

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SOUNDING OF THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE LIGHTING THE CANDLES

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEASONAL CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: We gather as people who sometimes believe we cannot change,

MANY: But God invites us to grow.

ONE: We come with stories we tell ourselves about who we are and who we can never be,

MANY: But the Spirit whispers: "You are still growing."

ONE: Where we see failure, God sees an opportunity for growth.

MANY: Where we give up, God plants seeds of beginning.

ONE: We have been told that our worth is measured by what we achieve,

MANY: But we are learning that our worth is inherent, and growth is our birthright.

ONE: With growing spirits we proclaim:

MANY: "With God's help, I will become who I am."

ONE: We release delusions of perfection,

MANY: And embrace the holy work of becoming.

ONE: As living, growing, dynamic reflections of a creative God,

MANY: Let us worship God, who makes all things new!

WORSHIP IN SONG *I Come to the Garden Alone*

#237

INVOKING THE HOLY | *The Summer Day*, by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean —

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,

the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down —

who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down

into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,

how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,

which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do

with your one wild and precious life?

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION | from *Psalms 139*

ONE: O God, you have searched me and known me.

MANY: You search out my path and my thoughts.

ONE: Even before a word is on my tongue you know it.

MANY: Where can I go from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

ONE: Everywhere I go your hand leads me and steadies me.

MANY: You formed me in the depths. You knit me together in my mother's womb.

ONE: I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

MANY: Search me, O God, and know my heart.

ONE: Test me and know my thoughts.

MANY: See if there is any hurtful way in me, and lead me in the ancient way everlasting. AMEN.

Silent confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

People of good faith, God hears your prayers. When you ask for God to remind you who you are, God listens. When you want to grow, God helps.

Heed this good news: God is a great gardener, planting seeds of possibility in our hearts. God is with you when you stumble and fall to the ground.

God is with you when you stand and stretch to the skies. God makes all things new, again and again, every day. AMEN

WISDOM FOR ALL AGES

PASSING THE PEACE

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Ghost

as it was in the beginning, it is now,

and ever shall be; world without end. Amen, amen.

ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READING *John 20:1-18*

George Malone

SERMON

Pastor Aram Mitchell

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Joseph Cough

Crowded Table by The Highwomen

****Please join in on the chorus!****

**I want a house with a crowded table
And a place by the fire for everyone
Let us take on the world with love while we're able
And bring us back together when the day is done**

HOLY COMMUNION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God... this is my prayer.
This is our prayer.

LORD'S PRAYER | from *Matthew 6*

Note on language: When we pray to God as "Father" we are addressing the Creator in an intimate way, as a loving parent. There are many other names for God that you may choose to use in the spirit of this prayer. When we pray "thy kingdom come" we acknowledge that God's kingdom is an upside down kingdom that topples oppressive forces with power from below.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in 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.

SHARING GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

*Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that love has done,
Creator, Christ and Spirit one.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN OF SENDING *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* #233

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (*Please remain seated*) Joseph Cough
Following the service, a coffee hour is offered downstairs in the church vestry.

We remember in our prayers: The family of Karen Giles, Stacy Colby Barnes, Rev. Larry Krewson, George Greene, Rose Young, Ron Leeman, Betancourt family, and our neighbors at the Edgecomb Green.

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Edgecomb Community Church

United Church of Christ

"To bring together our communities in spirituality and loving service to humankind."



April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday

"God is still speaking"



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