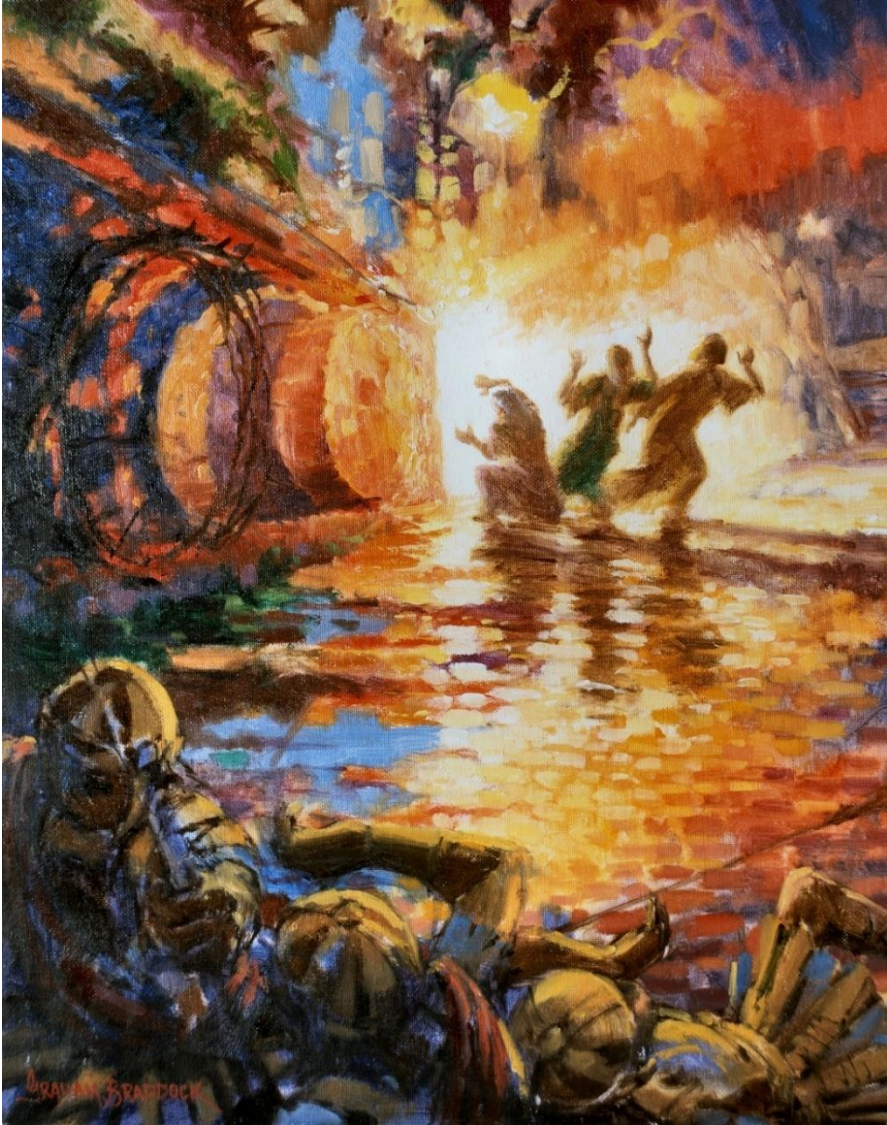


# THE UNION CHURCH IN WABAN



EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 20, 2025

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### **Our Covenant**

We, the members of the Union Church in Waban, true to our founding principle of being an inclusive church, covenant together to nourish and to sustain in our common life and practice a fully welcoming and affirming church for all persons. Welcoming all persons who seek to join with us in a commitment to love God and our neighbors, affirming the inclusive love of Jesus, we are open to all, without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, nationality, ability or economic circumstance. We invite all to full participation in our worship, membership, leadership and life of this church.

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*Welcome to worship on this special Easter morning! Whether you are here every Sunday or whether you are new to this beloved place, you are welcome. Our worship is enriched by your presence. We are a church that delights in our children and always welcomes them in worship. This morning, Sunday school-aged children are with us for the first part of worship before departing the sanctuary for their own special time of learning and sharing. In the Crocker Chapel (just to the left of the pulpit), you will find our Playground with art materials, books, and coloring pages to help children engage in the service. We have a mask-friendly worship space – it is always OK to wear a mask if you choose.*

*This Sunday, our Communications team has invited a professional photographer to capture some of our joy in worship and community, so you may notice her moving through the sanctuary and reception. If you would like to ask that your image not be used in future promotional materials, please let Pastor Megan know.*

**PRELUDE** "Crown Him" *arr. David T. Clydesdale*

**WORDS OF WELCOME** Rev. Megan Berkowitz

**\*OPENING HYMN** "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" #233

**MAKING SPACE** NEW LIFE Soo Laski

**PRAYER FOR GOD'S GRACE (Together)**

God of Love,  
you have changed death into life.  
You have changed our fear into courage.  
You have changed despair into hope.  
Change our hearts, that being raised with Christ  
we may live brand new lives,  
in the mystery and the power of your love. Amen.

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

**\*THE GREETING OF PEACE**

Leader: May God's Peace be with you.

People: And also with you.

**SCRIPTURE**

Soo Laski

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 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. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 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.

**SERMON**

Rev. Megan Berkowitz

**SERMON RESPONSE***"Now the Green Blade Rises"**#238, vs. 1 & 4***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE****The Lord's Prayer (Trespases)**

**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 trespases,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.**

## EASTER OFFERING

This Eastertide, out of love for Christ resurrected and compassion for our most vulnerable neighbors, the Sunday Easter collection will be dedicated to the **Massachusetts Baptist Multicultural Ministries** (MBMM). MBMM has been on the front lines supporting and empowering newly arrived refugees and immigrants in our Commonwealth. *(Continue reading about the work of the MBMM organization on the following page.)*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“Gloria” *from Mass by Leonard Bernstein*  
"Christ Is Risen Indeed" *arr. David T. Clydesdale*

## SHARING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY

### \*CLOSING HYMN

“Jesus Christ Is Risen Today” #240 vs. 1, 2, & 5

### \*BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah Chorus from Messiah” *G. F. Handel*

**After the service, please join us for reception and an Easter Egg Hunt!**

**\* Please rise in body or in spirit.**

**We are grateful today for the joyful sounds of our guest musicians:**

**Sopranos:** Jennifer Pearl & Laura Morales Guirales

**Bass:** Omar Ahmed

**Trumpet:** Parker Eastman

**Percussion:** Ed Sorrentino

**Violins:** James Cooke & Lisa Crocket

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**Cover Art:** Women at the Tomb by Graham Braddock. Licensed by Goodsalt.com

## SPECIAL EASTER COLLECTION

### MASSACHUSETTS BAPTIST MULTICULTURAL MINISTRIES

MBMM has been on the front lines supporting and empowering newly arrived refugees and immigrants in our Commonwealth. MBMM advocates for and supports over 200 Haitian, Columbian, Venezuelan, and Central American refugees now housed in emergency shelter at UMass Lowell. Volunteers and staff provide food, clothing, diapers, and other necessities, and offer after-school care for children and literacy programs for adults. MMBM assists asylum seekers with legal counsel and translation services.

The influx of refugees of many cultures in our communities coupled with the restriction of state resources and forced deportation policies present a perfect storm of challenges for all clergy serving in multicultural churches. MBMM is the hub of support for a network of ethnic clergy ministering to immigrant families throughout the Commonwealth.

The advocacy efforts and direct support work of MBMM and its member churches are crucial to the survival of many immigrant families. Many fleeing political persecution or displaced by natural disasters came to Massachusetts to find shelter, work, and safe living conditions. Over the last two years nearly all migrants from Haiti, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, Venezuela, and other LatinX countries arrived legally via federal policies and programs designed to provide humanitarian assistance and curb dangerous illegal entry. Today, those programs have been abruptly and arbitrarily terminated. All those formerly granted temporary entry work permits and a path to remain here must leave the country within the month or face deportation.

Our Easter donation serves as witness to and recognition of MBMM's faith-based outreach to the most vulnerable neighbors among us. Together we make an offering of hope that God's love across all cultures will prevail.

**To contribute to MBMM** please use the offering envelopes in the pew pocket or write "special collection" on the memo line of your check. You may also use the QR code or [CLICK HERE](#) to give online. *(All other offerings will go to support the ministry of The Union Church.)*



## THE WEEK AHEAD AT UCW

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<b>Sun., April 20</b>	6:30 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service (In-Person)
	8:30 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal (In-Person)
	10:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Worship (Hybrid)
		Following Worship - Reception & Easter Egg Hunt (In-Person)
Weds., April 23	7:30 a.m.	Prayer Group (Zoom)
Fri., April 25	7:00 a.m.	JAVA Gents (In-Person)
<b>Sun., April 27</b>	9:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal (In-Person)
	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Worship (Hybrid)
		Following Worship - Reception (In-Person)

For a complete listing, and details of all upcoming events, please visit our website, [www.ucw.org](http://www.ucw.org)

### Council of UCW

**Co-Moderators:** Susan Gedrick and Susan Hunt Stevens

Carol Bascom-Slack	Jean MacDonald (clerk)
Kevin Johnson	Jaap van Reijendam (treasurer)
Chris Kiritsy	Karen Weisgerber

### The Union Church Leadership

Ministers  
Senior Pastor  
Associate Pastor for Youth & Families  
Minister of Music  
Office Manager

Pastors and Members of the Congregation  
Rev. Megan Berkowitz  
Rev. Amy Clark Feldman  
Mijin Choi  
Aidan Cunningham

## WELCOME

**Reception Fellowship:** Our fellowship time after worship is a time to get to know one another better and enjoy some delicious food and coffee. Thank you to Nancy Zollers and Frank Laski for hosting today's reception. Sign up to host using the QR code.



We are glad you are here. Welcome! If you would like more information about our ministries, please visit [www.ucw.org](http://www.ucw.org) or find us on Facebook.

Our Pastors, Megan and Amy, are available in person, or at [seniorpastor@ucw.org](mailto:seniorpastor@ucw.org) or [associatepastor@ucw.org](mailto:associatepastor@ucw.org) to answer any questions you may have and would be delighted to meet with you at your convenience. Our Wednesday morning Prayer Team are also available to pray with you during the week.

We are grateful for any financial donation to the church. You can share your donations during the offering or anytime online by [CLICKING HERE](#) (if you are seeing this online), or by visiting [www.ucw.org](http://www.ucw.org) and finding the "Giving" link on the homepage.

## NEWCOMERS

**Friday e-Blast** – Every Friday an electronic newsletter/update is sent to the community. It features much information about upcoming events as well as reflections on what has been. If you would like to subscribe to this vital information channel within the church, please fill out your contact information below, or email our Office Manager Aidan at [ucw@ucw.org](mailto:ucw@ucw.org).

**Membership** – Could the Union Church be a spiritual home for you and your family? Would you like to learn more about the Union Church in Waban, its history, its present-day programs and offering, and its vision for the future? If so, please reach out to Pastor Megan using the contact information above.

## LET'S CONNECT

If you are new to us today, and visiting us in person, please consider providing your contact information on the Welcome card in the pew and leaving it on the offering plate. We look forward to connecting soon.

## HOW TO REACH US

Pastor Megan: 617-965-3893 (office); e-mail: [seniorpastor@ucw.org](mailto:seniorpastor@ucw.org)

Pastor Amy: 617-938-8112 (cell); e-mail: [associatepastor@ucw.org](mailto:associatepastor@ucw.org)

Mijin Choi: e-mail: [mijin@ucw.org](mailto:mijin@ucw.org)

Aidan Cunningham: 617-527-6221; e-mail: [ucw@ucw.org](mailto:ucw@ucw.org)

**The Union Church in Waban:** 14 Collins Rd., Waban, MA 02468: Web: [www.ucw.org](http://www.ucw.org)