

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

The First Church in Belfast  
United Church of Christ  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation*  
May 12, 2019  
10:00 a.m.

*WE ARE GATHERED IN*

**WELCOME TO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

**PRELUDE**

**BRINGING IN THE LIGHT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Blessed be God, Creator of the Universe!

**We praise the Maker of this and every world!**

Blessed be the Word Incarnate, love alive in human flesh!

**We praise the Christ, bearer of compassion!**

Blessed be the Spirit, flowing stream of life in all being!

**We praise the Breath of creativity and growth!**

Blessed be the people gathered here –

**let us worship and sing of the wonders of God!**

**\*OPENING HYMN** “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” #12

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

**CHORAL ANTHEM**      *“Grace Alone”*

**YOUNG PEOPLE’S MESSAGE AND MINISTRY**

**\*GREETING OF PEACE**

*“Shalom chaverim, shalom chaverim.  
Shalom, shalom.  
L’hit-rah-oat, L’hit-rah-oat.  
Shalom, shalom.”*

***WE HEAR THE WORD***

**FIRST READING**    Genesis 1:1-5, 14-19      John Gage

**UNISON PSALM 23**

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul.  
He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of  
death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me.  
Thy rod and thy staff – they comfort me.  
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence  
of my enemies.  
Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**THIRD READING**      Revelation 7:9-12

**MESSAGE**      *“The Event Horizon”*      Richard Fiske

## ***WE LIVE THE WORD***

**\*HYMN** “Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise” #1

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### ***The 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.*

### **INVITATION TO GIVE**

#### **\*DOXOLOGY**

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.

*(Note: The First Church honors the diverse languages of faith. Please sing with words that are meaningful to you. Other versions of the Doxology are found in our hymnal, #776-781.)*

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Bless these gifts from our hearts, Holy God. May they become a source of new life for your church and for all your children in this Easter season. When all are fed and have a home, when war and want is ended, we will again cry out “Christ is risen, risen indeed!” Amen.**

## ***WE ARE SENT AND BLESSED***

**\*CLOSING HYMN** “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing” #77

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*POSTLUDE**