

NEWFANE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

AN OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION OF THE UCC



"When Christ descended into hell, he invaded death's own territory—not to condemn, but to liberate. The harrowing of hell proclaims Christ's absolute solidarity with those trapped in darkness, his refusal to leave anyone beyond the reach of God's redeeming love."

—Rev. Fleming Rutledge

EASTER SUNDAY
April 20, 2025, at 10:00 in the Morning

All who are able are invited to stand.

PRELUDE “Trumpet Voluntary” *Henry Purcell*
Steve Turro, trumpet

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS Christine Gray

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: *Beloved of God, our gathering today is an occasion of the utmost joy: We wake and we remember the words of our redeemer—that death serves life, not the other way around.*

MANY: We come seeking the Risen One, who surrenders to death so as to bear abundant life.

ONE: Our hearts have been weary, our spirits have been unsettled, our bodies have been worn down.

MANY: Yet here we are, fully alive—hearts filled with love, minds filled with wonder, bodies filled with purpose. Thanks be to God!

ONE: The darkness of the tomb, which once seemed so final, has given way to the Light of Life. No power on Earth can keep Love buried.

ALL: Hallelujah, Christ is risen!

*** HYMN #288 “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”**

INVOCATION *(responsive)*

ONE: God of new beginnings, of new dawns and new mercies, we who bear witness to the devastation of death and destruction now gather to see and marvel at the very flesh of your hope.

ALL: Help us to feel the emptiness of your tomb and witness Love Eternal in the hollow places of life. When we despair for the world, assure us of your redemptive power. When we long for your voice, speak a word of comfort, encouragement, and peace to our unsettled spirits. May we reflect your image as resurrection people in covenant with you and the whole community of creation. Amen.

*** THE PEACE**

(You may exchange a sign of God's peace with each other.)

SCRIPTURE READING

Christine Gray

Luke 24:1-12

¹ But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. ² They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, ³ but when they went in they did not find the body.

⁴ While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. ⁵ The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. ⁶ Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, ⁷ that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again."

⁸ Then they remembered his words, ⁹ and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. ¹⁰ Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. ¹¹ But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

¹² But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Lynds Alyn & Dawn Slade

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

(What did you notice?)

SERMON

"Harrowing hell, together"

Thew Deen

JOYS & CONCERNS

COMMUNITY PRAYER

(Concluding with The Lord's Prayer | Our Creator; debts)

INVITATION TO GIVE Stewarding God's Love

OFFERTORY "Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!"

Frederick C. Maker, arr. Susan T. Nelson | Handbell Ensemble & Steve Turro

*** DOXOLOGY** *(See inside back cover of the hymnal)*

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

*** HYMN #311 "Now the Green Blade Rises"**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "My Redeemer's Love"

Tune: Hyfrydol, new music by Lloyd Larson | Chancel Choir & Steve Turro

WELCOME, NEW FRIENDS & VISITORS!

We're glad you're here and hope you find our services meaningful. Please introduce yourself and ask questions so we can properly greet you!

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Mon. April 21	7:00 pm	Al-Anon
Tues. April 22	4:00 pm	Sew Whats
Thurs. April 24	12:00 pm	Veggie Van Go
	5:00 pm	Bible Study
	6:15 pm	Bell Choir Practice
	7:15 pm	Chancel choir practice

Find more church happenings online at
newfane.church/calendar.

BIRTHDAYS

Meghan Grip – April 20; Rich Grip – April 20;
Paul Robinson – April 20; Heather Muscat - April 22

SPECIAL THANKS TO TODAY'S SERVICE LEADERS

Liturgy, Deaconry, Ministry (*Christine Gray, George
Newton, Lynds Alyn, Dawn Slade, Thew Deen*)

Music (*Jennifer Yocom, Handbell Ensemble, Chancel Choir*)

Greeters & Collectors (*Karen Fontaine & Renee Durham*)

APRIL MISSION PARTNERS

Brattleboro Area Interfaith Youth Group (BAIYG)
Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (BEEC)

ADMINISTRATIVE INFO

Rev. Thew will be in the office this week on Wednesday
and Thursday from 12 to 4pm. Our administrator is at
church from 9am–3pm Tuesday through Thursday.

Reach out to schedule an appointment.

CONTACT INFO

Church Phone: 802-365-4079

Pastor | Rev. Thew Deen: thew@newfane.church

Administrator | Mike Hutcheson: admin@newfane.church

Music Director | Jennifer Yocom: jenniferyocom23@gmail.com