

**THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER  
RISUS PASCHALIS  
Morning Worship – 10:00 a.m.**

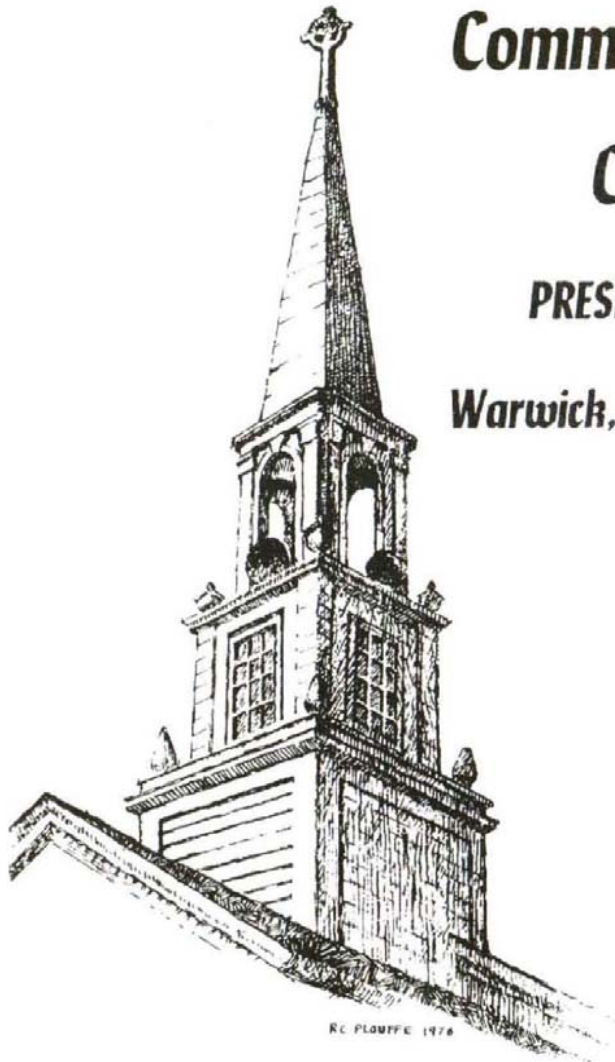
**April 16, 2023**

**Greenwood**

**Community  
Church**

**PRESBYTERIAN**

**Warwick, Rhode Island**



*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** *Alle Menschen Müssen Sterben* J. Pachelbel  
*(At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing)*  
John Black, Organ  
*The Trumpet Shall Sound* G.F. Handel  
Stephen Parkinson, Baritone

**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** *The Day of Resurrection!* 267

**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 CLEANSSES 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.*

**\*THE PEACE** (*responsively*)

. . . The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

AND ALSO WITH YOU.

**ANTHEM**

*In Christ Alone*

*arr. Mark Hayes*

*(Original composition by Stuart Townend and Keith Getty)*

*In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, when strivings cease!  
My Comforter, my All in All, Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone! – Who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe.  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save:  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied –  
For every sin on Him was laid: here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain:  
Then bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine – Bought with the precious blood of Christ.*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand:  
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

**GOSPEL READING**

*John 20:19-31*

**\*HYMN**

*O Sons and Daughters*

**SERMON**

BELIEVING DOUBT

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Colossians 1:15-20*

JESUS CHRIST IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD, THE FIRSTBORN OVER ALL CREATION. FOR BY HIM ALL THINGS WERE CREATED: THINGS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH, VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE, WHETHER THRONES OR DOMINIONS OR RULERS OR AUTHORITIES; ALL THINGS WERE CREATED THROUGH HIM AND FOR HIM. HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS, AND IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER. AND HE IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH; HE IS THE BEGINNING AND THE FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD, THAT IN EVERYTHING HE MIGHT BE PREEMINENT. FOR IN HIM ALL THE FULLNESS OF GOD WAS PLEASED TO DWELL, AND THROUGH HIM TO RECONCILE TO HIMSELF ALL THINGS, WHETHER THINGS ON EARTH OR THINGS IN HEAVEN, BY MAKING PEACE THROUGH THE BLOOD OF HIS CROSS. AMEN.

**INTERCESSORY PRAYERS AND 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.

**OFFERING**

*Offertory*

*Because He Lives*

*Albin Whitworth*

*\*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**

*Worship Christ, the Risen King*

286

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata on "O Fillii et Filiae" Lynnwood Farnham  
("O Sons and Daughters")*

*\*(the people standing, as able)*

# 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 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.



# O Sons and Daughters

Alleluias to be sung at the beginning and conclusion of the hymn

Fine

Gm D Gm Dsus D7 Gm

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Gm B<sup>b</sup> Cm7 F Gm E<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>

1 O sons and daugh - ters of the king, whom heav - enly hosts in  
2 That Eas - ter morn at break of day, the faith - ful wom - en  
3 An an - gel clad in white they see, who sat and spoke un -

Cm7 F Gm D F Gm

glo - ry sing, to - day the grave has lost its sting. Al - le - lu - ia!  
went their way to seek the tomb where Je - sus lay. Al - le - lu - ia!  
to the three, "Your Lord has gone to Gal - i - lee." Al - le - lu - ia!

## The Thomas Narrative

At night the apostles met in fear;  
among them came their Master dear  
and said, "My peace be with you here."  
Alleluia!

When Thomas first the tidings heard  
that some had seen the risen Lord,  
he doubted the disciples' word.  
Lord, have mercy!

"My piercé side, O Thomas, see,  
and look upon my hands, my feet;  
not faithless but believing be."  
Alleluia!

No longer Thomas then denied;  
he saw the feet, the hands, the side.  
"You are my Lord and God!" he cried.  
Alleluia!

How blest are they who have not seen  
and yet whose faith has constant been,  
for they eternal life shall win.  
Alleluia!

# Worship Christ, the Risen King

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

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!

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.



P.E.O. Chapter A-RI

# Spring Flower Hanging Basket Fundraiser



May 6, 2023  
10 – 3pm

Greenwood Community Church Presbyterian  
805 Main Avenue  
Warwick, RI 02886

Cash or Check only.  
We don't have the means  
to accept Credit Cards.



Supplied by:



## WHAT IS RISUS PASCHALIS?

*(excerpts from an April 23, 2017 sermon)*

During the 15<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.



**GREENWOOD COMMUNITY CHURCH, PRESBYTERIAN  
805 MAIN AVENUE  
WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND 02886**

**APRIL 16, 2023**

***WE WELCOME** all who are worshipping in our sanctuary today; welcome, too, to all with us online! A special word of welcome to any visiting with us this morning; whether you are visiting us just for a day or looking for a new church home. Information packets are available in the narthex, or feel free to ask an usher if you have any questions. All are cordially invited to Coffee Hour downstairs following the service.*



**FLOWERS today** are given to the glory of God by Janet Swanson in loving memory of her mother, Ruth M. Pelley, and by Eric and Evelyn Robinson in celebration of their sixtieth wedding anniversary.

**THE 2023 FLOWER CALENDAR** currently has several dates available. Please stop in the church office or **call (737-1230) to sign up for dates** to honor a loved one, mark a special occasion, or commemorate the memory of a dearly departed relative or friend and, in doing so, help beautify our sanctuary for worship. *Dates available: June 18 (one) June 25 (both) July 1 (one) July 9 (both) July 16 (both) July 23 (one). August 20 (one) Sept 3 (both) Sept. 13 (both) Sept. 17 (one) Sept. 24 (both) Oct. 8 (one) Oct. 15 (both) Oct. 22 (one) Oct. 29 (one).* The cost is **\$25** per bouquet.

**39ERS' FELLOWSHIP WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19** -- Join us for lunch at Chelo's Restaurant **12:00 noon**, then back in Fellowship Hall for a time with John Perrotta. For more information, contact Joan Eichenfeldt (401-787-2574.)

**I ♥ VBS** **SAVE THE DATE; Monday, July 10 through Friday, July 14.** Please join us this year for VBS week and have great fun with old and new friends as we learn about Jesus.

**~\*~\*~ THIS WEEK IN OUR CHURCH\*~\*~\***

Today, April 16	10:00 a.m.	Service of Worship
	11:00 a.m.	Coffee Hour
	11:15 a.m.	Sunday School
	5:00 p.m.	King's Kids
	6:00 p.m.	29 Eleven
	7:00 p.m.	BSF
Monday, April 17	7:00 p.m.	BSF
Tuesday, April 18	1:00 p.m.	Linus (Fellowship Hall)
Wednesday, April 19	12:00 p.m.	39ers Chelo's Restaurant
Wednesday, April 19	3:40 p.m.	AHG
Wednesday, April 19	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
Thursday, April 20	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Dinner
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

**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 April 30 for those who would still like to respond. Please use the OGHS offering envelopes in the pew racks, in your box of offering envelopes, or the OGHS online account for your donation. Thank you!



Presbyterian Women's Annual

# MAY Breakfast

**Save \$2/ticket purchased before 4/29!**

**Saturday, April 29  
7:30-11:30am**

**Adults.....\$12  
Kids (5-12).....\$7  
Under 5.....Free**

Fudge or Flower filled handcrafted May Baskets also available!



Includes:  
Pancakes  
Scrambled Eggs  
Baked Beans  
Sausage  
Breads/Muffins  
Juice & Coffee  
& fresh Apple Pie!

Greenwood Community Church  
805 Main Ave, Warwick 02886