

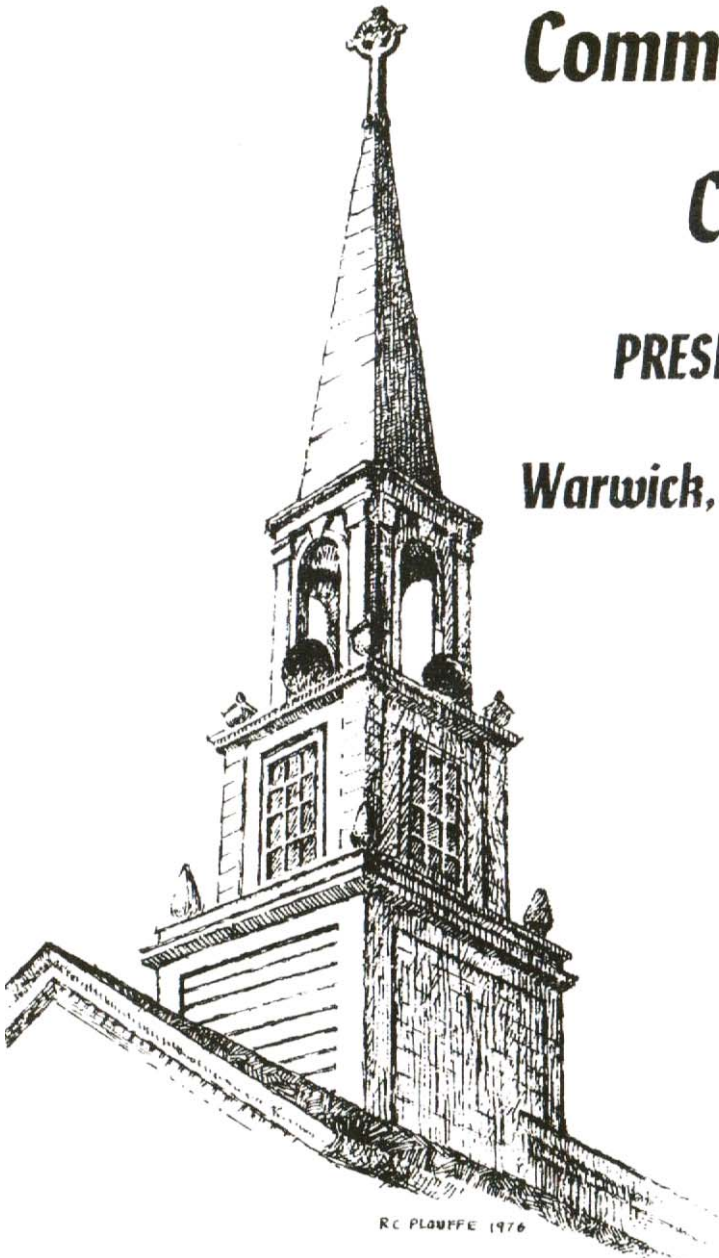
Greenwood

Community

Church

PRESBYTERIAN

Warwick, Rhode Island



OUR MISSION

The Greenwood Community Church, Presbyterian, seeks to have a three-fold ministry in obedience to our Lord's Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20):

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations ..." We seek to bring men and women, boys and girls of all nationalities into a vital relationship with the Son of God.

"... baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." We seek to bring men and women, boys and girls into a vital relationship with the family of God.

"... teaching them to observe all I have commanded you ..." We seek to bring men and women, boys and girls into a vital relationship with the Word of God.

OUR SESSION

M. Barry Baxter
Dennis J. Charpentier
Joan Eichenfeldt
Emmy J. Kmet

H. Samuel Koldyk
D. Elaine Magyar, Clerk
Denise S. Mair
Matthew S. Majeika

Wayne A. Meunier
Evelyn C. Murray
Jeffrey S. Plouffe
Donald B. Sorgel

OUR BOARD OF DEACONS

Cheryl L. Bowser
Beverly A. Carson
Stephen R. Hall
Sandra Cook Hall
Marilyn E. Jacobs
Jillian H Jacobs
Virginia A. Jacobs, Moderator
Emily R. Jones

Adam K. Jones
Vera M. Koldyk
Robert E. Martin, Jr
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Claudette Palin
Patricia A. Parkinson
Sherry Phillips
Brandon E. Phillips
Cynthia M. Pisano
Catherine C. Schobel
Nancy H. Sumrall
Janet P. Swanson

OUR STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Clark, Pastor
John C. Black, Director of Music and Choirs, Organist
Alexandra K. Nichols, Music Associate
Virginia A. Jacobs, Director of Family Ministries
Matthew S. Majeika, Director of Young Adult Ministries
Carol A. Castergine, Church Office Administrator
John W. Pickup, Sexton

M. Barry Baxter, Treasurer
Emmy Kmet, Financial Secretary
Dennis J. Charpentier, President

805 Main Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island 02886
Church Telephone: (401) 737-1230
www.gccp.org

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

RISUS PASCHALIS

Morning Worship – 9:30 a.m.

April 19, 2020

Blessed Lord, by Whose providence all Holy Scriptures were written and preserved for our instruction: give us grace to study them each day with patience and love; strengthen our souls with the fullness of their divine teaching; keep us from all pride and irreverence; guide us in the deep things of Your heavenly wisdom; and, of Your great mercy, lead us by Your word into life abundant and eternal.

A prayer of Brooke Foss Westcott, 1825-1901, Bishop of Durham

PRELUDE *Ofertoire pour "O Filii et Filiae" (O Sons and Daughters)*
Jean-François Dandrieu

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (from Revelation 1:4-8)

Grace and peace to you from Him Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come, and from the sevenfold Spirit before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, Who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

TO HIM WHO LOVES US AND HAS FREED US FROM OUR SINS BY HIS BLOOD, AND HAS MADE US TO BE A KINGDOM AND PRIESTS TO SERVE HIS GOD AND FATHER — TO HIM BE GLORY AND POWER FOR EVER AND EVER! AMEN.

Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all peoples on earth will mourn because of Him. So shall it be! Amen.

"I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA," SAYS THE LORD GOD, "WHO IS, AND WHO WAS, AND WHO IS TO COME, THE ALMIGHTY."

***+HYMN** *Worship Christ the Risen King*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (a prayer of Martin Luther, in unison)

ALMIGHTY GOD, THROUGH THE DEATH OF YOUR SON YOU HAVE DESTROYED SIN AND DEATH, AND BY HIS RESURRECTION YOU HAVE RESTORED INNOCENCE AND EVERLASTING LIFE, THAT WE MAY BE DELIVERED FROM THE DOMINION OF EVIL, AND OUR MORTAL BODIES BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD. FORGIVE OUR SINS, WE PRAY, AND GRANT THAT WE MAY BELIEVE THIS GOOD NEWS, THAT FINALLY WITH ALL YOUR SAINTS, WE MAY SHARE IN THE JOYFUL RESURRECTION OF THE JUST, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, YOUR SON OUR LORD, AMEN.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (responsively, from Jeremiah 31)

"The time is coming," declares the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah."

"THIS IS THE COVENANT I WILL MAKE WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AFTER THAT TIME," DECLARES THE LORD. "I WILL PUT MY LAW IN THEIR MINDS AND WRITE IT ON THEIR HEARTS. I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY WILL BE MY PEOPLE."

"For I will forgive their wickedness and remember their sins no more."

IN JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE FORGIVEN. AMEN.

***GLORIA PATRI**

PSALTER *Psalm 16*

SCRIPTURE READINGS *John 20:19-31*
1 Peter 1:3-9

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

***HYMN** *O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing*

SERMON *DON'T LIVE! YOU MAY DIE!*

John 20:27b -- "Stop doubting and believe."

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*

I BELIEVE IN GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY, MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH, AND IN JESUS CHRIST HIS ONLY SON OUR LORD; WHO WAS CONCEIVED BY THE HOLY GHOST, BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY, SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DEAD, AND BURIED. HE DESCENDED INTO HELL. THE THIRD DAY HE ROSE AGAIN FROM THE DEAD; HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN, AND SITTETH ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD THE FATHER ALMIGHTY; FROM THENCE HE SHALL COME TO JUDGE THE QUICK AND THE DEAD. I BELIEVE IN THE HOLY GHOST; THE HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH; THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS; THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS; THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY; AND THE LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

The Lord's Prayer

OFFERING

**Doxology*

**Prayer of Dedication*

***HYMN** *The Day of Resurrection!*

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Toccatà on "O Filii et Filiae" Lynwood Farnam*

Worship Christ, the Risen King

He has risen! He is not here. Mark 16:6

PSALM 16

(From the ESV and NIV translations, responsively)

1. Rise, O Church, and lift your voic - es; Christ has con - quered
 2. See the tomb where death had laid Him; Emp - ty now, its
 3. Hear the earth pro - test and trem - ble; See the stone re -
 4. Doubt may lift its head to mur - mur, Scoff - ers mock and
 5. We ac - claim Your life, O Je - sus; Now we sing Your

death and hell. Sing as all the earth re - joic - es;
 mouth de - clares: "Death and I could not con - tain Him,
 moved with pow'r. All hell's min - ions may as - sem - ble,
 sin - ners jeer; But the truth pro - claims a won - der
 vic - to - ry. Sin and hell may seek to seize us,

Res - ur - rec - tion an - thems swell. Come and wor - ship,
 For the throne of life He shares." Come and wor - ship,
 But can - not with - stand His hour. He has con - quered,
 Tho't - ful hearts re - ceive with cheer. He is ris - en,
 But Your con - quest keeps us free. Stand in tri - umph,

come and wor - ship; Wor - ship Christ, the ris - en King!
 come and wor - ship; Wor - ship Christ, the ris - en King!
 He has con - quered; Christ the Lord, the ris - en King!
 He is ris - en; Now re - ceive the ris - en King!
 stand in tri - umph; Wor - ship Christ, the ris - en King!

CCLI LICENSE #1301953

REGENT SQUARE
8.7.8.7.8.7.

TEXT: Jack W. Hayford
 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart

A lower setting may be found at No. 754

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Protect me, O God, for in You I take refuge.

I SAY TO THE LORD, "YOU ARE MY LORD; I HAVE NO GOOD APART FROM YOU."

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

THOSE WHO CHOOSE ANOTHER GOD MULTIPLY THEIR SORROWS; I WILL NOT POUR OUT THEIR LIBATIONS OF BLOOD OR TAKE THEIR NAMES UPON MY LIPS.

The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup; You have made my lot secure.

THE BOUNDARY LINES HAVE FALLEN FOR ME IN PLEASANT PLACES; I HAVE A GOODLY HERITAGE.

I bless the LORD who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I KEEP THE LORD ALWAYS BEFORE ME; BECAUSE HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, I SHALL NOT BE MOVED.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

FOR YOU WILL NOT ABANDON ME TO THE GRAVE, NOR LET YOUR HOLY ONE SEE DECAY.

You have made known to me the path of life; In Your presence there is fullness of joy;

IN YOUR RIGHT HAND ARE PLEASURES FOREVERMORE.

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

1 O sons and daugh - ters, let us sing
 2 That Eas - ter morn, at break of day,
 3 An an - gel clad in white they see,
 4 That night the a - pos - tles met in fear;

Insert stanzas 5-8 if desired.

9 On this most ho - ly day of days,

with heav'n - ly hosts to Christ our king:
 the faith - ful wom - en went their way
 who sits and speaks un - to the three,
 a - mong them came their mas - ter dear,

be laud and ju - bi - lee and praise:

to - day the grave has lost its sting! Al - le - lu - ia!
 to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!
 "Your Lord will go to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!
 and said, "My peace be with you here." Al - le - lu - ia!

to God your hearts and voic - es raise. Al - le - lu - ia!

After the final stanza

Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia.

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The Day of Resurrection!

Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. Matt. 28:9

1. The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
 2. Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
 3. Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, let earth her song be - gin;

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
 the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;
 let the round world keep tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from this world to the sky,
 and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
 in - vis - i - ble and vis - i - ble, their notes let all things blend,

our Christ hath brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
 his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
 for Christ the Lord hath ris - en, our joy that hath no end.

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN
Warwick, Rhode Island
April 19, 2020

***WE WELCOME ALL** who are worshipping with us today via this online Service of Worship. This is still somewhat new territory for us, we've made a few technical adjustments which may help with the occasional "buffering" pauses; also, the service will be archived and posted @ twenty minutes after the live stream ... the service will then be available for viewing for **ONE WEEK** for you to watch at your leisure and without buffering interruption. A special word of welcome is extended to any who are visiting with us on line this morning...whether you are visiting us for this hour or looking for a new church home, welcome to our fellowship.*

During the offering we will again be dedicating tithes and offerings we have received via mail; **THANK YOU** to all who have remained constant in your financial support of the Greenwood Community Church during this time of economic hardship for many of you AND when we are unable to meet together as a congregation. Some have given by utilizing "Bill Pay" options offered by most banks, others have mailed or dropped off donations to the church office, and finally the **option for on line giving** via a service provided by the **Presbyterian Foundation** is up and running. A summary of instructions and answers to frequent questions can be found by clicking the link below the "Give Now" icon on the www.gccp.org home page..

We will continue the **Wednesday Night Hymn Sing via Facebook April 22, 7:00 PM**, and will live stream worship next **Sunday, April 25, 9:30 A.M.**

THE MISSION COMMITTEE would like to thank everyone who responded to the call to help others around the world by supporting One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). Gifts to OGHS will be accepted through April 26 for those who would still like to respond. Please use the OGHS offering envelopes in your box of offering envelopes for your donation OR use the online option. Thank you!

† † † † † † † † † †

The Rev. Dr. Stephen L. Clark, Pastor

John C. Black, Director of Music and Choirs, Organist

Matthew S. Majeika, Camera and Technical Master
(and our Director of Young Adult Ministries)

Olivia R. Black, "Choir"

Wayne A. Meunier, Lector

† † † † † † † † † †

WHAT IS RISUS PASCHALIS?

(excerpts from an April 23, 2017 sermon)

During the 15th century in southern Germany (Bavaria), a delightful custom sprung up in many of the churches. At the end of the "Sunday after Easter" church service, the priest would leave the altar and come down among the people and lead the congregation in what was called the "Risus Paschalis", which roughly translates as "the Easter laughter." (*"Osterlachen" in German*). The priest would tell funny stories and sing comical songs all illustrating some moral and spiritual point, and the congregation would resound with laughter (*Bavarians are somewhat stereotypically known as the funny and more social Germans; unlike their stereotypically serious and somber northern counterparts*).

Eventually this evolved into a regular annual practice, and the Sunday after Easter became known as **Risus Paschalis Sunday**. Priests would include jokes and funny stories in their sermons, and would often play practical jokes on their parishioners throughout the week (*some of which, I'm told, could be pretty ribald!*). The congregation would join in the fun as well.

Why do this at Eastertide? Because it was a time to celebrate the big joke, the Ultimate fast one, that God "pulled" on the principalities and powers of darkness by the resurrection of Jesus. Think of it ... everyone was convinced Jesus was gone, dead, done away with for good. The Roman authorities thought so; they wouldn't have to worry now about any insurrection. The crowds that cried for Jesus' crucifixion thought so, in their minds this so-called Messiah was a charlatan and got what He deserved; they were now rid of him. The religious leaders thought so; they were convinced they had rid themselves of a perceived threat to their authority and a blasphemer. On a grander scale, the Bible intimates the unseen powers of darkness thought they had pulled off a grand triumph, for they believed they had frustrated the plans and purposes of God. The Son of God was now dead and in the tomb ... it's over. But, to quote Yogi Berra, *"It ain't over 'till it's over!"* God won the ultimate triumph over the principalities and powers of evil through the resurrection of His Son.

Unfortunately, the custom didn't last; Pope Clement X outlawed **Risus Paschalis** sometime in the 17th century ... I guess folks were having too much of a good time in church, and that shouldn't be! In recent times, though, some churches are resurrecting the observance (*pun intended*) of **Risus Paschalis**; in fact, eight years ago I went to one such service at a Presbyterian church in my home town.