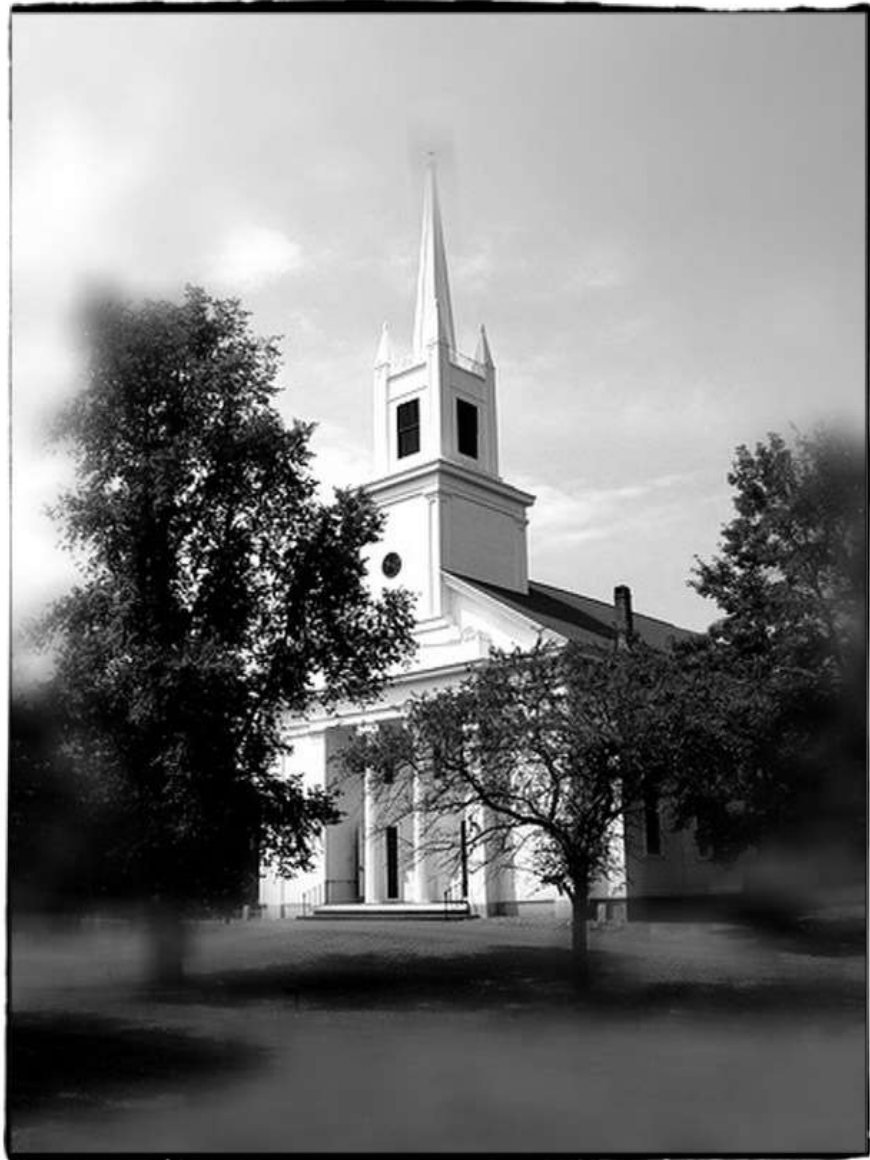


# The Congregational Church *of* Topsfield

*An Open and Affirming Congregation  
of  
the United Church of Christ*



**The Congregational Church of Topsfield**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the UCC*

9 East Common St. Topsfield, MA. 01983 Church Office: 978-887-2101 Website: [www.topsfieldchurch.org](http://www.topsfieldchurch.org)

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE, License # A-731893. All Rights Reserved.

CVLI (Christian Video Licensing International) License No. 504290995 for copyright compliance



**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 20, 2025**  
**9:30 am**

PRELUDE

*Trumpet Tune, called the Cibell*

Henry Purcell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

LENTEN REFLECTION AND CANDLE LIGHTING:

The Peet Family

OPENING HYMN  
Hymn #302 (MH)

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”  
Verses 1, 4 and 5, view page 6

EASTER HYMN

RESPONSIVE WORDS FOR GATHERING:

Lay Reader, James Love Jr.

Leader: How do we gather on this Easter Sunday?

**People: We gather with anticipation  
because we want to hear the familiar story of new life and new living  
because we want to experience and create community – in person or virtually.**

*(Silence)*

Leader: How do we gather on this Easter Sunday?

**People: We gather with some reservation and even anxiety  
because uncertainty has become our faithful companion  
and has made its home among us.**

*(Silence)*

Leader: Why do we gather on this Easter Sunday?

**People: We gather to offer ourselves to fellow travelers on this journey  
with our grumblings and our gratitude  
with our unknowing and unwillingness.**

*(Silence)*

Leader: Why do we gather on this Easter Sunday?

**People: We gather to hold each other in and to the covenant of love  
as we struggle to find familiarity in unsettled weariness.**

Leader: Why do we gather on this Easter Sunday?

**People: We gather to be immersed in Grace  
to be centered in Compassion  
to be sheltered in the Spirit.**

*(Silence)*

Leader: How do we long to leave from this Easter Service?

**All: We long to leave as Easter people:  
restored and holding on to resurrection hope  
renewed and walking into lasting light.  
Amen.**

## Unison Prayer:

**God of new life, on this Easter morning, as we consider what resurrection means, open us up to wonder and mystery. Lead us to allow the Spirit of Christ, ultimate love and compassion, to rise in us. We long to know and experience that especially in these days where we often struggle to make sense of the world. Show us the path of life, to live for others and to be your Kingdom. Inspire us to do your work in the world and let us bring light to many who live in the darkness of violence, fear, injustice, and despair. Open up our vision and hearts to live fully, aware of the web of relationships that sustains us. May this Easter service strengthen us, your covenant people, to become Christ-like in our very being. Amen.**

## SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE OFFERTORY

*Trumpet Minuet*

Jeremiah Clarke

†THE DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**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**

\*You may substitute God/Her \*\*You may substitute Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost

SCRIPTURE

Luke 24: 1-12  
View page 5

Lay Reader, James Love Jr.

ANTHEM

“Easter Anthem”

William Billings

SERMON:

“Thought Experiments”

Rev. Martin Riekert

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE 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 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.**

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn #308 (MH)

“Thine Be the Glory”

Verses 1-3, view page 7

JUDAS MACCABEUS

CONCLUDING PIECE

“Hallelujah” from *Messiah*

G.F. Handel

*We invite everyone to join in the traditional singing of the Hallelujah Chorus. Copies of the music are available from the ushers. You are welcome to join the choir in the chancel or remain in your pew.*

## Scripture:

### Luke 24: 1-12 (NRSVUE)

#### The Resurrection of Jesus

**24** But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they went in they did not find the body.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>4</sup> While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. <sup>5</sup> The women<sup>[b]</sup> were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men<sup>[c]</sup> said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.<sup>[d]</sup> <sup>6</sup> Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, <sup>7</sup> that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again.” <sup>8</sup> Then they remembered his words, <sup>9</sup> and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. <sup>10</sup> Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. <sup>11</sup> But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. <sup>12</sup> But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.<sup>[e]</sup>



## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today 302

1. Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2. Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 \* 5. Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 \* 6. King of glo - ry, soul of bliss, Al - le - lu - ia!

Earth and heaven in cho - rus say, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Praise to thee by both be given, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ev - er - last - ing life is this, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids him rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Once he died our souls to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like him, like him we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Thee we greet tri - um - phant now, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Thee to know, thy power to prove, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth re - ply, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Christ has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where's thy vic - tory, boast - ing grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Hail the Res - ur - rec - tion, thou, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Thus to sing, and thus to love, Al - le - lu - ia!

308

## Thine Be the Glory

1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering Son;  
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb;  
 3. No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life!

end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.  
 lov - ing - ly he greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom.  
 Life is naught with - out thee; aid us in our strife.

An - gels in bright rai - ment rolled the stone a - way,  
 Let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph sing,  
 Make us more than con - querors, through thy death - less love;

kept the fold - ed grave - clothes where thy bod - y lay.  
 for our Lord now liv - eth; death hath lost its sting.  
 bring us safe through Jor - dan to thy home a - bove.

*Refrain*

Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering Son;

# Congregational Church of Topsfield

## Parish Care Ministry

### **Prayer List Contact:**

Kim Itz at [prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.org](mailto:prayerlisting@topsfieldchurch.org) or 978-887-6567.

### **Healing Scripture:**

"And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick ....." Matthew 14:14

### **Healing Prayer:**

Dear Lord, I ask you to turn this weakness into strength, suffering into compassion, sorrow into joy, and pain into comfort for others. May your servant trust in your goodness and hope in your faithfulness, even in the middle of this suffering. Let him be filled with patience and joy in your presence as he waits for your healing touch.

### **Please Pray For:**

Doug McIlvaine - Member of CCOT  
Jane Moyer - Member of CCOT  
Diana Titus - Member of CCOT  
Cheryl Hopkins - Member of CCOT  
Joyce Talbot - Member of CCOT  
Abby Bowling - Member of CCOT  
Susan Gruber - Member of CCOT  
Dennis Heslet- Member of CCOT  
Jane Jones - Member of CCOT  
Larry Atkins - Member of CCOT  
Fred Parker - Member of CCOT  
Jacob Itz - Son of Kim & Charlie Itz  
David Muisse & Family- Family of Kim Itz  
Scott Bortzfield - Son of Ruth Bortzfield  
Jack Whelan - Brother of Steve Whelan  
Steve Hoover - Son of Carol & Fred Hoover  
Dorcas Gordon - Grandmother of Rasheed Townes  
Doug Gruber - Brother of Susan Gruber  
Mark Gosbee - Son of Judi & Gary Gosbee  
Roger Talbot - Husband of Joyce Talbot  
Lynn Barnes - Sister in law of Jim Barnes

Jim Quinlivan- Dad of Julie Quinlivan  
Laura Whelan - Daughter in law of Steve & Sandy Whelan  
Phil and Marilyn Knowles - Parents of Scott Knowles  
Kevin Goldenbogen - Former Youth Leader at CCOT  
Trish Hudson - Former member of CCOT  
Maria Cecilia Guerra - Sister of José Guerra  
Eva - Friend of Irina Günzel-Guerra from Norway  
Andrea Sommer & Family - Relatives of Irina Günzel Guerra  
Sean Enos - Son of neighbor of Jane & Bruce Jones  
Bobby Duchano - Friend of Charles Mathison  
GML - Friend of Judi & Gary Gosbee  
Phil Sinaikin - Friend of Christa & Martin Riekert  
Rick Anderson - Friend of CCOT  
Kay - Family friend of Ellie Losee  
Pete - Friend of Charlotte & Duane Melling  
Nancy Woolford - Friend of CCOT

