

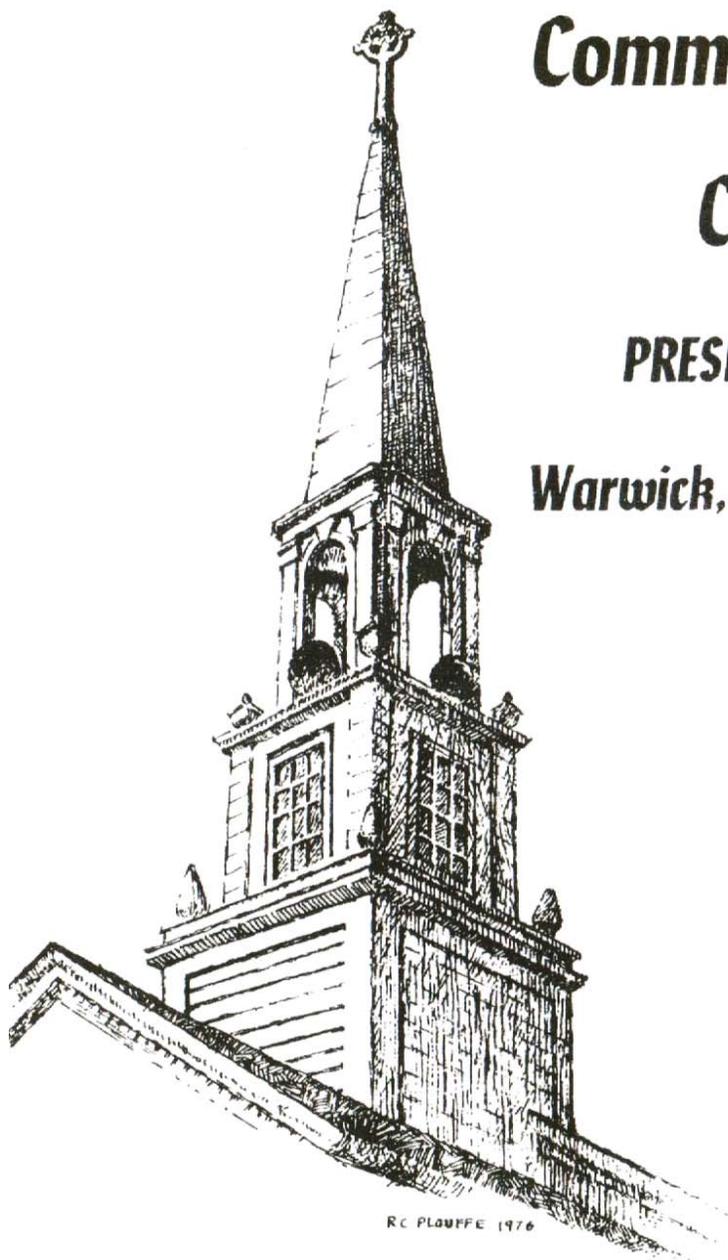
Greenwood

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

Marcia Camilleri Camp
Dennis J. Charpentier
Beth A. Fish
Kevin L. Golde

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

Wayne A. Meunier
Evelyn C. Murray
Donald B. Sorgel
Kristine L. Swanson

OUR BOARD OF DEACONS

Monika S. Algozino
Judith Hall Barry
Jean A. Brown
Cheryl L. Bowser
Beverly A. Carson
Stephen R. Hall
Virginia A. Jacobs
Adam K. Jones

Emily R. Jones
Vera M. Koldyk
Louis P. Messier
Barbara R. Miller
Claudette Pailin
Brandon E. Phillips
Sherry L. Phillips

Cynthia M. Pisano
Susan Reil
Catherine C. Schobel
JoAn L. Schultz
Nancy H. Sumrall
Janet P. Swanson
William Taylor
Robert J. Whitney

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 J. 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 11, 2021

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 *O Fillii et Filiae* Jean-François Dandrieu
John Black, Organ
And Can It Be arr. Marilyn Ham
Alexandra Nichols, Piano

EPISTLE READING *I John 1:1-4*

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *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** *(unison)*

I John 1:5-9

“This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth; but if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

“In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Amen.”

***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.*

SPECIAL MUSIC *Change My Heart, O God* arr. John Wilson
Beth Fish, Alto

GOSPEL READING *John 20:19-31*

ANTHEM *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing* arr. Lani Smith

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

***HYMN** *In the Garden*

SERMON BE THOMAS' TWIN

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*

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!*

**Prayer of Dedication*

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

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Toccata on O Fillii et Filiae* Linwood Farnham

Worship Christ, the Risen King

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

1. Rise, O Church, and lift your voice; Christ has conquered
 2. See the tomb where death had laid Him; Empty now, its
 3. Hear the earth protest and tremble; See the stone re-
 4. Doubt may lift its head to murmur, Scoffers mock and
 5. We acclaim Your life, O Jesus; Now we sing Your

death and hell. Sing as all the earth rejoice;
 mouth declares: "Death and I could not contain Him,
 moved with power. All hell's minions may assemble,
 sinners jeer; But the truth proclaims a wonder
 victory. Sin and hell may seek to seize us,

Resurrection anthems swell. Come and worship,
 For the throne of life He shares." Come and worship,
 But can not withstand His hour. He has conquered,
 Though hearts receive with cheer. He is risen,
 But Your conquest keeps us free. Stand in triumph,

come and worship; Worship Christ, the risen King!
 come and worship; Worship Christ, the risen King!
 He has conquered; Christ the Lord, the risen King!
 He is risen; Now receive the risen King!
 stand in triumph; Worship Christ, the risen King!

TEXT: Jack W. Hayford
 MUSIC: Henry T. Smart
 A lower setting may be found at No. 754
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REGENT SQUARE
 8.7.8.7.8.7.

I JOHN 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life — the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us — that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

JOHN 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After He said this, He showed them His hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you." And with that He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Now Thomas (called Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in His hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe it."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father 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, Amen.

In the Garden

The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. John 20:20

1. I come to the gar - den a - lone, While the dew is
 2. He speaks, and the sound of His voice Is so sweet the
 3. I'd stay in the gar - den with Him Tho' the night a -

still on the ros - es; And the voice I hear, fall - ing on my ear,
 birds hush their sing - ing; And the mel - o - dy that He gave to me
 round me be fall - ing; But He bids me go, thro' the voice of woe;

Refrain

The Son of God dis - clos - es.
 With - in my heart is ring - ing. And He walks with me, and He
 His voice to me is call - ing.

talks with me, And He tells me I am His own; And the joy we

share as we tar - ry there None oth - er has ev - er known.

TEXT: C. Austin Miles
 MUSIC: C. Austin Miles

GARDEN
 Irregular meter

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.

John of Damascus, 8th cent.
 Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1862; alt.

LANCASHIRE 7.6.7.6.D.
 Henry Smart, 1836; alt. 1990

GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN
Warwick, Rhode Island
April 11, 2021

WELCOME to all who are worshipping in our sanctuary today; welcome, too, to all worshipping online! As done each Sunday these past 55 weeks, the service will be archived and posted after the benediction and should be available for viewing and/or downloading for a number of weeks with our new upgrade. A special word of welcome to any and all visiting with us in person or online this morning ... welcome to our fellowship!

FLOWERS TODAY are given to the glory of God by Janet Swanson in loving memory of her dear mother, Ruth M. Pelley, and by Deb Stacey and Ray Lefebvre; Don, Donna, Derrick and Amanda Stacey; Denise and Peter Mair in honor of Betty Stacey's 88th birthday (*this Tuesday; see last announcement below*)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL meets each Sunday in the church parlor and via Zoom. We start at 8:00 AM for an optional social time, and then class is 8:30-9:15 when we read and discuss the lectionary readings. Email Kevin Golde (kevingolde@gmail.com) to receive the weekly readings and the Zoom link.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL SAVE THE DATES! July 12 - July 16. VBS "DESTINATION DIG!" where kids will discover more than dirt when they unearth exciting evidence that biblical events were not just stories. We can't wait to explore a new EXPERIENCE and have a blast at VBS this year! Ages: four through entering grade 6. See Ginny Jacobs if you'd like to volunteer!

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. Gifts for OGHS will be accepted through the end of April for those who would still like to respond. Please use the OGHS offering envelopes at the sanctuary entryways, in your box of offering envelopes, or the OGHS online account for your donation. Thank you!

THE APRIL FISHERMEN'S NEWS will be arriving late (*along with the April Birthday list*); in the meantime, our records indicate the following are marking birthdays this week: *Dorothy Matteson 4/11, Gino Corcoran 4/12, Stephen Clark (the younger), Betty Stacy, and Karlyn McNeely 4/13, Harry Curran 4/15, Dorothy Blackwell and Patricia Parkinson 4/16. And a belated Happy Birthday to: Nancy Collins 4/1, Betty McClung and Keegan Carson 4/2, Nancy Taylor 4/4, Sheila Curran 4/8, CATHERINE MAJEIKA 4/9, and Julia McKeever 4/10.*



For some reason I still have this Women and Infants security sticker from visiting Catherine Majeika on her actual birthday! -- slc

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 (*pun intended*) the observance of **Risus Paschalis**; in fact, eight years ago I went to one such service at a Presbyterian church in my home town.