



Handwritten signature

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 5, 2026, AT 10:45 A.M.

Welcome! If you are worshiping with us for the first time, we hope that you will find God's presence among us. Your presence with us enriches our vision of the Body of Christ, and we give thanks that you have joined us today. We hope you'll sign in using either the black pew pads or our Connect Card at uccmanhattan.org/connect. Immediately following worship, we hope you'll join us for conversation or just stay put in the Zoom room if you're worshiping online. We look forward to greeting you there. If you have questions, please ask.

If you need accommodations, please let the usher know. Hearing assist devices, wheelchairs, and walkers are available. If you need to step out of the service for any reason, we can set up a tablet where you can continue watching the service from the lobby. The elevator provides access to all three floors of the building. Diaper changing stations are located in both restrooms on the main floor. Our lower level has wheelchair-accessible, all-gender restrooms.

Children are welcome in worship (and we know they may need to wiggle!). Please reach out to Brandy McDonald (brandy@uccmanhattan.org) if you have questions about children's ministries. You may visit our website for information about Sunday School for children and adults during the school year.

WiFi password for FCUCC guest:
YouAreLoved

Our service is recorded so we can share it with those who may have missed worship today. If you are present in the sanctuary, you may be included in this recording. Please contact one of the pastors for more information.

---- Assisting in Today's Worship ----

Sanctuary Greeter: Carolyn Hodgson
Word for Children: Brandy McDonald
Tech Team: David Simmons Wood

Reading Scripture: Jim Lewis
Screen Sharer: Jack Sytsma
Fellowship Host: Kerri Keller

Communion Servers: Tony Ellis and Jim Flak

WELCOME

CENTERING MUSIC

Alicia Santee-Davis, piano

CALLED INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

One: On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

Many: **On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.**

One: On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

Many: **But today, we know the good news is alive and well.**

One: The good news is dancing!

The good news is on the loose!

Many: **The good news is out in the world, calling our names!**

One: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Many: **Alleluia! Christ is Risen, indeed!**

✦ **HYMN 233** (*The New Century Hymnal*)

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Easter Hymn

During the opening hymn, you are invited to bring your flower to the front of the Sanctuary and place it on the cross. Please check with others around you to see if anyone with limited mobility would like to have you bring their flower forward.

✦ *Indicates all who are able, please stand.*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*unison*)

I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

**It sounds like welcome
and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter
and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love
and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

I have seen it alive in the world.

✦ EXCHANGING THE PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

As a sign of our reconciliation, please greet those around you with words such as: "Peace be with you. / And also with you." If you are worshiping online, you can use the chat feature in Zoom. Please be mindful of other people's preferences about physical contact. If you prefer not to shake hands, you can let others around you know by pressing your palms together in front of your heart (as if in prayer).

✦ ACT OF PRAISE

(all join in singing Hymn #236)

"Halleluja"

Halle, halle, halleluja.

Halle, halle, halleluja.

Halle, halle, halleluja.

Halle, halle, halleluja.

∞ LISTENING

for our Still-speaking God

WORD FOR CHILDREN:

Brandy McDonald

Children ages 3-1st grade are welcome to attend Kids Worship after the Word for Children. Children are walked up by staff/volunteer.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jim Lewis

Matthew 28:1-10 (Second Testament page 31 in the pew Bible)

SERMON

Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

"Practice Resurrection"

∞ RESPONDING

in hope and thanksgiving

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Prefer to make an electronic contribution? Scan the QR Code at right with the camera on your smartphone to be taken directly to our donate page or visit uccmanhattan.org/giving to learn how to set up automatic giving. Thank you for being a part of our ministry.



OFFERTORY

“Praise the Living God Who Sings”

Choir
John Helgen

✦ DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host:
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE SERVICE OF SACRED COMMUNION

This is the table of Christ, not of this church. All are welcome and encouraged to join in the sharing of communion at Christ's Table, regardless of age or tradition, for this is the meal which binds all of us, different as we are, together.

If you are worshipping at home, please use any elements you have available. If you are joining us in the sanctuary, we will use gluten-free elements. The cup contains grape juice.

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: The Spirit of New Life is with you!

Many: **And also with you!**

One: Lift up your voices to speak of God's great love!

Many: **We lift them up!**

One: Christ is Risen!

Many: **Christ is Risen indeed!**

One: Holy God, you created the world by breathing life into being. You placed within your creation the ability to nurture new life, so that your creation might be renewed, reborn, season by season. You made yourself known in relationships with your people. You made covenants to lead us on paths of peace, justice, mercy, and love. You called forth prophets who dared to speak the truth to worldly powers that promoted death. You sent your child, Jesus, to walk in the Way of Life – that we might follow. He suffered and died because of his refusal to participate in the death-dealing violence of the world. He rose again in victory because the powers of death cannot overcome the Divine power of Life.

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

Many: **Holy, holy, holy One - 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 our God.
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: Revealing your love, radiating your life, Jesus taught those who listened to him, healed those who believed in him, received all who sought him.
Christ enacted peace in the midst of violence and love in the face of hate. We thank you, God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh. Through him you gave birth to your church and made us a new people.
It is as the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God that we gather this morning and remember together that on the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Many: **"Take, eat. This my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

One: In the same way he took the cup, saying:

Many: **"This cup is the new covenant poured for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."**

One: Longing to experience and share the fullness of Life that you offer, we take these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup, and celebrate with joy the Life offered to us through Jesus Christ. Great is the mystery of faith:

Many: **Dying you destroyed death,
rising you restored life.
Resurrected Christ, come in glory.**

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, your people, and on these gifts of bread and cup.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, your people, and on these gifts of bread and cup.

Many: **Make us lovers and tellers of your word.
Make us healers and bestowers of your grace.
And make us one body in Jesus Christ.
All glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, now and for all time!
Amen.**

Adapted from the Rev. Joanna Harader

SHARING GIFTS OF FOOD AND COMMUNION

*As we share Communion, you are invited to "fill the breadbasket." The gifts shared support the work of the **Blessing Box** ministry of this church.*

✦ **HYMN 330** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs.*)

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

Let Us Break Bread

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

You are invited to type your prayers into the chat.

*We respond: Merciful God....**hear our prayer.***

PRAYER OF JESUS (*said in unison*)

You are invited to use whatever name for God you find most meaningful (Mother, Father, Creator, God, Friend, Holy One, etc.). If you speak a language other than English, please pray the prayer as you know it. We welcome other languages.

Together, we create a beautiful chorus reaching out to the Holy.

Our Mother, who is in heaven and within us,

we call upon your names.

Your wisdom come. Your will be done,

in all the spaces in which you dwell.

Give us each day sustenance and perseverance.

Remind us of our limits as we give grace to the limits of others.

Separate us from the temptation of empire,

and deliver us into community.

For you are the dwelling place within us,

the empowerment around us, and the celebration among us,

now and forever.

Amen.

*A womanist version of the prayer by the Rev. Yolanda Norton,
used at Grace Cathedral for the Beyonce Mass.*

GOING FORTH

to be messengers of good news

✦ **HYMN 245** (*The New Century Hymnal*)

"The Day of Resurrection"

Lancashire

INVITATION TO THE EGG HUNT

SHARING OPPORTUNITIES TO LOVE UNCONDITIONALLY. CHALLENGE SPIRITUALLY. MINISTER FERVENTLY.



New to First Congregational? We'd love to meet you. Use the QR code at right to complete a Connect Card.

✦ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION

"Alleluia"

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. lu - ia.

To repeat | *Last time*

Music: Jerry Sinclair, © 1972, Manna Music, Inc.; arr. by Betty Pulkingham

POSTLUDE

"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"

Lyrical Davidica, arr. John Ward

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First Congregational UCC, Manhattan—an Open and Affirming Congregation

In the spirit of love, openness, and inclusiveness we welcome persons of every race, culture, nationality, age, family configuration, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, and socio-economic status to participate fully in all aspects of our church's life and ministry. *—from Open and Affirming Statement adopted May 11, 2003*

The Mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ is

- To love and accept others unconditionally as God loves and accepts us, and by example, to encourage others to do the same.
- To challenge ourselves to grow spiritually through worship, education, nurture, reflection, discussion, fellowship, and outreach.
- To minister to others locally, nationally, and globally with the same fervor as we minister to ourselves, through the sharing of our talents, gifts, and resources.

We hold ourselves accountable before God for this mission statement.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 5

8:30 a.m. Choir practice

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament

Brass in service

Fill the Blessing Box

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour / Egg Hunt

MONDAY, APRIL 6 - OFFICES CLOSED

5:30 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 7- OFFICE REMOTE

11:30 a.m. Book Study, Zoom

12:00 p.m. Clergy meeting, Andover Hall

12:15 p.m. UFM Yoga Class, Blachly Room

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

12:00 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

2:00 p.m. Downtown Faith Collective, Pioneer Hall

6:30 p.m. Board of Justice & Witness meeting, Zoom

7:00 p.m. Board of Facilities meeting, Blachly Room

7:00 p.m. Turning Point AA meeting, Andover Hall

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

FRIDAY, APRIL 10

7:00 p.m. Singing Resistance, Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Andover Hall

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Ministry of the Decorative Scissors, Andover Hall

10:00 a.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Conference Room

10:00 a.m. Meeting, Theatre

12:30 p.m. Meeting, Conference Room

NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 12

8:30 a.m. Choir practice

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

10:45 a.m. Service of the Word

12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour

3:00 p.m. Youth Group Mini Golf



*Join us on Facebook at
[facebook.com/uccmanhattanks](https://www.facebook.com/uccmanhattanks)*

Ecumenical Campus Ministry at Kansas State University is a cooperative ministry supported by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). For more information on ECM's activities and schedules, please visit us on Facebook (ECM at K-State) or at www.ksu.edu/ecm



Volunteers for Sunday, April 12

Greeter: Eiselein/Gonzalez Family

Reading Scripture: Susanna Gilmore

Fellowship Host: Eiselein/Gonzalez Family

Zoom Screen Sharer: Kerri Keller

Tech Team: Janet George

Visit
uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups
to volunteer.

Generosity Spotlight – This week we give thanks for....

our Board of Mission. This hardworking group invites us to participate in the four special UCC offerings each year, keep tabs on the Blessing Box, share financial gifts with several local nonprofits, and make sure we're represented for our work with Common Table and ECM....and "other duties as assigned." Wow! Thank you for Being the Church!

An Invitation to Support our Youth – Our youth are hard at work fundraising and preparing for their upcoming service-learning trip to Columbia, MO! In June, 7 of our awesome youth and 3 chaperones will be traveling to Columbia on a Be the Neighbor trip where they will learn about disability inclusion and advocacy. Be the Neighbor trips give participants knowledge about injustice and equips them with tools and the confidence to address these injustices in their own communities. We are so excited about what our youth will gain on this trip and what they will bring back to share with our congregation! Our youth have a \$2000 fundraising goal to help support their travel and fees on this adventure! Please consider contributing to help them continue to grow their understanding of what it is to "Be the Neighbor" in our own community!

You can donate by writing a check with "Columbia" in the memo or by visiting: <https://givebutter.com/MHKtoCOMO>. Thank you for your support!

Did You Miss Worship? – If you missed worshipping with us, we offer several opportunities for catching part of what you missed. First, you can always reach out to the office if you'd like a link to the recording of worship. We do not share this publicly due to privacy concerns but will share it with members and friends upon request. Second, you can watch, listen, or read recent sermons on our website at uccmanhattan.org/sermons. You can also subscribe to the sermon podcast which will keep you up-to-speed with new sermons as they're shared.

Grow Green with Us! – If First Congregational will be among the wonderful organizations supported by the Grow Green fundraising event sponsored by the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation. The big day is Wednesday, April 22, 2026! Donations will support our ongoing engagement in the heart of Manhattan and repairs to our beloved historic building. Donations of \$25 to \$1,000 will be matched at 50%!! Gifts need to be made on April 22 to qualify for the match, and they can be made online (www.GrowGreenManhattan.com) or in person (at GMCF, 555 Poyntz Avenue, open from 7AM to 6PM; at Meadowlark Hills, open 11AM to 2PM).

We are so grateful for the many donors who have given to the Church in the past and for those who have made this year's match possible. Questions? Reach out to members of the Gifts, Endowments, and Investments Committee (Rick Doll, Susanne Gilmore, Jean Steiner).

To learn more and make your giving plan, visit our website: (<https://www.uccmanhattan.org/news/GrowGreen26>)

**THANK YOU TO THE
CONGREGATIONAL BRASS**

Trumpets: Craig Parker, Brian Hardeman; **Trombones:** Paul Hunt, Julie Hunt
Tubas: Jim Lewis, Anne Fredrickson

Pre-Service Music: (All arrangements by Todd Marchand)

- Fanfare on the “Old 100th” L. Bourgeois (circa 1510—1560)
- Easter Anthem William Billings (1787)
- Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise Hymn tune Llanfair, R. Williams (1781-1821)
- Were You There? African-American Spiritual
- Easter Rejoicing (Medley) Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart; Rejoice, the Lord is King; & Thine is the Glory (Handel)

Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front

by Wendell Berry

Love the quick profit, the annual raise,
vacation with pay. Want more
of everything ready-made. Be afraid
to know your neighbors and to die.
And you will have a window in your head.
Not even your future will be a mystery
any more. Your mind will be punched in a card
and shut away in a little drawer.
When they want you to buy something
they will call you. When they want you
to die for profit they will let you know.

So, friends, every day do something
that won't compute. Love the Lord.
Love the world. Work for nothing.
Take all that you have and be poor.
Love someone who does not deserve it.
Denounce the government and embrace
the flag. Hope to live in that free
republic for which it stands.
Give your approval to all you cannot
understand. Praise ignorance, for what man
has not encountered he has not destroyed.

Ask the questions that have no answers.
Invest in the millenium. Plant sequoias.
Say that your main crop is the forest
that you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest.
Say that the leaves are harvested
when they have rotted into the mold.
Call that profit. Prophecy such returns.

Put your faith in the two inches of humus
that will build under the trees
every thousand years.

Listen to carrion – put your ear
close, and hear the faint chattering
of the songs that are to come.

Expect the end of the world. Laugh.
Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful
though you have considered all the facts.
So long as women do not go cheap
for power, please women more than men.
Ask yourself: Will this satisfy
a woman satisfied to bear a child?
Will this disturb the sleep
of a woman near to giving birth?

Go with your love to the fields.
Lie down in the shade. Rest your head
in her lap. Swear allegiance
to what is nighest your thoughts.
As soon as the generals and the politicians
can predict the motions of your mind,
lose it. Leave it as a sign
to mark the false trail, the way
you didn't go. Be like the fox
who makes more tracks than necessary,
some in the wrong direction.
Practice resurrection.



Easter Sunday

the good news is... alive in the world

Birdsong

Every morning the sun rises,
majestic and steady.
She is greeted
in all her strength
with the joyous cacophony of birdsong.
I like to believe
this holy chorus
is the birds telling each other—
I'm here.
We made it through the night.
You're not alone.
What good, good news.
I think the resurrection is a bit like that.
God is here.
We made it through the night.
We are not alone.
What good, good news.



Poetry by the Rev. Sarah Speed

Easter Lilies are given...



In memory of Howard & Virginia Bigbee
In memory of Jean Bigbee Hill
In memory of Sue Ahrens
In appreciation of Wayne Ahrens

by Judy & Jim Ahrens

In memory of Irene Gehrt

by Deb & Bob Garcia

In appreciation for our church family during Jeff's health journey

by Kerri & Jeff Keller

In memory of Ralph and Rebecca Titus

*by Mary Ellen Titus
Susann & Benjamin Campbell*

In memory of Olive, Elbert, and Gerry Macy

by Judy Macy Willingham

Donations given for our Easter lilies are placed in our church Benevolence Fund. This fund is used to help individuals with one-time, urgent financial needs that aren't able to be met by other local nonprofits. We are grateful for your support of this fund, which allows us to support our neighbors in times of need.

EASTER SUNDAY

The good news is... alive in the world

Cover art "Meet Me in Galilee" by Hannah Garrity

A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Inspired by Matthew 28:1-10

18x18" Hand-dyed and collaged newspaper with paper lace overlay



From the artist:

The good news is alive in the world. Do not be afraid. Go back to Galilee. Go back to Galilee where it all started. Go back to Galilee and celebrate like we did at the beginning when we were not afraid, when these words of liberation had not yet drawn the trappings of imperial execution.

Here in this artwork, the crowd is celebrating. Figures are dancing and dancing and dancing. Doves fly among the dancers, breaking borders, Holy Spirit. This throng is in the vacant space of the empty cross. The cross here is mirroring the traditional, four-petaled, stained-glass window design element, which has long represented the cross in European architecture.

The crowd dancing within the cross celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, fearlessly awaiting his arrival in Galilee. The Roman weapon of oppression, the cross, inflicts but a pause in the steadfast and abiding ministry of revolutionary love offered by Jesus in his public ministry. It is fitting then that we should go back to the place it began, when fear was not such a lethal factor. God has overcome death. Hallelujah!

Around the dancing figures in Galilee, patterns of doves disperse outward. The good news, the *euaggelion*, is alive in the world. Do you remember? The cross is empty, yet full. Overcome. Go and you will find Jesus, free in the world in the faces of strangers and neighbors.

Look

Study the figures in the crowd. What postures and expressions do you see? What emotions do you feel?



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Janet George, Moderator
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Sandy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

Gretchen Lewis, Music Coordinator
Mary Ellen Sutton, Organist
Alicia Santee-Davis, Pianist
Brent Maner, Treasurer
Jeff Keller, Financial Secretary
Campus Pastor, Jessie Kuehner