



Happy Easter

*Central and Algonquin United
Methodist Churches*

Sunday, April 5, 2026

With Pastor Marty Johnston

Mission Statement:

**Connecting all people to God by building bridges
of caring, outreach, and acceptance.**

Leader: The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

People: God has done a marvelous thing before our eyes.

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: The tomb is empty. The promise is alive. Hope has a name.

People: Jesus Christ is risen today!

Leader: Come, let us worship the living Christ.

People: With joy, with gratitude, and with praise, we worship the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN “Christ the Lord is Risen Today” (v1-5) UMH 302
CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

***PASTOR’S OPENING PRAYER ***

Risen Christ, what a joy it is to be here today.

We come with gratitude, with hope, and with glad hearts, because the tomb is empty, death has been defeated, and your love has the final word. Thank you for this Easter morning, for this gathered church, for the good news that still changes lives, and for the promise that no darkness is greater than your light.

Wake us up again to wonder. Lift the heavy places in us.
Renew our faith, deepen our joy, and fill this room with the living power of your presence.

As we worship today, help us not just to remember the resurrection, but to rejoice in the risen Christ who is with us even now.

We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior and our hope.
Amen.

TIME FOR YOUNG CHRISTIANS

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE READING:

This Easter morning, we hear one of the most personal and moving resurrection stories in all of Scripture. John tells it not first with trumpets or crowds, but with tears, confusion, running feet, and a grieving woman standing outside an empty tomb. It begins in darkness, just before sunrise, and it meets people exactly where they are — not polished, not certain, not triumphant yet. And maybe that is part of the good news. The risen Christ comes not only to the confident, but also to the heartbroken, the bewildered, and the weeping. As we hear John 20:1–18, listen for the moment sorrow turns to hope, and listen for the voice of Jesus, who still speaks our name.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING John 20: 1-18

Now the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw *that* the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.”

³ Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. ⁴ So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. ⁵ And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*, ⁷ and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ Then they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him.”

¹⁴ Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?” She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, “Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!”

She turned and said to Him, “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher).

¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and *to* My God and your God.’”

¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* He had spoken these things to her.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God

All: Thanks be to God

CHOIR ANTHEM “Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Alive! B.Wren/L.Larson

Verse 1 – Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love drowned in death shall never die.

Verse 2 – Christ is alive and comes to bring good news to this and ev’ry age; till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love and praise.

SERMON He Knows Your Name

Big Idea: *The resurrection is not only the announcement that Jesus has conquered death. It is the deeply personal good news that the risen Christ knows us, sees us, and calls us by name.*

COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor:

Friends, this is the Lord's table. Not the table of the perfect, but the table of grace. And on this Easter day, we come with joy, because the crucified Christ is risen, and He still welcomes us here.

Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin, and who seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

(Brief silence)

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not always lived as Easter people. We have clung to fear, remained in sorrow, and gone looking for life in places of death. Forgive us, raise us up, and renew us by Your Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: The risen Christ comes to us in mercy, calls us by name, and leads us into life. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You made us in love, and when we turned away, Your love remained steadfast. Again and again, You called Your people by name and led them from fear into promise. And in the fullness of time, You sent us Jesus—who lived among us, died for us, and rose again, so that sin would not have the last word and death would not have the final victory.

And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

People: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor: Holy are You, and blessed is Your Son Jesus Christ. By His life, death, and resurrection, You gave birth to Your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which He gave Himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to You, broke the bread, gave it to His disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”

When the supper was over, He took the cup, gave thanks to You, gave it to His disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

People: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor: Pour out Your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and cup. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by His blood.

By Your Spirit, make us new. Lift us from fear to faith, from sorrow to joy, and send us out as resurrection people, who know the risen Christ and bear His love into the world.

Through Your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in Your holy Church, all honor and glory is Yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

Prayer After Communion (Unison)

Gracious God, we thank You for this holy meal and for the risen Christ, who meets us in grace and calls us by name. Fill us with Easter joy, and send us out to live as His faithful people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

On this Easter morning, we give with grateful hearts, rejoicing that the God who raised Jesus from the dead is still bringing hope, life, and new possibilities into the world.

OFFERTORY

“Beneath The Cross”

Duro

DOXOLOGY

**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. Amen.**

UMH 95
OLD HUNDRETH

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Risen Christ, receive these gifts and use them for the work of hope, healing, and new life in this world You love. Take what we offer today and let it bear witness to the joy of Easter and the power of Your resurrection. Amen.

HYMN

“Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise”

UMH 312

HAIL THE DAY THAT SEES HIM RISE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE,

Leader: Lord, in your Mercy

All: Hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Trusting the risen Christ, who meets us in our sorrow, calls us by name, and sends us out in hope, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all who are in need.

For the Church

Risen Lord, make Your Church a people of resurrection—joyful in hope, steady in love, and faithful in witness. Teach us to speak Your good news with humility, courage, and grace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For the World

God of life, bring Your peace where there is war, hatred, and fear. We pray especially for peace in Europe and in the Middle East; guide leaders in the ways of wisdom, restraint, and justice.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Nation

God of righteousness, heal what is wounded in our common life. Stir in us a deeper hunger for truth, mercy, fairness, and justice, that all people may be treated with dignity and all communities may know greater peace.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Creation

Creator God, in this season of spring and renewal, awaken in us gratitude for the beauty of the earth. Help us to care for Your creation with wisdom, restraint, and joy.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Our Community and Congregation

Living Christ, breathe new life into this congregation and into our community. Where people feel weary or forgotten, let them be strengthened by Your presence and reminded that they are known and loved by You.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Those in Need

Compassionate Savior, draw near to those who are sick, grieving, anxious, lonely, or overwhelmed. Speak hope into places of pain, bring comfort to troubled hearts, and strength to all who are struggling.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

For Ourselves

Gracious God, when we cannot yet see clearly, keep us near to You. Call us again by name, lift us from fear to faith, and send us out as people of Easter joy.

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.

Pastor:

Into Your hands, O Lord, we place all for whom we pray, trusting not in our goodness but in Your mercy, made known to us in the risen Christ, who taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS – April 5, 2026

Thank you to all who helped with assembling the April Flame. Your help was greatly appreciated.

**** Today the youth will be outside after the service to collect a
“ Mission Love Offering “**

On March 19th, the Northern Skies District Leadership Team voted to move forward with the sale of the *Camp Michigamme property*. **The Northern Skies District** will hold a **Virtual District Conference through Zoom on Tuesday April 7th at 7pm**. The Purpose of this specially called District Conference will be to affirm or not affirm the decision of the District Leadership Team. **Any Member who wishes to vote on this issue must register with an email address at our office by Sunday April 5th, so a Zoom link can be sent to your email address at the end of day on April 6th.**

Save the Date

Wed. Apr. 15th - Family Night at CUMC Fellowship Hall @
5:30 PM – 7 PM. Come enjoy a tasty dinner, fun activities, and a meaningful lesson for all ages. Bring the whole family—everyone is welcome!

Sun. Apr. 19th – There will be a **Mission meeting** after services

Mon. Apr. 20th -Rebecca Circle meeting at 1:30pm, hosted by Jackie Willey



Algonquins Change Jar Offering for April will be used for the cleaning of their Church Steeple



Central's Missions : is still collecting shelf stable foods plus other items for elementary schools and personal hygiene items for the **Mission/Outreach** program. The lists are located upstairs and you may drop off your items in their appointed boxes or if you wish to purchase a gift card, please pass that to either Kathy (in office), or Diane Bell....thank you.

**Join us for Bible Study, led by Raymond Bell,
every Sunday at 9:30 AM in the CUMC lounge**

Algonquin Birthday/Anniversary

Apr. 8th – Frances Sylvester **Apr. 10th** – Bernita Sibbald
Apr. 16th – Todd Vollick

Central Birthday/Anniversary

Apr. 3rd – Megan Bunker Moran **Apr. 3rd** – Lisa Vincent
Apr. 16th – Sherry Hutchins **Apr. 17th** – Brenda Coullard

April 16th – Cathy & John Wilkinson (21st)



Nursery is available for infants through age 3 during worship with Mallory Baier. The nursery is located downstairs, and ushers will be happy to assist you.

*CLOSING HYMN

“He Lives”

UMH 310
HE LIVES

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

“ The Lord Has Risen From The Dead”

Praetorius /
arr. Liebergen

POSTLUDE

“Llanfair”

Smit