



# The United Parish in Brookline

American Baptist • United Church of Christ • United Methodist



*Empty Tomb* by Anneli Anderson, [studioanneli.com](http://studioanneli.com)

Nursery care is available for children under 5 years old, upstairs in Room 203, where our professional caregivers provide activities, crafts, snacks, and a scripture-based curriculum.

During worship, children are invited to explore our 'Prayground' to the right of the worship platform. There is also a Family Room across the hall from the Prayground for those who would like a quiet place to rock or nurse. Rocking chairs are also available at the back of the Sanctuary.

Hearing devices are available from the ushers.

Scan the QR code to the right to fill out a visitor card, contribute to our offering, and more!



## Easter Sunday

April 20, 2025

*Between Grief & Hope*

Gathering Music

Nick Hill, *trumpet*  
Susan DeSelms, *organ*

*Larghetto*, from Concerto in D Major (after Vivaldi), BWV 972  
by Johann Sebastian Bach

*Prayer of Saint Gregory*  
by Alan Hovhannes

*Variations Gregoriennes*  
by Henri Tomasi

\*Chiming the Trinity \* *means we invite you to rise in body and spirit*

\*Choral Introit

*My Lord, What a Morning*  
Negro Spiritual

Chancel Choir

\*Call to Worship

Parts of today's liturgy are by the Reverend Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC, [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

One: My dear friends, we have known grief.

All: **We have known loss.**

One: We have known the long road, tired and winding.

All: **We have whispered prayers on bended knees.**

One: We have stared at the sky, empty of stars.

All: **We have nearly given up.**

One: But today—

All: **Today we know hope.**

One: Today we know life.

All: **Today we know the sound of Alleluias.**

One: Today we proclaim that death does not have the last word.

All: **Today we know that nothing can separate us from the love of God.**

One: It is Easter,

All: **The Day of Resurrection!**

One: May hope find you and let you know,

All: **Deep in our bones,**

One: That today is a new day.

All: **Alleluia! Amen.**

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

**\*Easter Acclamation**

One: Alleluia! Christ the Lord is risen!

All: The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**\*Greetings**

Anna Jeide-Detweiler, *Seminarian*  
Amy Norton-Benfield, *Associate Pastor*  
Kent French, *Senior Pastor*

**Centering Prayer of Confession *unison***

With all that we are,  
with all that we hope to be,  
and most importantly, with all that you hope for us to be,  
we come into your presence, all-loving God.

We know that we do not always get it right,  
We are not always ready to receive you,  
We are not always willing to accept the joyful, life-giving surprises  
you have waiting for us.

So here, in this place, with one voice, we ask for forgiveness, Loving God.  
Forgive us when good news comes into our view and we refuse to believe it.  
Forgive us when grief and fear crowd out any room for hope in our hearts.  
Forgive us when we dismiss the stories of others  
and ignore the wisdom coming through the voices of our neighbors.

In a world that wavers between grief and hope,  
show us how to be the people of your Resurrection,  
running toward an empty tomb, fresh with possibility.

Show us how to live into hope.  
Show us how to run toward you...

**Silent Confession**

*We take up to one minute to pray our own private confessions in silence.*

One: O God, in your compassion;

All: Hear our prayer.

**\*Assurance of Grace**

**\*The Peace of Christ**

One: The Peace of Christ and the Love of God be with you always;

All: And also with you.

**\*Sung Response**

*Now the Green Blade Riseth*  
Text by John Macleod Campbell Crum  
Verse 1: Chancel Choir  
Verses 2-4: All Sing

TUNE: NOEL NOUVELET

1. Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;  
2. In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,  
3. Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,  
4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing or in pain,

Wheat that in the dark earth, ma - ny days has lain;  
Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,  
Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain.  
Love's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
Quick from the dead the ris - en Christ is seen:  
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Love is come a - gain like wheat that spring - eth green.

Reading from the Gospels

[Luke 24:1-12](#)

Deborah Brown

President

Brookline Community Development Corporation

One: The Good News of Jesus Christ;  
All: Thanks be to God!

Anthem

My Lord, What a Morning  
Negro Spiritual, arranged by H. T. Burleigh

Chancel Choir

Message

Hymn

Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers  
Text by John L. Bell and Graham Maule, 1988  
Traditional Welsh Melody  
Verses 1-3

TUNE: SUO GAN

1. Christ has ris-en while earth slum-bers; Christ has ris - en where hope died.  
 2. Christ has ris-en to com-pan - ion all of us who fear the night,  
 3. Christ has ris-en and for ev - er lives to chal-lenge and to change  
 4. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu.

As he said and as he prom-ised, as we doubt-ed and de - nied.  
 sens-ing loss and lim - i - ta - tion where our faith had once burned bright.  
 all whose lives are messed or man-gled, all who find re - li - gion strange.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu.

Let the moon em - brace the bless-ing; let the sun sus - tain the cheer;  
 We be-moan what is no lon-ger, we ex-pect no hope - ful sign.  
 Christ is ris - en, Christ is pre-sent mak - ing us what he has been:  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu.

let the world con - firm the ru-mor; Christ is ris - en, God is here.  
 'Til Christ calms our a - gi - ta - tion, break-ing bread and shar - ing wine.  
 ev - i - dence of trans-for-ma-tion in which God is known and seen.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, A - men.

## Prayers of the People

Anna Jeide-Detweiler

One: O God, hear our prayer;  
All: And guide us in your love.

## Lord's Prayer

*We invite you to use your chosen words for God: Father, Mother, Abba, Allah or...*

Our Creator, 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 trespasses,	As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.
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## Prayer Response

*Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers*  
Verse 4  
(See music above)

TUNE: SUO GAN

## Offering Invitation

Abigail Bonnington

*No gift is too small or too large; all are precious.*

*We encourage everyone to participate in passing the offering plate, as an act of our common life together.*

*Ways to contribute:*

1. Place cash, check, or visitor card in the offering plate.
2. Scan the QR code at right.
3. Through Venmo (@unitedparishinbrookline), Paypal (paypal.me/unitedparish), Realm (internal directory/database), or at [unitedparishbrookline.org/give](https://unitedparishbrookline.org/give).



## Negro Spiritual Royalties Project

The Negro Spiritual, *My Lord, What a Morning*, is used as a refrain throughout our liturgy this morning, and captures the deep feelings of grief, or “mourning” even as hope dawns with the emergence of a new day. It was created by enslaved people, and therefore unprotected by copyright law. We at the United Parish affirm the artistic and spiritual value of all Negro Spirituals by paying royalties with a combination of funds. Royalties go to Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts, a Boston-based organization dedicated to promoting the advancement of young Black musicians, and to preserving Negro Spirituals, the historic term for this music preferred by Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts.

## Offertory Anthem

*I Thank You God for Most this Amazing Day*  
by Gwyneth Walker  
words by E. E. Cummings

Chancel Choir  
Gulnare Ozdemir, piano

*i thank You God for most this amazing  
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees  
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything  
which is natural which is infinite which is yes*

*(i who have died am alive again today,  
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth  
day of life and of love and wings; and of the gay  
great happening illimitably earth)*

*how should tasting touching hearing seeing  
breathing any—lifted from the no  
of all nothing—human merely being  
doubt unimagined You?*

*(now the ears of my ears awake and  
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)*

*i thank You God for most this amazing day*

\*Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

TUNE: LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
 Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!  
 Praise God the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

\*Closing Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory  
Verses 1, 2, 3, and 5

TUNE: CWM RHONDDA

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the  
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
 4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that  
 5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;  
 Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—  
 your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,  
 they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,  
 we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion

bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.  
 in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.



**\*Holy Business**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

*Alleluia*  
by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Nick Hill, *trumpet*  
Susan DeSelms, *organ*

Please join us after worship for fellowship in Willett Hall.

Thank you to those serving in worship today:

Acolyte: Ella M.

Liturgists: Deborah Brown, Abigail Bonnington

Ushers: Tyler Smith, Madeline Cortes, Livia Imada, David Mann, Cathy Quackenbush,  
Paul Quackenbush

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## **Take-Home Questions**

Where or how are you feeling grief these days?

What is giving you hope? Why?

How, in your own life, can you live more fully into the hope of the resurrection?  
How are you already doing it? Who helps you do this?

## EASTER LILIES AND FLOWERS

<b>Donated by...</b>	<b>In Memory or in Honor of...</b>
Anonymous	In memory of Barbara Ann Carmickle and Paula Kay Reagan
Kate Baker-Carr	In memory of Alex Kennan
Jen Bose	In memory of Matthew Hoyne, Don Crockett In honor of Robert and Valerie Bose
Louise Bowler	In memory of Alice Cassidy, Charles Arena
Anita Breslaw	In memory of Haven Breslaw
Terry Bruce	In memory of Jim and Mary Bruce
Leann Canty and Prabhakar Devavaram	In memory of Jamie and Mercy Devavaram, Vanitha Selvakumar
Sarah Fitzpatrick	In memory of Marilyn Clarke, Ann Fitzpatrick, William and Ethel Fitzpatrick, Theresa Buonfiglio, Cynthia Silva
Alan Fobes	In memory of Michael and Mary Lou Morris, George and Dorothy Fobes
John Michael Green	In memory of Robert Anthony Falco
Pat Howkinson	In honor of loved ones
Alicia Hsu	In memory of Moses and Charlotte Hsu In honor of our beloved United Parish staff
Paul and Roberto Lauro-Priestly	In memory of Joyce Priestly, Lepha Pickford, Vena Pickford, Marcus and Louise Pickford In honor of Vena, Calvin, Geovanni, Armani, Anorah and Amyrah; our dear friend Linda Percy; the Lauro and Travaglione Family; the Todd and Bogiages Families
Stella Lee	In honor of Inhee and William Lee
Loke-Stubbs Family	In memory of Betty
Barbara and Bethany Lynch	In memory of loved ones
Mary and Mike McConnell	In memory of Rob Heist, Phyllis Nelder, Bob Phenix In honor of Deanna Baker
Carolyn Melbye	In memory of loved ones

Karina and John Thompson	In memory of Bruno and Ruth Leino, Violet Noviello
Sam and Stella Trumble	In memory of Earl Smith, Diane Trumble
Emily Turkington	In memory of William Edward Turkington, Dorothy Evelyn Dewar Turkington, Gail Turkington
Holly VandeWall and Brian Watkins	In memory of Gloria Watkins
Marla Walters	In memory of Judy and Jeff Hopper
Brent, Lisa, Julian and Cooper Weil	In memory of Donn and Gwen Wisman, Joanne Melvin, Jack and Jean Herdlicka, Richard and Irene Weil
Laurel Whitfield	In memory of Rachel Campbell Garcia
Vanessa Whittem	In memory of Mrs. Dorothy Mary Whittem, Mr. Harold Dudley Moore
Lisa and Allan Wong	In memory of Ralph and Ruth Ellen Dushame, Yok and Diana Wong, David Dushame, Annette Wong

# WELCOME

We at the United Parish in Brookline believe that all people are made in the image of God and embrace and cherish every person and every kind of family. Jesus Christ welcomed everyone; we seek to follow his example in our own life and worship, by extending God's love and grace abundantly and equally to everyone. We affirm and welcome all people to share in worship, fellowship and leadership with us, to join us in a diversity of race, gender, sexual identity, physical and mental ability, ethnicity and economic means.

We have joined with other Open and Affirming (United Church of Christ) and Welcoming and Affirming (American Baptist Churches USA), as well as with the Reconciling Ministries Network (United Methodist Churches) to declare that we are and will remain open to all people.

We invite you to consider becoming a member of the United Parish family. You may become a member by transferring membership or by a statement of faith. If you desire to retain ties with a former church, we invite you to become an associate or affiliate member for the time you are with us.

*We ask that you silence all electronic devices.  
Please see an usher if you would like a hearing assistive device.*

*Because our building is open to the public,  
an adult should accompany children if/when they leave the worship service.*

Ministers	The People of the United Parish
Senior Pastor	Reverend Kent French
Associate Pastor	Reverend Amy Norton-Benfield
Seminarian	Anna Jeide-Detweiler
Minister of Music	Susan DeSelms
Choir Section Leader	Ruby Abreu
Choir Section Leader	Michelé Crowder
Choir Section Leader	Joseph Timmons
Choir Section Leader	Valentine Umeh
Handbell Choir Director	Tricia Kopko
Multimedia Producer	Jordan Wuth
Parish Administrator	Sarah Fitzpatrick
Accounting Administrator	Jim Smith
Building Manager	Rebekah Shore
Head Custodian	Violet Nowlan
Custodian	Emery Bibbins
Custodian	Jesse Kieffer
Nursery Supervisor	Katy Lum
Nursery Staff	Melanie Caicedo
Nursery Staff	Anne Florient
Nursery Staff	Ione Madsen Hardy
Nursery Staff	Emma Nelson
Pastor Emerita	Patricia Coughlin



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