

“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here”



First Congregational Church of New Milford

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

WELCOME & CALL TO MINISTRY

LIGHTING THE CANDLES

PRELUDE

Crown Him with Many Crowns arr. by Lloyd Larson

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Christ is alive,

People: Moving among the living.

Leader: Christ is risen,

People: Inviting us to rise in fullness of life.

Leader: Christ is calling,

People: Proclaiming life and hope for all.

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is Risen indeed! Alleluia!

PASSING OF THE PEACE

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.

HYMN*

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today #216

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & LORD'S PRAYER

God of mystery and might, your wondrous love catches us off guard. We come to the tomb looking for death but find life instead. When we cower in our fears and regret, encourage us with your mercy and your grace, that we might claim the life you offer. As we behold the glory of our salvation, take us back to that moment of discovery - when grief and loss gave way to a glimmer of hope. Help us embrace your love and live in your risen presence. Before we shout our alleluias, remind us of the moment when despair was transported into glimpses of new possibilities. In hope and joy, we pray with the words our Risen Savior taught us...

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Choral Response

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Choral Response

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 10:34-43

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Call to Offering

Offertory

Hallelujah from "The Mount of Olives"/Beethoven

Song of Presentation*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Offering Prayer*

We give you thanks, O God, for you are good. You have been our help and hope, calling us to be help and hope for the world. You live among us, calling us to share life and love with all creation. Bless the gifts we bring before you, that they may be signs of your life, hope, and love. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

STATEMENT OF FAITH

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation

Leader: Easter people, come now to the table with Christ.

People: For he is risen! He lives and he presides at this feast.

Leader: Come, eat together the bread of life.

People: For he is risen, and nothing separates from God's love.

Leader: Come, drink together the cup of gladness.

People: For Christ is risen—risen as he said. Alleluia!

Great Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

*The Deacons will serve communion. Gluten free crackers are in the center cup.
Please hold the bread and juice until we partake as a group.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Thank you, God, for life in the Spirit of Jesus, for gladness in this bread and cup, for love that cannot die, for peace the world cannot give, for joy in the company of friends, for the splendor of creation, and for the mission of justice you have made your own. Give us the gifts of this holy communion—oneness of heart, love for neighbors, the will to serve you every day, and risen life that never ends. In Christ's name we pray. Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN*

The Strife Is O'er #221

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 28:1-10

Choral Response

SERMON

With Fear and Great Joy

Choral Response

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN*

Thine Is the Glory #218

BENEDICTION* - spoken and sung

POSTLUDE

Christ is Risen, Alleluia!/arr. Albin C. Whitworth

**All are invited to stand in body or spirit*

Today's liturgy has been adapted from the Abingdon Worship Annual, and the statement of faith comes from the Book of Common Worship, PCUSA. The Communion Service is from the blog, Sicut Locutus Est, by Mary Luti.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Debbie Poole, Sheri Gunn and Deacons for participating in today's service.

Thank you to the Bell Choir for their gift of music at today's service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Are Welcome Here: For your comfort, listening devices are available by the front doors of the church. Additionally, services are live streamed in the chapel, should you need to step out of the service for any reason. Simply turn on the TV. Please see a Deacon if you need assistance.

Easter plants will be available for purchase after this morning's service. Prices will vary according to plant.

Coffee Hour: Please join us downstairs in the Fellowship Hall following today's worship.

Book of Remembrance Sunday is May 24th. Envelopes for donations are available at the entrances to the sanctuary. Kindly, list the names to be memorialized as well as the donor. Checks should be made out to the Book of Remembrance, First Congregational Church. Donations will be received until May 10th.



The First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 2:00 PM

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He is Risen 

LOOKING AHEAD

Women of the Bible study group: Monday's at 1:00pm

Wednesday Study: Wednesday's at 10:00 am

Chapel Stitchers: Sunday, April 12

Bible Study Group: Sunday, April 19

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, April 18

Women's Ministry Craft: Friday, April 24 at 1:00pm & 6:00 pm

The Russell Ayre Scholarship application deadline: Friday, April 24

Music Sunday: Sunday, April 26

Reception of New Members: Sunday, May 3

Book of Remembrance: Sunday, May 24

If you are interested in making a donation, **Digital Giving** is available.

Please scan the QR Code to donate.

We kindly ask that you use the comment feature to direct your contribution.



Your continued support for the church is appreciated.