

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NATICK

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

EASTER SUNDAY

APRIL 12, 2020

*“The secret is that God loves us exactly the way we are...
and too much to let us stay like this.”*

~ Anne Lamott

Welcome to our digital worship! In this church we focus on the things that matter. It doesn't matter to us if you grew up in a church or never set foot in one before. You matter to us. We welcome you as you are, because we believe that we are all embraced by God's inclusive and extravagant love.

We invite you to “check in” on the social media of your choice, let them know that you are doing church, even in these uncertain times, ask your networks for prayer requests, or otherwise bring your online self into God’s presence today.

SHARING YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS

Because of a few minutes broadcast delay, prayer concerns and celebrations to be shared during worship can be emailed to our new email address prayers@firstchurchnatick.org at any time before or during the worship service up to the Reflection.

PRELUDE

Prelude in E major, BWV 430

G.F. Handel

Thomas Foster, *Organ and Piano*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Dr. Jonathan New

(Following the Announcements, we invite you to have a candle available to light as your worship leaders light the Christ Candle)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO CELEBRATION

Sarallyn Keller, Dir of Spiritual Vitality
& Congregational Care

*Let the good news ring from the mountaintops:
God is alive, new birth is given.*

Hope is alive, a new age is dawning.

Joy is alive, redemption is here.

Love is alive, death cannot harm us.

We are alive, new life is around us.

The church is alive, God's Spirit is within us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HYMN

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Easter Hymn

*Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!*

*Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once, he all doth save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!*

*Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!*

*Soar we now where Christ is led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

EASTER PRAYER (TOGETHER)

*God of morning light, God of Easter miracles, God of mystery,
open our hearts to hear once again the story of love overcoming death,
of joy drowning our sorrow, of hope emerging from despair.*

Bring Easter to this moment.

By the power of your Spirit,

*roll back the stone of our deadness and doubt, resistance and fear,
and bring us to new joy in the astonishing truth of resurrection life.*

Come, risen Christ, surprise us with your grace!

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(Reach your hands out in a gesture of blessing or place your hands together over your heart and bow in a sign of Namaste. Once worship is concluded, consider being in touch with someone you know to share Christ's peace.)

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR SUBSTANCE

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Sonata in E major, K. 380

Domenico Scarlatti

AN EASTER SONG OF PRAISE

Lasst Uns Erfreuen

*Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One, Alleluia! Alleluia!
Your name we bless, O risen Lord.
The life laid down, the life restored.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

TIME FOR CHILDREN

HYMN

Now the Green Blade Riseth

Noël Nouvelet

*Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

*In the grave they laid him, Love whom hate had slain,
Thinking that never he would wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.*

*Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springest green.*

SCRIPTURE READING

John 20:1-18

REFLECTION

"Resurrection Perception"

Rev. Dr. Jonathan New

GATHERING OUR COMMUNITY IN PRAYER

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

THE MORNING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER (TOGETHER)

*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 debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

HYMN

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

St. Kevin

*Come, you faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;
God has brought forth Israel into joy from sadness;
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.*

*'Tis the spring of souls today; Christ has burst his prison,
And from three days' sleep in death as a sun has risen;
All the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.*

*Now the joyous season, bright with the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts, comes its joys to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem who with true affection
Welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.*

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Chaconne in G major

Georg Böhm

Post Worship Fellowship

11:30AM – 12:30 PM, on Zoom following livestream worship

Join us for an informal virtual gathering where we can greet one another, and – if the spirit strikes us – talk about the day's worship experience.

Follow this link for the videocall: <https://zoom.us/j/314817921> or,

To join by phone: call in at (929) 205-6099, then enter 314817921# (and don't forget the # at the end!).

NOTE: Please be patient for the arrival of your Zoom host since he may still be transitioning from recording the service at 11:30!

CALENDAR FOR APRIL 11, 2020 - APRIL 19, 2020

- Saturday, April 11** 8:00PM Easter Prayer Vigil throughout the night. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040B4CAEAF2BA7F94-24hours>
- Sunday, April 12** 10:30 AM Virtual Worship will be live streamed on Pegasus.
11:30 AM Post Worship Fellowship Zoom Call
2:00 PM Virtual Worship service will be available on the church website.
- Monday, April 13** 10:00 AM Spirit Connect
- Tuesday, April 14** 3:00 PM Spirit Boost
- Sunday, April 19** 10:30 AM Virtual Worship will be live streamed on Pegasus.
11:30 AM Post Worship Fellowship Zoom Call
2:00 PM Virtual Worship service will be available on the church website.

Together, We're Making A Difference!

We're doing our part to live like an Easter people in other ways during this time. Most are aware that the scope of the financial impacts created by the Coronavirus pandemic are overwhelming. While some may be able to manage, there are many who face daunting choices in the coming weeks and months. Our church has already sent contributions to these local and international organizations: Natick Service Council, Family Promise Metrowest, Daniel's Table, the Metrowest Immigrant Support Network Neighbor's Fund, the Feed Framingham Covid-19 Fund, and to the Guatemalan community and Santa Maria Tzeja.

We also invite you to express gratitude to the God of new life by participating in the Easter Offering that will assist equally with two special efforts:

RIP Medical Debt – Those burdened by medical debt face increased stress during this time. Medical debt destroys the financial stability of large segments of our most vulnerable people: the sick, the elderly, the poor, and veterans. It also pushes middle class families barely getting along into poverty. To address these challenges the United Church of Christ teamed up with the New York-based nonprofit, RIP Medical Debt www.ripmedicaldebt.org. They're locating, purchasing, and abolishing unpaid and unpayable medical debt of those in some of the neediest Southern New England communities – Springfield, MA, Bridgeport and Hartford, CT, and Providence, RI.

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – The power of your contribution will also circle all the way around the globe. Through OGHS we join with eight other denominations to carry God's message of love and hope to people in more than eighty countries, working with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, advocacy, and resettlement for refugees. On average, throughout a year, the United Church of Christ responds to disaster once every 2.5 days. For more information and to check out the OGHS 2020 video visit www.ucc.org/oghs.

Through our Easter Offering in 2020 we have the chance to go beyond the headlines and the politics to help ordinary people working with limited resources or caught in events that have turned their hopes and expectations upside down. You can mail your Easter gift in the **enclosed envelope** to the church office: 2 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760. Please note "Easter offering" on your check. Or give online at www.firstchurchnatick.org/content/donate.

Easter Celebration Dedications

In loving memory of Ron & loved ones.

The DeVincent Family

In Loving Memory of Reverend Peter and Phyllis Sanborn.

The Sanborn Family

We give thanks to all who touched us in life and who we carry in our hearts always.

Pam Weagraff & Ulrike Mende

In remembrance of loved ones.

Hank & June Szretter

In loving memory of nana Pucchinella and grampa Bill. Your presence we miss, your memory we treasure, loving you always.

The Weddle family

In memory of my grandfather, Evan Calkins, who passed away in January at the age of 99 and a half.

Rachel Schmitt

Remembering Ned Seddon, devoted husband, father and best friend You are always with us.

BC Seddon

In celebration of Stephen and Lori's deep love and their wedding, COVID-19 style.

Gail Martin and Carolyn Williams

In memory of A Neill Osgood, with much gratitude for his years of service to FCC, advice on a wide range of topics and most of all, his friendship. We miss you Neill.

Gail Martin and Carolyn Williams

In celebration of our family, friends and church for keeping us connected during these challenging times.

Mindy & Peter Hoge

Happy and healthy Easter to everyone.

Anna Hayes

In Loving memory of Rick & Dick Hayes.

Anna Hayes

Special thanks to Pam Lathwood who designed our Easter banners, and to Hank Szretter and Randy Brewer for their expertise in making our digital worship a reality for our church community! Thanks as well to all those who contributed Easter lilies to decorate our sanctuary this morning.

PRAYER LIST

Liam Schmitt	Family & Friends of Mike Keedy	Grace Osgood
Isabella	Family & Friends of Bill Mayer	Brad Stickley
Rick	Family & Friends of Bruce Wharton	Chris Gobron
Stephen	Family & Friends of Bob McDonald	Richard Keller
David	Family & Friends of Jack Gobron	Heidi Burger
Irene	Family and Friends of Fernando Morales	Ed Kinley
Juan Mercado	Gonzalez	Bob Steen
Gerry Carlson	Family and Friends of Jeff Holgate	Joan Hayes
Carolyn Kennan	Michelle, Catherine & Noah	Natalie Friend
Jack Gobron	Ellen, Jim & daughter	Connie Sullivan
Jenna Hayes	Jen M. & family	Chris Starks
Brad Jennings	Bryan & his unit	Barbara Dickson
Abby Robbins	Lily Dreher & her family	Carolyn Sarbello
Jennifer	Shirley & her family	Cheryl Gowdy
Jane Hall	Evelyn & her family	Barbara Bidwell
Regan Lynch	Judge Shelley Joseph	Jayne Hayes
Brian	Jean, Kathy & Paul Joyce	Kim Palmer
Ronnie	Chris Leigh Manuell	Grandma Pat
Kathy	Audra, Nate & Rowan Mackey	Christopher Parker
Savannah	Sari, Andrew & Tyler	Peter McKinney
Allison	Jose & family	Miriam's Mom
Susan	Yandow family	Tiffany Spigarolo
Patrick	Marcy Bailey-Adams	Carolyn Aycock
Oliver	Sibyl Waterman Haley	Alice Bridinger
Alex	John & Kay Hartman	Mary Cerreto
Emmett	The people of Santa Maria Tzeja	Faye Bishop
Mitch	All those struggling with substances	Pam Dotter
Polina	All those waiting at the border	Paul Ladd
Amelia	Health Care Workers	John Sullivan
Jean-Paul	Minimum Wage Workers	Gerry Granfors
Randall D.	Aphrodite Hoge	Char Hannon
Karen	Mo Carriker	Mickey Nieman
Bonnie & George	Eric Carriker	Don O'Meara
Hailey	Keith Jennings	Stuart
John	People feeling Isolated and Separated	Elizabeth Godrick
Don Peterson	People living at home in Difficult Situations	Mark & Patty
Nicholas	People searching for a Place to Live	

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