

Sermon

Song #238, *Now the Green Blade Rises*

Testimony of Faith
We may weep through the longest nights.
We may stare at the empty tomb with more questions than answers.
We may run our fingers over the burial cloths and still long for more.
But today, we are a people of hope.
We believe in new beginnings.
We believe that the God who created the world is stronger than death.
We believe that Jesus abides among us,
healing, teaching, and leaving fingerprints throughout this world.
We believe that a tomb could not hold him.
We believe that the sun does rise.
We believe that Peter was there
with questions, awe, and faith the size of a mustard seed.
We believe that the story is not over yet,
for God is among us.
Today we are a people of hope.

Time, Talent and Treasure

Offering Invitation Online: Please donate generously through *alkiucc.org*, through a mailed donation to the church office or through text-to-give by texting the word “AlkiUCC” to 44321; a donation link will come back to you. Your support for Alki is more important than ever.

Musical Offering *What Wondrous Love is This* Samuel Barber John Wells

Doxology (Alleluia version) Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done;
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Song 433 *In the Bulb There Is a Flower* Natalie Sleeth

Benediction

Sending Music *Ode to Joy* Ludwig van Beethoven John Wells



Service liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed
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Order of Worship Subject to Change
Music Covered by One License.net #A-7 10529
Portions of today’s service are recorded for posting
on Alki UCC’s YouTube channel.

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EASTER

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Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Now the Green Blade Rises

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*John M. C. Crum, 1928; alt.**Matt. 27:57-28:7; Luke 23:50-24:12*

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain;
 2 In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
 3 Christ came forth at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

Wheat that in dark earth for man - y days has lain;
 Think - ing that their Love would nev - er wake a - gain,
 Je - sus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
 Christ's warm touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
 Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
 Quick from the dead the ris - en One is seen:
 Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Refrain

Love is come a - gain like wheat that ris - es green.

John M. C. Crum, an English priest who was canon of Canterbury for fifteen years, wrote these words for this ancient French Christmas carol tune when it was included in the Oxford Book of Carols (1928).

Tune: NOËL NOUVELET 11.10.10.11.
*French noel, 15th century
 Harm. Martin F. Shaw, 1928*

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985