

**April 17, 2022, 9:30am**

**Easter Sunday**

First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, United Church of Christ  
763 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106  
(413) 567-6287 [www.1stchurchlongmeadow.org](http://www.1stchurchlongmeadow.org)

**One Voice:** Were You There? Verse 1

**Opening Prayer**

**Easter Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

**One:** Jesus Christ, we greet you!

Your hands still have holes in them,

Your feet are wet from the dew;

**Many:** **And with the memory of our names**

**Undimmed by three days of death you meet us, risen from the grave.**

**One:** We fail to understand how;

**Many:** **We puzzle at the reason why.**

**One:** But you have come, not to answer our questions but to show us your face.

**Many:** **You are alive and the world can rejoice again! Hallelujah! He is Risen!**

**All:** **Christ is risen indeed!\*1**

**Opening Hymn:** NCH #233

*Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

**Unison Prayer:**

**All:** The vacant cross and the empty tomb vindicate your claim that the love which suffers is the love which saves. So fill your people with joy and our Church with celebration that the world may know that your holy son Jesus is not a dead hero we commemorate, but the living Lord we worship; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be our praise forever.\*1

**We Greet Each other with the Sign of Peace**

*Please tell your neighbors the good news: He is Risen!*

**Message for All Ages**

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Scripture:** John 20:1-18

Bev Sager, Liturgist

**Easter Anthem** The Choir

*A Song of Gratitude* by Edward Broughton

**Easter Message** Rev. Marisa Brown Ludwig

**Joys & Concerns/Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer** (*debts/sins/trespases*)

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.**

**Easter Song**            The Choir *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* by Mark Schweizer

**Offertory Invitation**

**Doxology**

**All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here below, praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit: One. Amen.**

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Closing Hymn:**      Crown Him with Many Crowns      #199 Red Pilgrim Hymnal      V. 1-3

**Easter Benediction**

One: Rejoice, people of God! Christ is Risen from the Dead!

Go now, as light-bearers to a world in darkness

Go now, as hope-carriers to a world in despair.

Go forth in peace and spread the Good News:

Jesus Christ is the light of the world, a light no darkness can extinguish. Christ is Risen.

**All: He is Risen, Indeed!**

Postlude: "Hallelujah" from *The Messiah* by G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

*If you would like to sing "The Hallelujah Chorus" with the choir,  
Please find the music in your pews and sing with us!*

**Happy Easter to all!**

\*1 Jesus Christ, We Greet You! in *Stages on the Way*, Wild Goose Worship Group,  
copyright 1998 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland

\*2 Glory Be To You in *Stages on the Way*, Wild Goose Worship Group,  
copyright 1998 WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland

*Embraced by the love of God in Christ, our mission is to love  
and serve our world. We seek to grow in Christ's family through our journey – inward toward faith and knowledge,  
outward toward love and justice – always rooted and nurtured in worship.*

*We, the First Church of Christ in Longmeadow, strive to live out our stated mission to seek love and justice in our  
world. We welcome persons of every age, race, ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation,  
mental, physical, emotional, economic and social status, and circumstance of life into the full participation and  
ministry of our church.*

**Worship Leaders:**

**Marisa Brown Ludwig, Associate Pastor; Daniel Rose, Interim Director of Music Ministries; Carey Larsen,  
Music Coordinator**

**Justin Esiason, Trumpet; The First Church Chancel Choir; Bev Sager, Liturgist; Marilyn Paul-Lewis,  
Director of Family Ministries; Khaleigh Laicher, Youth Leader; Stan Zdonick, Technical Director**

## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

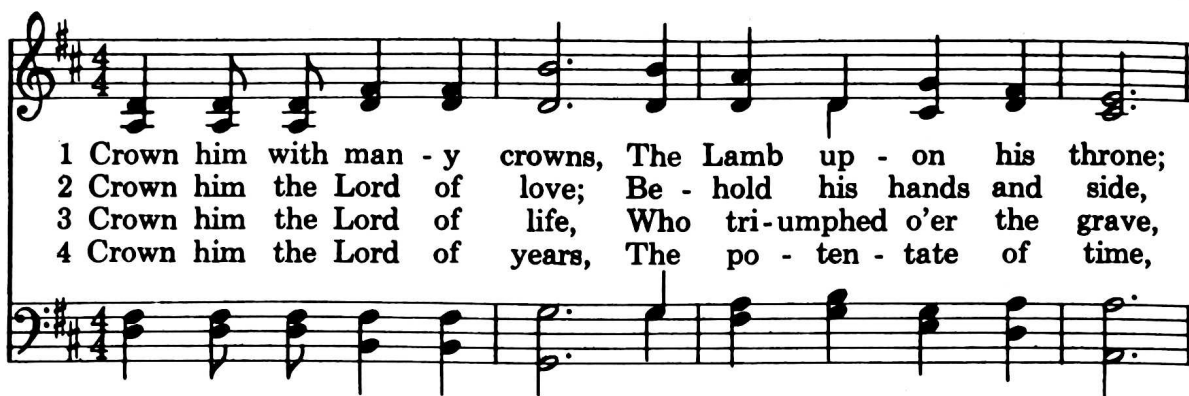
Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

*The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.*

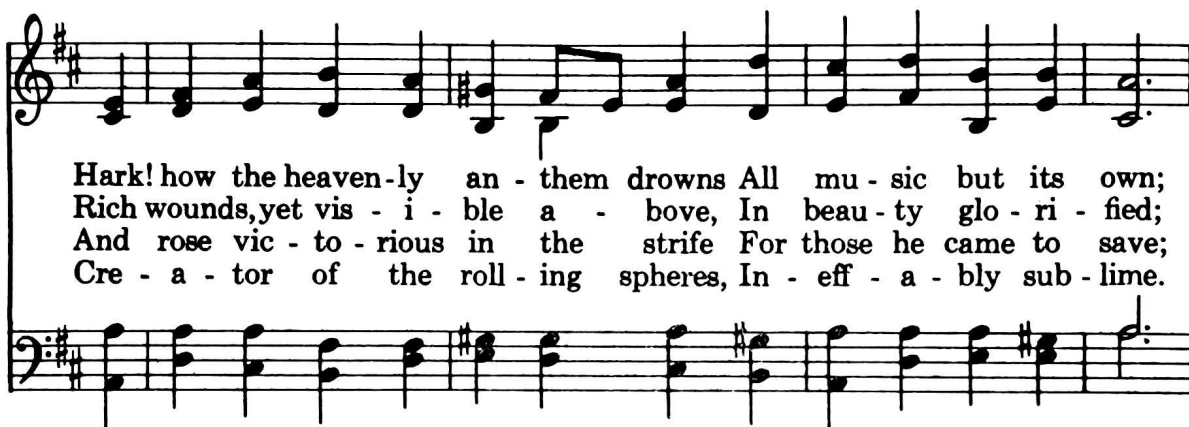
Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias  
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Mathew Bridges, 1800-1894  
 Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, St. 3

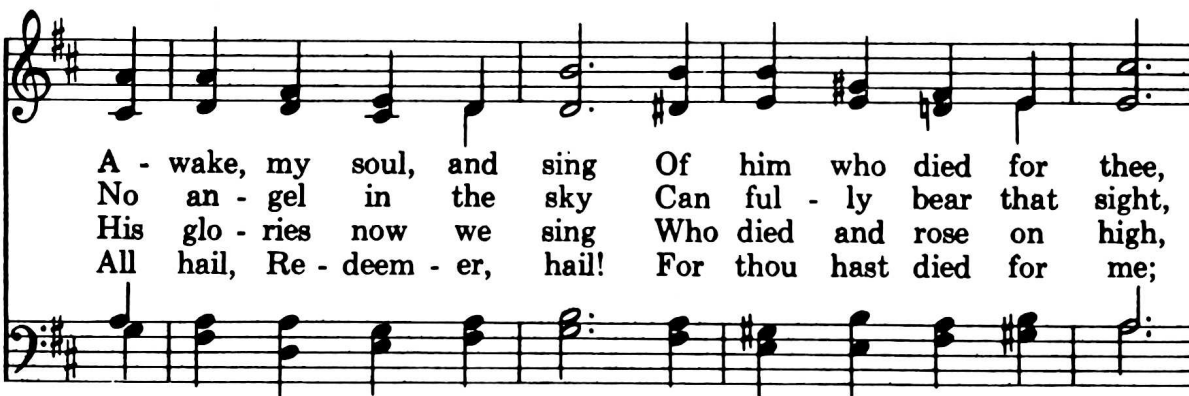
DIADEMATA S.M.D.  
 George J. Elvey, 1816-1893



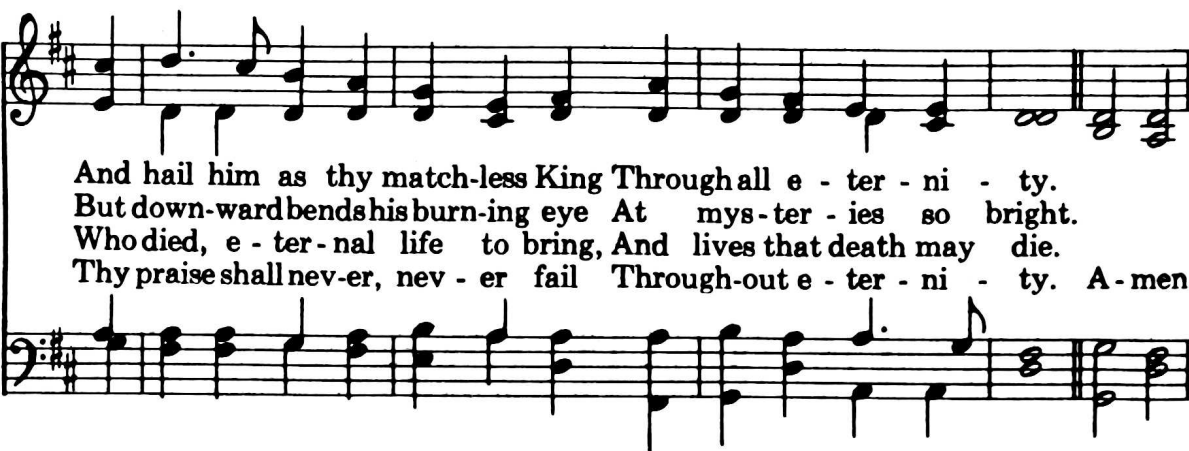
1 Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his throne;  
 2 Crown him the Lord of love; Be - hold his hands and side,  
 3 Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri-umphed o'er the grave,  
 4 Crown him the Lord of years, The po - ten - tate of time,



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;  
 And rose vic - to - rious in the strife For those he came to save;  
 Cre - a - tor of the roll - ing spheres, In - eff - a - 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 glo - ries now we sing Who died and rose on high,  
 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.  
 Who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, And lives that death may die.  
 Thy praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through-out e - ter - ni - ty. A - men.