

The core of the mystery is transformation. Not a magical replacement of the old with something new, but an innovating change from deep within, of that which is rising toward fulfillment and completion.
Suzanne Guthrie, American author, Episcopal leader, 21st c.

Our normal waking consciousness, rational consciousness as we call it, is but one special type of consciousness, whilst all about it, parted from it by the filmiest of screens, there lie potential forms of consciousness entirely different. *William James, The Varieties of Religious Experience, 20th c.*

Bringing these two things together—the mortal and the immortal, the earthly and the heavenly, the finite and the infinite – is the central mystery of this mystery religion that we call Christianity.
Beatrice Bruteau, American author, scholar and teacher, 21st c.

Prayer Candles: Is there a person or relationship that needs a prayer?

Please come forward and light an individual prayer candle before our worship begins.

Greeting One Another in Peace and Friendship Welcome and Announcements

YAWP Cami Carter and Sam Kunz, *leaders*
Our Young Adults With Pizzazz are concerned about homeless teens in the greater Bangor area and ask for our help in supporting Bangor's Shaw House!

The Prelude *Jesus Christ is Risen Today* Balcombe

The Centering Silence

The Candle of Common Good Robin and Carly Climo
Our church is part of a worldwide community seeking to articulate and reaffirm the common good. We know the Holy Spirit is acting to create this kind of world. Listening and learning are sacred duties in considering the spiritual, social and relational needs of others. May we be attentive to seeing and discerning what the presence of God is doing and to follow it and add to it without fear.
The CUF Worship Team

The Introit *The Angel Rolled the Stone Away* arr. Peter Amidon

* **The Gathering Hymn** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* # 216

* The Call to Worship

L: Easter begins in despair. Our life, our hope, our future, forever dead, crushed and sealed in a cave. Who will roll away the stone?

P: Early in the morning, Easter takes us by surprise.

The obstacles we expect to face are removed.

Where once death and despair lay locked in time, the bright light of hope now shines forth from emptiness.

L: It is, at first, too good to be true. "Where have you laid him?"

P: When faced with the unknowable, our first reflex is to run and our next response is to remain silent.

L: "Be not afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is risen. He is not here: see the place where they laid him is empty. But, go your way.

P: Tell all the followers that he goes on ahead of them. There, in the future, you will find him.

L: Suddenly the realization dawns. It may rise as quietly as the sun creeping over the horizon, or it may explode like fireworks, painting the world with dazzle. We recognize the One who was dead as the Sacred Presence comes to life--within each of us.

P: Christ is risen!

L: And all who encounter the Risen One, whether gently awakened or suddenly surprised, will join the resurrection procession one by one, slipping into step, some of us singing, some of us silently soaking it in, and all of us feeling the joy of this time and this place on the journey.

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

The Gathering Prayer: (*unison*)

O God, we come before you as those seeking to be transformed into newness within the great Mystery that we name Christ. We confess our fear of death. We fear death as loss, as letting go of old ways, old relationships, old self-understandings. We fear its hidden threat in poverty, danger, or sickness. And, we also confess our fear of life because at times we want to build shells to protect ourselves from people who come too close, from change that comes too fast, and from possibilities that seem too bewildering.

Giver of new life, we come this morning with our alleluias, our songs, and our lilies. We come to worship in beauty and in truth:

- because we have faith that, in Jesus, God said "no" to all our human systems and structures of violence, oppression and greed;

- because we have hope that this message will enter into and transform each of our lives;

- and because, through the Spirit that enfolds us, we have come to love one another. Accept our worship, gracious God. Be present with us as daystar, as miracle, as mystery, and as the gentle hands of grace. Amen.

The Hebrew Scripture *Psalm 139:1-12* # 765

Our Easter Journey *i thank You God for most this amazing* e e cummings
Rachel Dobbs, *reader*

Time for the Child in Each of Us

Sarah Marx McGill, Director of Youth and Children Ministries

Lord of the Dance (*insert*)
Sonja Birthisel, Carly Climo, Nora Dobbs, dancers; Fran Vogt, soloist

Sing Our Children to Sunday School (*seated*) *Go Now In Peace* #437(twice)
Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

~ ~ ~ ~

The Prayer Hymn (*seated*) *Now the Green Blade Rises* # 230

The Silent Prayer and Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer *New Zealand Prayer Book*

Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all. Loving God, in whom is heaven.

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe.

May the way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the earth.

May your heavenly will be done by all created beings.

May your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

The Congregational Response *Confitemini Domino* Taize Community

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O God, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, allelu-u-u-u-ia!

Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O God, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace, allelu-u-u-u-ia!

Today's Plate Offering

marked gifts
(check or envelope)

PLEDGE

or

Partners for Peace
(formerly Spruce Run)

Partners for Peace is a private, non-profit organization in Bangor dedicated to serving people affected by domestic abuse and working to end personal, institutional, and cultural violence. Partners for Peace offers support, feedback and information about options, with the firm belief in a person's right to make their own decisions and act on their own behalf. Partners for Peace offers shelter, support groups, education, children's services, and training for members of the community on dealing with domestic abuse.

or

Bangor Area Homeless Shelter

The mission of BAHS is to provide emergency shelter and supportive services to the homeless and economically disadvantaged of the Bangor area. The facility is open 24/7 providing overnight shelter as well as a Day Program. It serves homeless adults and other low-income members of our community. The BAHS's primary purpose is to offer a form of crisis stabilization and then develop a support system to enable people to move beyond homelessness.

Please make checks payable to
The Church of Universal Fellowship.
Memo your check or mark your envelope:

Pledge

or

Partners for Peace

or

Bangor Area Homeless Shelter (BAHS)

(unmarked gifts will support Open Doors)