

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**Sunday, April 28, 2019**

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship N. C. Townley

One: This is the good news which we proclaim:

**All: Jesus Christ is raised from the dead!**

One: Walk in the light of his love.

**All: Live in the light of his teachings  
and healing mercies.**

One: Come, let us worship the One who overcame  
death.

**All: Let us celebrate the triumph of our Loving  
God!**

Hymn Down in the Valley to Pray traditional

As I went down in the valley to pray, studyin' about  
that good old way and who shall wear the robe and  
crown, good Lord, show me the way! Oh, children,  
let's go down! Let's go down, don't you want to go  
down. Oh, children, let's go down! Down in the val-  
ley to pray.

As I went down in the valley to pray, walkin' along  
that good old way I blessed the feet that walked  
ahead, good Lord, show me the way! Oh, children,  
let's go down! Let's go down, don't you want to go  
down. Oh, children, let's go down! Down in the val-  
ley to pray.

As I went down in the valley to pray, singin' about  
that good old way I blessed the hands that led me on,  
good Lord, show me the way! Oh, children, let's go  
down! Let's go down, don't you want to go down.

Oh, children, let's go down! Down in the valley to  
pray.

As I went down in the valley to pray, studyin' about  
that good old way and who shall wear the starry  
crown, good Lord, show me the way! Oh, children,  
let's go down! Let's go down, don't you want to go  
down. Oh, children, let's go down! Down in the val-  
ley to pray.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) adapted from T. Shuman  
Gracious One: when we hesitate to speak of your  
hope, forgive us, and give us voice. When we find it  
difficult to love another, forgive us, and give us new  
compassion. When we stay locked behind our fears  
and doubts, forgive us, and send us out to share your  
grace. When we cannot believe your Word of new life,  
forgive us, and fill us with your joy. Continue to trans-  
form our hearts and minds as we seek to follow in the  
steps of the Risen One. Hear us pray...

*(moments for silent reflections)*

Words of Assurance

Anthem

Children's Message and Lord's Prayer

Dee Buchanan

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us  
from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power  
and the glory forever. Amen.

Sacrament of Baptism (10:30) Ford Douglas Matthews

**Congregational Response: With joy we welcome  
you into this church. Your baptism is not the end  
but the beginning of a journey of discovering just  
how much God loves you. This is our blessing to  
you: "Grow in grace and wisdom and do not fear,  
for the Lord is with you. Do justice, love kindness,  
and walk humbly with your God."**

Hymn lyrics, John Newton; music, anon.  
Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a  
wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind but now I see.

"Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace  
my fears relieved; how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers toils and snares I have al-  
ready come; it's grace that brought me safe this far,  
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright  
shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's  
praise than when we'd first begun.

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH  
Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Prayer of Dedication

### Scripture Lesson

**John 20:19-31**

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." <sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

### Sermon

**Jeanette Brodersen**

### Hymn

spiritual

Down by the Riverside

**Gonna lay down my heavy load down by the riverside, down by the riverside down by the riverside  
Gonna lay down my heavy load down by the riverside. Gonna study war no more. I ain't gonna study**

**war no more, ain't gonna study war no more ain't gonna study war no more I ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more ain't gonna study war no more.**

**Gonna talk with the Prince of Peace down by the riverside, down by the riverside down by the riverside  
Gonna talk with the Prince of Peace down by the riverside. Gonna study war no more I ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more.**

**Gonna lay down my sword and shield down by the riverside, down by the riverside down by the riverside  
Gonna lay down my sword and shield down by the river side. Gonna study war no more. I ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more ain't gonna study war no more I ain't gonna study war no more, ain't gonna study war no more ain't gonna study war no more.**

### Benediction

### Passing of the Peace

### Postlude