

EASTER SUNDAY-THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

MARCH 23, 2008

11:00 AM

MINISTERS:

ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH

PASTOR:

THE REV. JOHN DAVID HEECKT

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

JEAN EARLY

*Relying on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us, we worship God, and witness to Jesus Christ with loving service and commitment to justice and peace.*

GATHERING AND PREPARATION

The Church Bell Calls us to Worship

Prelude

Introit: *Jesus Christ Lay in Death's Strong Bands* J.S. Bach

Welcome and Announcements

\*Call to Worship (*The Exultet*)

One: Rejoice heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

One: Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes forever!

All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

One: Rejoice, O mother church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

All: Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen!

\*Hymn: *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* PH 182

(\*Those who are able, please stand.)

\*Unison Prayer:

Glory to you, O God: On this day you won victory over death, raising Jesus from the grave and giving us eternal life.

Glory to you, O Christ: For us and for our salvation you overcame death and opened the door to eternal life.

Glory to you, O Holy Spirit: You lead us into all truth.

Glory to you, O Blessed Trinity, now and forever. Amen.

\*The Lord's Prayer (*using "sins"*)

\*The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be.

World without end. Amen. Amen.

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-6 O.T. Pg. 733 (L.P. Pg. 897)

Psalm: Psalm 118:1-19 O.T. Pg. 565 (LP. Pg. 694)

Second Reading: Matthew 28:1-10 N.T. Pg. 33 (L.P. Pg. 41)

Anthem: *This Joyful Eastertide* arr. A. Parker/R. Shaw

Time with the Children

\*Hymn: *Now the Green Blade Rises* NCH 238

Reflection: The Rev. John David Heeckt

\*Hymn: *Yours is the Glory* NCH 253

RESPONDING IN FAITH

Reception of New Members: Shannon and Tod Dickson, Wynd Harris, Barbara Kapp (See Insert)

Offering

Offertory: *I Know That My Redeemer Liveth* (from *Messiah*) G.F. Handel  
Hank Williams, Bass

Doxology: PH 515

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!

**Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Almighty God: We need no longer seek Jesus among the dead, for he is alive and has become the Lord of life. In the gift of the resurrection you have given us life for death, joy for sorrow, confidence for fear, and hope for mourning. Receive now our gifts, we pray, and put them to your use, both in this congregation and beyond, for the support of your church, and to the honor of your holy Name. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

Pastoral Prayer

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*The Lord's Table is open to all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people. Deacons ask parents to reflect on communion and its meaning with their children.*

**The Eucharistic Prayer and Post-communion Prayer**

See Insert

**GOING OUT TO SERVE**

\*Hymn: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

PH 187

Benediction

Choral Response: *Go Forth Rejoicing*

arr. M. Pluddemann

Postlude

**RIDGEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

RIDGEBURY ROAD AT GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGHWAY

605 RIDGEBURY ROAD, RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06877

203-748-2806

[www.ridgeburychurch.org](http://www.ridgeburychurch.org)

FAX 203-748-3568