

Scripture Readings

Matthew 27: 50-51

Then Jesus cried again with a loud voice and breathed his last. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. The earth shook, and the rocks were split.

John 12: 20-26

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Choir Anthems Today

Introit: This is the day edited by Maurice Bevan (1921-2006)

Offertory Anthem: Come, ye faithful by R.S. Thatcher (1888-1957)

Benediction Response: Sound forth the trumpet by Thomas Morley (1557-1602)

Texts:

This is the day which the Lord hath made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness; God hath brought his Israel into joy from sadness; 'tis the spring of souls today, Christ hath burst his prison, and from three days sleep in death as a sun hath risen. Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendour, with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render; comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affections welcomes in unwearied strains Jesu's resurrection. Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal, nor the watchers, nor the seal, hold thee as a mortal; but today amidst the twelve didst stand, bestowing that thy peace which evermore passeth human knowing.

Sound forth the trumpet in Zion and be joyful ye righteous. Such praise is fitting for the upright. For the word of the Lord is right and all his works are done in truth. Alleluia, alleluia.

This year we have once again dedicated our Easter offering to the work of *One Great Hour of Sharing*, a fund collected and dispersed through the United Church of Christ. This fund can be accessed for any emergencies world-wide, such as relief in times of natural disaster or critical health or social crises. We have received word from the UCC that, in terms of the OGHS collection, we have been among the 100 most generous churches in the nation! That is a testimony to the generosity of our congregation, and a real honor. We have set our goal for the 2023 collection at \$10,000 once again. Please help as much as you are able. There is still time to contribute! Thank you!

New Member Orientation

Interested in learning more about FCCOL and church membership? Join us for a welcome orientation after church on Sunday, May 7th, at 11:30 am in the library. We'll have a chance to get to know one another over coffee and answer questions about FCCOL and this journey of faith we're on together! Even if you are not contemplating joining at this time, please join us if you would like to learn more about the activities and ministries of our church. New Member Sunday will be May 14th at the 10:00 am service.