16-year old granddaughter were severely injured in a bomb blast in South Africa on July 11<sup>th</sup> while on a mission trip. Please keep them and the other six who were also injured in your prayers.

Military personnel overseas & their families

Athena Petrin's address: TF 3643 D, Camp Command Cell LSA, APO AE 09815

### **MESSENGER ITEMS ...**

Anyone planning to have a **submission** for the newsletter must plan to have it to the church office (e-mail) by **12noon tomorrow** please.

### **SCHEDULE OF USHERS FOR MAY ...**

**1** Helen Chapman, Don & Laurie Hill, and Lynn Matava

**8** Peter & Eric Chase, Dean Hopps, and Alan Gibbs

**15** Kurt & Jodi Ehler and Floyd & Dot Smith

**22** Dave & Nancy Bibbins and Eric & Judy Pearson

**29** Luke & Cindy Bonenfant, Rick Hocksprung, and Randy Shue

**If you are unable to usher on your given day, please contact Dean Hopps at 485-5509.**

### **THE WISH LIST ...**

Suggested items are (but not limited to):

Country Time Lemonade                      trash baskets

13 gallon trash liners

## CHURCH CALENDAR

Sun., April 24 9am Choir Rehearsal  
No Sunday School  
10am Easter Family Service

Mon., April 25 6pm Girl Scouts – PH

Tues., April 26 6pm Girl Scouts – PH  
6pm Cub Scouts – DN  
7pm Hospitality Plus Committee

Wed., April 27 Carpet Cleaning (Parish Hall, Sanctuary  
and Nursery)  
No BSA  
6pm Girl Scouts – DN  
7pm Deacons

Thur., April 28 6pm Girl Scouts – DN  
6pm Cub Scouts – PH  
6pm “AA” Group – MR

Sunday, May 1 9am Choir Rehearsal  
10am Worship  
10:20am Sunday School & High School

Monday, May 2 6pm Girl Scouts – PH  
7pm Work Camp Meeting

Tuesday, May 3 6pm Girl Scouts – PH  
6pm Cub Scouts – DN  
7pm Council

Wednesday, May 4 6pm BSA – PH

Thursday, May 5 6pm Cub Scouts - PH  
6pm “AA” Group – MR  
6pm Girl Scout Leader’s Meeting - CR

Friday – May 6 2-10pm Parish Hall Rental (Green Valley School)  
Arts Program

## EASTER FLOWERS ARE GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE FOLLOWING:

My loved ones  
Pastor Jim

Nicole Marie and Bernice Hardy.  
Love ,The Hardy's

Our passed on loved ones  
The MacKenzie Family

Dad, George and brother-in-law, Ray  
Joe and Diane Boisvert

Peter's mom, Joan Chase and Sharon's Dad, Rudy Plourde  
Peter and Sharon Chase

Doug's parents, Ralph & Marion Rowden and Doris’  
Parents, Hanford & Elcena Phair  
Doug and Doris Rowden

Doris M. Saturley and Neil M. McCully  
The McCulley and Saturley families

Our son Bruce and infant son Jeffrey (Yellow Tulip)  
Harold and Barbara Matava

My grandparents Robert and Frances Hoyt, and Harold and Julie  
Matava (Yellow Tulip)  
Lynn Matava

Howard Berry  
Barbara Berry and Family

Milton & Gene Ackerman and Lowell & Violet Hochsprung  
Rick & Jayne Hochsprung

David Landry  
Marc & Jillian Landry.



