



BARRE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
April 4, 2021  
Easter Day/ Day of Resurrection  
On the Lawn of Barre Congregational Church  
Pastor Margaret Keyser, preaching

REFLECTION

“Easter is always the answer to ‘My God, my God,  
why hast thou forsaken me!’” — Madeleine L’Engle

PRELUDE	<i>Communion</i> - R. Wagner	Deborah Page
GREETING & OPENING PRAYER		Pastor Margaret Keyser
CELEBRATIONS, CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS		Kevin Fogarty
CALL TO WORSHIP		Kevin Fogarty
Leader: On that Easter morn’, the tomb was empty! The stone had been rolled away!		
<b>People join in: Christ has risen, just as He said! Christ is with us!</b>		
Leader: Christ is risen, indeed! Death has no power over Him.		
<b>People join in: Hallelujah, Thine is the Glory</b>		
GATHERING HYMN (brown #217)		<i>Christ the Lord is Risen Today</i>
<i>Christ the Lord is ris’n today, Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Raise you joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Sing, ye heav’ns and earth reply: Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!</i>		
<i>Ours the cross, the grave, the skies Alleluia!</i>		
TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN		Pastor Margaret Keyser
SONG WITH OUR CHILDREN (brown) # 580		<i>Jesus Loves the Little Children</i>
<b><i>Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world, Red and yellow, black, and white, they are precious in His sight- Jesus loves the little children of the world.</i></b>		
SCRIPTURE READING	John 20:1-18	Kevin Fogarty
ANTHEM	<i>Early in the Mornin’ on Easter Day</i>	<i>Barre Congregational Virtual Choir</i>
SERMON	“Who are you looking for? He is Risen!”	Pastor Margaret Keyser
PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER		Pastor Margaret Keyser

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

\*COMMUNION HYMN (brown) #322

*In Remembrance*

*In remembrance of Me eat this bread.*

*In remembrance of Me, drink this wine.*

*In remembrance of Me pray for the time when God's own will is done.*

*In remembrance of Me heal the sick.*

*In remembrance of Me feed the poor.*

*I remembrance of Me open the door and let your brother done.*

*Let him in. Take, eat, and be comforted; drink and remember too,*

*That this is My body and precious blood shed for you, shed for you.*

*In remembrance of Me search for truth.*

*In remembrance of Me always love.*

*In remembrance of Me, don't look above, but in your heart look for God.*

*Do this in remembrance of Me.*

INVITATION

Pastor Margaret Keyser

This is the Lord's Table and Christ invites you to share this meal of grace. Christ recognizes you and looks upon you with favor. Christ befriends you and wants you within his circle. Count yourself among Christ's disciples by partaking in this feast of fellowship.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Kevin Fogarty

**God of mercy and forgiveness, we confess that:**

**Our love isn't always genuine**

**we see evil and wring our hands instead of resisting it**

**we forget to consider more ways to serve you**

**we turn our back on strangers who could benefit from our hospitality**

**we do not pray enough for our enemies**

**we associate with our own kind, fearing the "other"**

**we relish in fantasies of revenge.**

**For all this, and for all that burdens our heart today, O God,  
we seek your forgiveness.**

**Have mercy on us and hear our prayers...**

**All: Thanks be to God.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor Margaret Keyser

One: God's mercy extends beyond the bounds of even our collective imagination.

God's love seeps through any wall we could ever put up.

God's goodness holds more power than the sum of all sin.

It is because of that extensive, seeping, powerful and bold love.

I declare to you in the name of the blessed and holy Trinity:

That God forgives us all our sins.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SHARING OF THE BREAD & CUP

The Lord Jesus, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread;

And when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Kevin Fogarty

**Gracious God, you have once again shown us your love by bringing us to this meal. We go from here renewed in faith, renewed in courage, and strengthened by your presence. Thank you for loving us so tenderly. Thank you for challenging us to know you better and to receive you more fully. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor Margaret Keyser

CLOSING HYMN (brown) #227

*Thine is the Glory*

*Thine is the glory, Risen, conq'ring Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where Thy body lay.*

Refrain:

*This is the glory, Risen, conqu'ring Son;  
Endless is the vict'ry Thou o'er death hast won!  
Lo! Jesus meets us, Risen, from the tomb;  
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;  
Let His church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.*

Refrain:

*No more we doubt Thee, Glorious Prince of Life!  
Life is naught without Thee; aid us in our strife;  
Make us more that conqu'rors, Through Thy deathless love;  
Bring us safe through Jordan with Thy power and love.*

Refrain:

POSTLUDE

*Postlude – C.C. Sterns*

Deborah Page

OFFERTORY INVITATION

The offering our gifts of time, spiritual gifts, and financial gifts are a sign of our love for God's church, community and the world. These gifts are blessed by Him for he suffered, and He rose us up, so that all may come to know of His abiding love.

You may donate or pay your pledge by visiting [www.barrechurch.com](http://www.barrechurch.com) or mail to:  
Margaret Marshall, 169 Sunrise Ave, Barre, MA 01005



*Please remember in your prayers the following members and friends, Carol Brandl, Marsha Bray, Neil Churchill, Lois Cooley, Bess Difley, Shirley Lewis, Abby Hale, Eunice Morrison, Wilhelmina Piper, Debbie Robichaud, Richard Stevens, Max Snyder, those affected by Covid 19, and those who work for our community.*

Please let us know if you have any prayer concerns or celebrations you would like to share with the congregation. Call the church, 978-355-4041 and leave a message or call Wendy, 978-928-5180.