

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

APRIL 13, 2008

10:00 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

Prelude

The Church Bell Calls Us To Worship

Introit: *Alleluia, Christ the Lord is Risen*

E. Daley

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: *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*

NCH 244

*Unison Prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, who in the resurrection has established a new and better covenant for all your children: Grant that all who have been reborn into the fellowship of Christ may show forth in their lives what they

profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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: Acts 2:42-47

N.T. Pg. 120 (L.P. Pg. 145)

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 23

O.T. Pg. 617 (L.P. Pg. 716)

Second Reading: John 10:1-10

N.T. Pg. 103 (L.P. Pg. 126)

Anthem: *My Shepherd*

Page/Schafferman

Time with the Children

*Hymn: *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

PH 80

Sermon:

RESPONDING IN FAITH

*Hymn: *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

PH 327

Offering

Offertory: *Bless Thou the Gifts*

R. Schumann

Doxology:

PH 515

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Almighty God; 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 Confession

One: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all righteousness. Therefore, let us stand together and confess our sins against God and out neighbor.

***All:** Most merciful God; we confess that we are in bondage to sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts, we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways. Amen.

***One:** Almighty God has given his only Son to die for us, and for his sake forgives us all our sins. May the peace of God be always with you.

***All:** And also with you.

The Communion Prayer

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Post-Communion Prayer

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to gave ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GOING OUT TO SERVE

***Hymn:** *From All That Dwell Below the Sky* PH 12

Benediction

Choral Response: *Peace I Leave With You* E. Daley

Postlude

RIDGEBURY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

GATHERED IN 1760

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN EASTER

RIDGEBURY ROAD AT GEORGE WASHINGTON HIGHWAY

605 RIDGEBURY ROAD, RIDGEFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06877

203-748-2806

www.ridgeburychurch.org

FAX 203-748-3568

