



April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Passing the Peace

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pass the peace with one another...

*Introit

Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, allelu-ia.

*Call to Worship

We gather in this holy place, some empty, some filled; some whole, some broken.

All of us are yearning for the Holy Spirit to fill us.

We come together as ordinary people, walking in the steps of those who have shown us the way.

We come trusting that Christ will continue to illumine our hearts.

We come as God's people seeking to live the Way of Christ

We gather in faith and in doubt, in wonder and in weariness, to worship God who is always true.

*Hymn 200

Easter People, Raise Your Voices

Unison Prayer ~ Tim Graves, liturgybits.com, adapt.

We gather as people on a journey. We believe & we have doubts, we do good & we sin.

We are imperfect humans, and still beloved by God.

We seek forgiveness & grace from the One and from those we've harmed.

Assured of that grace, we are ready to grow again.

We yearn for a new way, a new perspective, and a clear path.

Though we are full of trust and full of doubt, we are here.

Speak to us, God! Continue creating us!

Inspire our hearts. Enlighten our minds. Guide our actions

That we may live into Christ more fully each day. Amen.

* Indicates all who are able may stand

Please silence your cell phones

Scripture

Luke 7:36-50 Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman

36 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee's house and reclined at the table. 37 A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee's house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner."

40 Jesus answered him, "Simon, I have something to tell you." "Tell me, teacher," he said.

41 "Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, [a] and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

43 Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven." "You have judged correctly," Jesus said.

44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."

48 Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

49 The other guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" 50 Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Matthew 9: 1-13 Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralyzed Man

9 Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. 2 Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."

3 At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

4 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? 5 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 6 But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins." So he said to the paralyzed man, "Get up, take your mat and go home." 7 Then the man got up and went home. 8 When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.

The Calling of Matthew

9 As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," he told him, and Matthew got up and followed him.

10 While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners came and ate with him and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples,

“Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?”

12 On hearing this, Jesus said, “It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 13 But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’[a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

Mark 11: 15-17 Jesus Clears the Temple Courts

15 On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, 16 and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. 17 And as he taught them, he said, “Is it not written: ‘My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’[c]? But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

*Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

Sermon

“Coloring Outside the Lines”

Glenn Holton

*Hymn 197

The Day of Resurrection

Prayers of the People/Pastoral Prayer Lord's Prayer

Our Father (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 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 for ever. Amen.

Dedication of the Offering

*Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures, here, below.
Praise God, above, ye heav'nly hosts. Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

On my own what I have to give doesn't amount to much in the light of all you have given to me and in the face of so much need. Put together as a congregation, what we offer you here in love becomes more, not simply added together, but somehow multiplied in its usefulness. God, we ask you to bless our gifts and with the addition of your blessing, may it be enough for all. Amen.

*Hymn 202

Sing a Song of Celebration

*Benediction

Postlude



WELCOME to this Service of Worship at First Congregational Church. Of all the things you could have done this morning, we're glad you chose to be with us.



Upcoming Meetings

Church Council - Sunday, April 19 at 11am IN THE CHAPEL

Council/Search Team - Tentatively: Sunday, April 26 at 11am In the Chapel and on zoom

UCC Pilgrim Association Meeting - Sunday April 19 @ 2pm

at Christ Cong UCC in Brockton (see Pastor Karen if you want to attend)

Congregational Library Open House - Saturday, April 25 @ 2-4pm

14 Beacon Street, Suite 206, Boston

This in-person event celebrates 20 years of the New England's Hidden Histories project, featuring a program of reflection on early New England church records.



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