

Welcome! This is God's house, a place of peace; a place where we befriend one another in the name of Christ. We enter as strangers and leave as friends. We are honored to have you in our midst and pray you will know God's presence in this place. You are invited to share your joys and concerns by filling out a prayer request form (back of the sanctuary) and place it in the prayer basket. For online worshippers, please use Zoom Chat or Facebook Comments. Prayer requests will be included in the Sunday prayer email. Please indicate if a request is not public (i.e. for the Pastor alone). Financial offerings can be placed in the offering box at the back of the Sanctuary. Restrooms are found near the kitchen, to the left as you exit the Sanctuary. Where you see "please rise" - do so in whatever manner is most comfortable for you, in body &/or spirit.

Christ ^{the} Lord
is Risen Today

Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church

Pastor: Diane Hoppe Hugo

The mission of Mid-Coast Presbyterian Church is to be in partnership with God to transform ourselves, our communities, and our world.



Service for the Lord's Day – Easter Sunday

April 5, 2026

Welcome

How joyful it is, to celebrate the good news of God's love!

We are called to be Easter people!

Darkness cannot claim us!

Fear cannot bind us!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Lighting of the Christ Candle followed by silence

Prelude

Call to Worship

Jesus Christ, Lord of the morning, risen with the sun of the new day.

In the garden still damp with early-morning dew we find an empty tomb –

You are not there!

You stand beside us risen and glorified.

You have destroyed death.

You have broken the chains of oppression.

You have gone before us into the darkest places and have made them holy.

We rejoice, O God, that Jesus is risen!

We thank you and praise you on this Easter Day.

Be with us this day and for evermore, Amen.

Hymn 232 (*please rise*)

Jesus Christ is Risen Today!

A Time of Confession, Assurance and Hope

God, you call us to open ourselves to your potential wherever we find ourselves.

Forgive us when our will gets in your way.

Forgive us when we refuse to be open to anything –

Forgive us when we refuse to open our minds, our hearts, our hands.

Forgive us when the status quo is all we strive for –

Forgive us our inflexibility and take away our fear of the future.

When we find ourselves afraid of your Spirit and what might be

forgive us and find us where we hide.

Call us out of the shadows and plant us where you will.

Silence

Ours is a God of love, who confronts us with the truth and guides us into a new way of being.

Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel,

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Prayer for Illumination (*unison*)

Holy God, you have always been one who disrupts. You interrupt suffering to bring peace. You interrupt isolation to create community. You interrupt silence with the sound of alleluias. So today we ask that you would interrupt us.

Stop us in our tracks with the good news that only you offer,

so that we can hear your word anew until the sound of alleluias ring in our ears. Amen.

First Lesson

Jeremiah 31:1-3, 31-35

The Voice Translation

Come Holy Spirit (silence is kept for reflection)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Responsive Psalm

Psalms 118:1, 17-24, 26 & 29

NRSV-Updated Edition

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

his steadfast love endures forever!

I shall not die, but I shall live

and recount the deeds of the Lord.

The Lord has punished me severely,

but he did not give me over to death.

Open to me the gates of righteousness,

that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

We bless you from the house of the Lord.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

MCPC Choir Anthem

Rejoice

Words and music by Joseph M. Martin

Second Lesson

Matthew 28:1-10

Come Holy Spirit (silence is kept for reflection)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

God, Please Report to the Lost and Found Department

Hymn 509 (*please rise*)

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

*We resolve to pray for each other, our community and our world at 10:10 am or pm –
10:10 being the time we worship on the Lord's Day. Join in whenever you can remember to do so.*

The Prayers of the People will be offered during the Lord's Supper

Invitation to a Time of Offering and Dedication (*unison*)

Living God, you have given us joy, grace, and hope, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Above all, you have given us life! What can we give in return? We will not bring offerings that cost us nothing; therefore, we bring our offerings and ourselves, with love and gratitude. Transform all that we bring into a source of life for many, so that your kingdom may grow in the hearts of all. Amen.

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

Invitation To the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (*including the Prayers of the People*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

and with the saints of every age, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

And enough light to share. And now we are bold enough to pray together, our Lord's Prayer...

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Words of Institution

Remembering our Lord's self-giving love,

we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life,

Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Come, then, for all is ready. Christ was raised to life, death is swallowed up, victory is won. Alleluia! **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

Distribution of The Elements

We have gluten-free bread at the center of the tray and serve only non-alcoholic juice.

Servers will distribute the bread and cup to the congregation where they are seated.

Please remember that as you pass the trays to your neighbor, you are serving them and are encouraged to say these words.

[as the bread is shared] The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

[as the cup is shared] The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Prayer after Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us.

Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 246 *(please rise)*

Christ Is Alive!

God is Good-**All the Time** All the Time- **God is Good**

Charge & Benediction

Postlude

Stay for coffee and let us get to know one another.

Many thanks go to everyone who pitched in to get ready for our first Sunday back in the Sanctuary.

84 Main Street, Topsham, ME 04086 P.O. Box 211 / www.mcpconline.org angel@mcpcmaine.net 207-729-3193	Pastor— Rev. Diane Hoppe Hugo Liturgist – Page Lockhart Accompanists – Buckley Hugo and Becky Jordan Guest Musician – Rev. Bob Dent
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We are an Earth-care church so, after the service, unless you plan on taking your bulletin home or to share with others, please be so kind as to recycle your bulletin in the basket at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you!



A Note from the Pastor:

We are so glad you are here today. It is with joy we celebrate the resurrection every Sunday morning at 10:10 am and we'd love to have you among us again. We are a PC(USA) church where the Spirit moves in glorious and wonderful ways. If you have any questions or need more information about us, please feel free to ask anyone – if they don't have an answer, they will ask someone who does.

Next Sunday, April 12, we will celebrate “Holy Humor Sunday,” which is an old tradition we have reclaimed. Churches in 15th century Bavaria used to celebrate the Sunday after Easter as *Risus Paschalis* ('God's Joke,' or 'the Easter laugh'). Priests would deliberately include amusing stories and jokes in their sermons in an attempt to make the faithful laugh. After the service, people would gather together to play practical jokes on one another and tell funny stories. It was their way of celebrating the resurrection of Christ – the supreme joke God played on Satan by raising Jesus from the dead. *Unfortunately*, the observance of *Risus Paschalis* was officially outlawed by Pope Clement X in the 17th century. Perhaps people were having too much fun. Here at MCPC, we know that sometimes God's grace comes to us in the form of humor that helps us make it through another day.