

# *First Congregational Church of Georgetown*



## ***Our Church Mission Statement:***

*“To nurture those in our own faith community and  
to act on our faith by reaching out to others.”*

*We are an Open and Affirming Congregation  
of the United Church of Christ.*



# April 27, 2025, Second Sunday of Easter

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## INTROIT

"Dear Lord"

Brass

## \*UNISON INVOCATION

Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy in this season of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

## \*HYMN

### *Good Christian Souls Rejoice and Sing!*

Cyril A. Alington

Melchior Vulpius

Good Chris - tian souls re - joice and sing!  
Ris - en e - tern - al - ly to - day;  
Vic - tor - ious songs of praise we cry.  
Thy name we bless, O ris - en Lord,  
The bell of tri - umph we may ring!  
Bring flowers of song to strew Christ's way;  
That love, that life which can - not die,  
And sing to - day with one ac - cord  
To all the world glad news we bring.  
Let hu - man - kind re - joice and say:  
And sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
The life laid down, the life re - stored:  
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Words © 1958 Hymns Ancient & Modern - Music c. 1590

## **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

*Invitation to Share the Peace*

## **UNISON PRAYER**

**Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ.**

**We pray that, wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **PASTORAL PRAYER**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

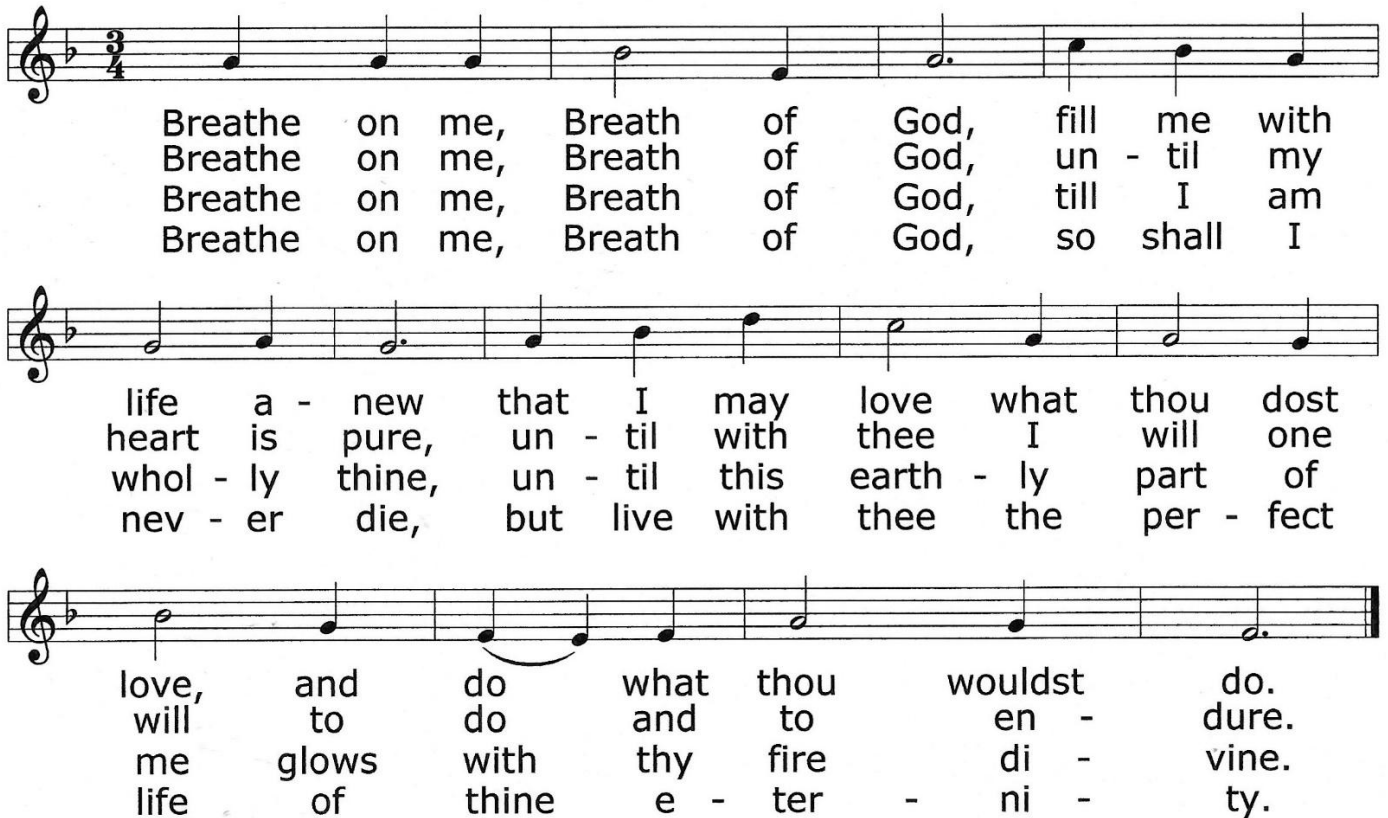
**Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in Heaven, hallowed by Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory forever. Amen**

**\*HYMN**

# Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Edwin Hatch

Robert Jackson



Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with  
Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my  
Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am  
Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I

life a - new that I may love what thou dost  
heart is pure, un - til with thee I will one  
whol - ly thine, un - til this earth - ly part of  
nev - er die, but live with thee the per - fect

love, and do what thou wouldst do.  
will to do and to en - dure.  
me glows with thy fire di - vine.  
life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

Words 1886 Music 1894

## SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all the tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. So it is to 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.

## John 20:19-23

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, 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 his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

**MESSAGE**      “Where shall wisdom be found?”      Reverend Richard Chrisman

## MEDITATIVE MUSIC

## INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

In this Resurrection season, we remember that giving is not about obligation, it is about love. It is about responding to grace with open hands and open hearts. What we offer today, whether money, time, presence, or prayer, is not measured by how much, but by how freely it flows from who we are. Like the pouring out of perfume, an act of devotion can fill the whole room. So let us give—not because we must, but because we can. Because we believe that love, when shared, multiplies. With open hearts, let us share what we have been given.

**OFFERTORY** “Beyond All Praising” Brass

## \*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all creat-ures here be - low;

Praise God for all that love has done; Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Spir-it, One. A - men.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Bless, O God, and multiply these gifts, which we having received of you, now return in part, that your Word and your way of Life may be made known more deeply in this congregation and community and throughout your entire world. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

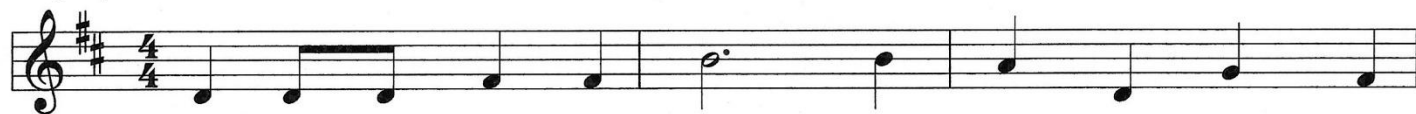


\*HYMN

# Now in the Days of Youth

Walter J. Mathams  
adapt Sylvia G. Dunstan

George J. Elvey



Now in the days of youth when life is filled with  
Teach us to use our lives with pur- pose and with  
Teach us to love in truth, to give and to re-  
Teach - er, Cre - a - tor, God, en - fold us in your



choice, when hope and doubt touch ev - ery hour, when  
power for vis - ions of a bet - ter world and  
ceive with joy - ful and with o - pen hearts, with  
arms; be with us as we try our wings, and



all thoughts find a voice, we turn, O God to  
for de - ci - sion's hour; to choose the way of  
all that we be - lieve; to seek an - oth - er's  
keep us safe from harm. All good and per - fect



you for guid - ance and for grace. In all our days, in  
life, re - ject the way of death, un - til the ra - diant  
good, to hon - or what is right, to let our will and  
gifts come to us from your hand. O help us use them



all our ways, help us to seek your face.  
force of God fills mind and strength and breath.  
our de - sire be held in ho - ly light.  
care - ful - ly and live by love's com - mand.

Words 1913 - adapt. Words ©1992 the Pilgrim Press - Music 1868

## **\*BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

*The Steeple is lit for April in memory of  
Gloria Webster by Gloria's family*

### **TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM**

Pastor.....Rev. Richard Chrisman  
Director of Music.....Robert Knapp  
Organist.....Emily Knapp  
Lay Worship Leader.....Gladie Kneeland

### **CHURCH STAFF**

Ministers ..... The Congregation  
Pastor .....  
Director of Music..... Robert Knapp  
Organist.....Emily Knapp  
Sexton ..... Kimberlee Knapp  
Office Administrator ..... Julie Bernier  
Moderator ..... Rich Brock  
Clerk ..... Toni Cassidy  
Finance..... Robert Knapp  
Diaconate .....Rachel Angerhofer  
Property .....JoAnne Kelly and Tom Johnson  
Missions .....Rachel Angerhofer  
Collector..... Robert Knapp  
Bookkeeper ..... Rich Brock  
Member-at-Large ..... Alecia Balduf

## **CHURCH OFFICE**

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Office Phone: (978) 352-8443

Office Email: [churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org](mailto:churchoffice@fccgeorgetownma.org)

Website: [www.fccgeorgetownma.org](http://www.fccgeorgetownma.org)

## **MEETINGS**

### **Monday 4/28**

6:30 Bell Choir

7:30 Band

### **Wednesday 4/30**

7:00 Book Club

### **Thursday 5/1**

7:00 Band

### **Tuesday 5/6**

12 Noon Women's Guild

*Anyone wishing to support the church by lighting the steeple  
is invited to make a donation.*



# **SAVE THE DATE**



**Strawberry Social & Band Concert  
Tuesday, June 24th  
6-8 PM**

**“Enjoy the Beginning of Summer on our Church Lawn”**

**Due to increases in prices for strawberries and supplies monetary donations  
will be greatly appreciated.**

**Checks can be payable to First Congregational Church  
and note it is for the Strawberry Social  
or scan the QR code below.**

**Raffle Items Needed**

**Any questions contact Emily Knapp, Janice Murphy or Kristen Arsenault**



## **WELCOME**

If you are a visitor from “near or far” and would like to learn more about our congregation and its ministries, please speak with an usher or greeter. You may also sign the visitor card found in the pews and place it in the offering plate. Please also indicate whether you would like a call or visit from the pastor.

## **A COMMUNITY THAT AIMS FOR HOSPITALITY**

We are delighted you have come to join us this Sunday. First Congregational Church is an “Open and Affirming” congregation of the United Church of Christ, which means that wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here. We have large print bulletins, hearing assistance devices, wheelchair and elevator accessibility, and all-gender restrooms. We also serve gluten-free bread and grape juice during our communion services. While we strive to anticipate needs, please share any ideas you have for ways to expand our hospitality for all!

## **CHILDREN IN WORSHIP**

We believe that children help complete our worship experience. We encourage children to be an active part of worship; this is where they learn the most about the Christian family — by experiencing it! Encourage your child to sing along, clap, wiggle, offer prayer requests, and join in communion.

## **FLOWERS & STEEPLE LIGHTING**

If you would like to contribute or make a monetary donation for altar flowers to commemorate an anniversary, birthday, or special occasion, please contact Nancy Aberman at 978-457-5924.

Contributions for lighting the church steeple can be made in memory of loved ones or in honor of someone special. If you would like to contribute or need more information, please contact Robert Knapp at 978-352-7489.

## **MEMORIAL FUND**

A gift to the Church's Memorial Fund is a wonderful and meaningful way to pay tribute to family or friends who have gone before us. Gifts can be mailed or placed in the offering. Please be sure to note who is being honored.