



Easter Sunday
Holy Communion
Payson Park Church
We are Growing with God, for the Good of the World.

Sunday, April 5, 2026 10:30am

Congregational - United Church of Christ
365 Belmont Street, Belmont, Massachusetts 02478
www.paysonpark.org 617/484-1542

Serving Watertown, Waltham, Belmont, Arlington, Cambridge, and beyond

Gathering for Worship

*We are a Community of
DOUBTERS, SEEKERS, & BELIEVERS
Pursuing HOPE in our world.*

Prepare for Worship

Zoom participants - as you check in, practice using your Mute Button, and finding your Chat Box.

Greeting you today: *Fiona Rodriguez-Clark, Alice Troop, Henry Troop*

Prelude “Romance” *Horn concerto No. 4 in E flat, K. 495, 2nd movement* by *W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)*
French Horn: Michael Weinstein Piano: Leah Kosch

Greeting

Welcome to all listening in or watching, whether near or far away.

We are growing with God. **For the Good of the World.**
For the Good of the World. **We are growing with God.**

Hymn

Christ the Lord is Risen Today *led by our choir, with French horn*
Words & Music below

Children’s Message

given by YCOM Jenny Lane
Youth & Community Outreach Minister

Call to worship

led by Alice Troop

Leader: Jesus was beloved by the poor and the outcast
but he was a threat to people with power.

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Jesus stood against corruption in the government,
so he was a threat to leaders who abused the weak and the outsiders.

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Jesus healed on the Sabbath and ate with sinners,
so he was a threat to “good” people who focused only on themselves.

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: People gave Jesus the titles of “Son of God” and “Messiah.”
Those were the Caesar’s titles: Jesus was a threat to the government.

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Jesus came without violence, yet he disturbed the peace.

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Jesus came proclaiming the Kingdom, the Country, the Realm of God,
and the nations of this world were frightened.

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Dear God, help us to love your rule more than the realms of this world.
For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

People: Christ is risen! Alleluia! Alleluia! May it be so. Amen.

Prayer of Transformation and New Life

led by Linda Knight

Leader: Holy Love, in every ending, there is a beginning. In the same way, beginnings signal an end. May the promise of new life enable us to end the things that do not serve us, to end the attitudes that do not honor you, and to end the ways in which we are complacent and complicit in the world. Empower us to leave those things in the tomb and follow your trail. Jesus, you have demonstrated the path of your realm & country, keep us on the road of abundant and transformed life as revived and encouraged participants in your resurrected and glorified body. Grant us grace when the realities of life overwhelm, threaten to consume us, and mire us in the past. For the newness of life, we pray.

People: **Have mercy on us, Holy One. Amen.**

Assurance of Grace & Invitation to Light Seekers

*given by Jenny Lane
Youth and Community Outreach Minister*

Leader: He is Risen!

People: **He is Risen, indeed!**

Leader: Elohim, Divine One, Reverent King, Holy Loving Mother - God of many names, but one spirit - we open our hearts in praises of Hallelujah! We lack nothing as you lead us to lush pastures and refreshing waters. We are restored in strength and refreshed in spirit as we acknowledge the sacrifice before us today. Hope comes at such a steep cost, which You and Your son Jesus paid for us all. Today our prayer is simple: THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU! The tomb is empty! He is Risen!

People: **He is Risen, Indeed! Amen.**

Receiving God's Word

Scripture

Luke 24:1-12

read by Henry Troop

Message

Where's the body?

given by Pastor Eric

Collecting Prayers

During the music you are invited to write a 1 sentence prayer, and give it to one of our ushers in the center aisle. Your prayer will be offered up to God.

Solo

"Alleluia"
sung by Julie Wu

from Exsultate Jubilate, by W.A. Mozart

Prayers of the People

Pastor Eric

We lift up our prayers of Easter lament and Easter hope.

Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also, with you.

Announcements

Responding to God's Grace

Call to Generosity & Prayer

- www.PaysonPark.org to support the ministry of Payson Park Church
- Deacon's Fund, an emergency fund to help those in need
- Belmont-Watertown Welcome Circle – help resettle Ukrainian refugees locally
- Monika Foundation - help resettle Haitian refugees
- UCC Global H.O.P.E. - (Disaster Response to Wildfires, Earthquake relief, & more)

Choir Anthem

“Alleluia”

by Will James

Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.**

Holy Communion

Invitation to join with Jesus in Communion

Iona

led by Pastor Eric

We are here because Jesus has called us –
strangers and friends, locals and visitors, believers and doubters, the certain and the curious.
It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers and invites to his table where, in bread and wine,
he meets us and through him we, who are different, are joined to each other.
So come, not because you understand, but because you are understood.
Come, not because of how you feel, but because God has food for you.
Come, not because you deserve a place, but because Jesus invites you,
just as you are.

Pastor	God be with you.
People	And also with you.
Pastor	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to God
Pastor	Let us give thanks to God Most High.
People	It is right to give God thanks and praise. Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might! Blessed is the one who comes in the Name of the Lord! Amen.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Remembering Jesus in the Sharing of the Bread and the Cup

In-person: we invite you to go into the center aisle and walk to the front.

We will have gluten-free and dairy-free bread available.

We will have a common cup of grape juice, into which you may dip your piece of bread.

If you do not wish to receive either element, but would still like to come forward for a blessing,

Please cross your arms. All are welcome.

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

The blood of Christ, the cup of compassion for a broken world.

Lamb of God *(Agnus Dei)*

sung by the choir

Communion Music

Come You Faithful, Raise the Strain
Jesus Christ is Risen Today

arr by Tomas Keesecker
piano by Leah Kosch

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving, after Communion

Written by Katherine Ballas & read every Sunday at The Outdoor Church

Lord God, we pray;
Where bread is broken, you are there.
Where tired bodies are nourished, you are there.
Where two or more are gathered, you are there.
Bless the hands that broke this bread.
Bless the bodies that partake in this feast.
And bless all who are gathered here today, in body and in spirit. Amen

Sending

The Hallelujah Chorus

from “The Messiah”

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

All in the congregation who wish to join with our choir are welcome to come forward.

Hymn

Thine Is the Glory

led by our choir

music and words printed below

Benediction

Postlude

Rondo

by W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)

Horn concerto No. 4 in E flat, K. 495, 3rd movement

Organ Postlude

G major Prelude,

BWV 884, by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*Our Call to Worship was adapted from the Rev. Drew Ludwig, Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Buffalo, New York.
Today's Prayer for Transformation & New Life was written by the Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship & Theology for the United Church of Christ.*

We are grateful for our flowers

provided today by You Got Flowers.

www.YouGotFlowers.org



You Got Flowers

If you or someone you know would like to use space(s) in the church for an event, please contact the Office Manager via email at office@paysonpark.org or via phone at 617-484-1542.



Fellowship after Worship

We are grateful for today's hosts.

Tom Best and Pam Curtis

We thank! Please check the schedule posted in the Kitchen & outside the Office. Please look for your spot. Let Lynda know at Office@PaysonPark.org if you need to update your assigned Fellowship Hosting date. Thank you!

Upcoming Dates

- Fri Apr 3 6pm "First Fridays" worship – featuring the Children's Choir.
. . . . with 6:30pm Dinner for Families, provided by the church.
7pm Good Friday worship in the Chapel. Plymouth UCC joins us.
- Sun Apr 5 6:15am Sunrise Easter Worship, combined worship with Plymouth UCC,
at Highlands Meadow cemetery, 700 Concord Avenue, Belmont.
- Sun Apr 5 10:30am Festive Easter worship celebration. Trumpet and Choir.
- Tue Apr 7 7pm Council
- Sat Apr 11 Every two weeks we make sandwiches for The Outdoor Church.
Please contact Pam Curtis if you can help. pamcurtis@gmail.com
- Sun Apr 12 preacher: Rev. Linda Knight, *retired UCC*
- Sun Apr 26 10:30am Confirmation Service for Fiona Rodriguez-Clark
- Tue Apr 28 We prepare home-cooked meals for the hungry of Bristol Lodge, Waltham.
Please contact Cynthia Lasker if you can help. laskercynthia@gmail.com
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Payson Park Church – Congregational - United Church of Christ –

www.PaysonPark.org 365 Belmont Street Office@paysonpark.org

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Rev. Bill Ragan, Ministerial Associate:	MinAssoc@paysonpark.org
Pastor Eric Wefald:	PastorEric@paysonpark.org



Easter Flower Dedications

Barbara & Dennis Benjamin	<i>In Loving memory of Laura Benjamin</i>
Barbara & Dennis Benjamin	<i>In Honor of Cynthia Lasker</i>
Susan Clark	<i>In Loving memory of Mark</i>
Susan Clark	<i>In Honor of Maya and Fiona</i>
Will & Lorraine Clifford	<i>In Honor of our grandchildren and great grandchildren</i>
Emily & Hank Dallman	<i>In Honor of all those we love</i>
Susan & Bob Tudisco	<i>In Loving memory of Louise, Frank and Frank M. Lewis, Jr.</i>
Susan & Bob Tudisco	<i>In Loving memory of Phyllis and Matthew Spencer</i>
Eric Wefald	<i>In loving Memory of Tom Almy, Tom Wefald, Jon Wefald, and Beatsie Wefald</i>



Holy Week 2026 with Payson Park Church

Palm Sunday

March 29, 10:30am
Drama: The Sunday Munchies

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 7:30pm
shared at Plymouth UCC

First Friday

April 3, 6pm
Children's Choir, Pizza at 6:30pm

Good Friday

April 3, 7pm
Sacred Music & Words from Cross

Easter Sunrise

April 5, 6:15am
Highland Meadows cemetery

Easter Egg Extravaganza

April 5, 9am
Church Gym

Easter Worship

April 5, 10:30am
French Horn, Children's Message,
Hallelujah Chorus

Payson Park Church, 365 Belmont Street, Belmont, MA
www.PaysonPark.org



USE THE QR
CODE TO
SIGN UP &
SAVE YOUR
SPOT!

5 APRIL
2026

START AT 9:00 AM
PAYSON PARK
CHURCH
365 BELMONT ST

Easter Special Offering – The Belmont Food Pantry



This Easter the Belmont Food Pantry is the designated recipient of all loose offering and designated checks. You may also give offering in your envelopes. Or go online to www.PaysonPark.org, and click Give. Or follow this QR Code. Thank you for your generosity!



Appeal for Deacons' Fund

Aid for people of Payson Park Church who need assistance with food, heat, housing, or other needs.



Due to pressing needs in 2026, our Deacons' Fund needs to be refreshed.

Please use the QR code here, or go to the GIVE page on our website. Thank you for your generosity!



Coffee Hour Fellowship

A great part of every weekend. Thank you Patricia Pichette and Kay Hudgins for a delightful feast on March 22, 2026. Thank you to all of our volunteers who provide this nourishment for our bodies and our community!

Action Therapy Sunday, March 22

Thank you Lise Paul & Emily Dallman for leading us after coffee hour to write postcards to encourage non-voters to vote.

We are grateful for this opportunity to encourage people to vote for what matters; healthcare, rights for women, affordable housing, access to decent education and jobs, and more. Together we can build the hope for needed change.



*Won't you be my
penpal?*



Letters of Light: A Penpal Ministry

Our youngest members, The Lightseekers, are seeking mentors to become pen pals as they grow in mind, body & spirit.

If you're interested in connecting & want to learn more, click the QR code below or ask our Youth & Community Minister Jenny for more details.



First Fridays



September thru June

6 PM COME-AS-YOU-ARE WORSHIP

6:30 PM DINNER FOR FAMILIES



CHILDREN'S CHOIR SINGS!
FAMILY DINNER IS PROVIDED



COME AND JOIN US!



Find out more at
www.PaysonPark.org

365 BELMONT STREET, BELMONT
EVERYONE IS WELCOME



Children's Choir

First Friday
February 13, 2026

Common
cathedral

CityReach February 27-28, 2026

We are grateful that YCOM Jenny Lane, with Grace Yuen and Kate Rodriguez-Clark, could lead teens at CityReach, with the community of common cathedral.

We thank our congregation for your donations of clothing, toiletries, & other needed items, in our partnership with the unhoused and homeless.



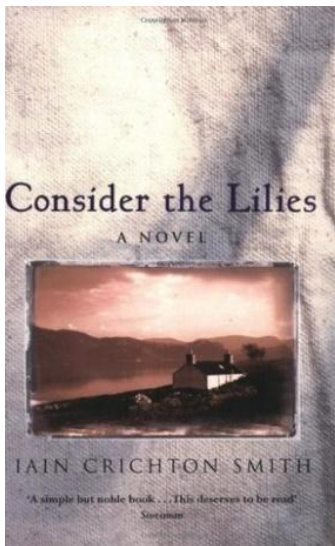


Theology, Literature, & Coffee

9am Sundays, once a month

**Theology,
Literature and
Coffee (TLC)
News**

TLC begins the discussion of *Consider the Lillies* by Iain Crichton Smith on Sunday, April 12.



TLC will continue the exploration of the Highland Clearances in Scotland with *Consider the Lilies* (1968, 144 pp.) by Iain Crichton Smith who captures the impact of this upheaval through the thoughts and memories of an old woman who has lived all her life within the narrow confines of her community. Alone and bewildered by the demands of the factor, Patrick Sellar, she approaches the minister for help, only to have her faith shattered by his hypocrisy. She finds comfort, however, from a surprising source: Donald Macleod, an imaginative and self-educated man who has been ostracised by his neighbours, not least by Mrs Scott herself, on account of his atheism. Through him and through the circumstances forced upon her, the old woman achieves new strength.

Written with compassion, in spare, simple prose, *Consider the Lilies* is a moving testament to the enduring qualities which enable the oppressed to triumph in defeat.

So, get your copy of *Consider the Lillies* by Iain Crichton Smith and join us as we begin the discussion on Sunday, April 12 at 9:00 AM.

Please feel free to contact Bill Ragan at minassoc@paysonpark.org or on his cell: 484-860-4108 with any questions about this adult education opportunity.

100+ Sandwiches

Made for the hungry of
The Outdoor Church in
Cambridge

November 16, 2025





2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR



ENROLLMENT



Admission: 15 Months to 5 Years Old

PAYSON PARK PRESCHOOL

PROGRAM FEATURES :

- School Hours:
8:00 AM to 5:30 PM
- Child Care Vouchers
Accepted
- Variety of Enrichment
Programs
- Spacious Gym Area
- A Large Stage Designed
for Performances
- Experienced and
Talented Teachers
- Community Events



CONTACT NOW



 preschooldirector@paysonpark.org



Announcing The BHS Mini-forest Phenology Happy Hour! 4PM Sundays starting April 12

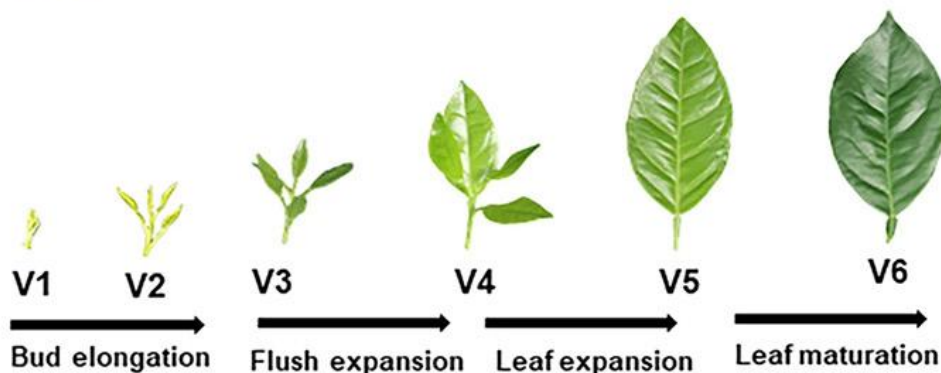
The Belmont High School (BHS) Mini-forest was planted last October and has been snug under the snow preparing for its first full growing season. [Read about it in this [blog post](#)].



Photos: AJ Shaw

In the meantime MFAB (Miyawaki Forest Action Belmont) is developing education initiatives with the schools and our wider community to chart the growing forest. One of these is a **Citizen Science Phenology Study for the National Phenology Network**.

Join us to collect data on such seasonal phenomena as bud break, leaf growth, flowering, fruiting, and leaf drop to help the National Phenology Network study trends in climate change [See this short [video](#) for more information].



Cifuentes-Arenas *et al.* 2018

Volunteers will be trained to collect data:

- in the form of yes-no and multiple choice questions on 9-10 trees during the growing season, which might take fifteen minutes or so per week.
- at on-site meetings tentatively scheduled for Sundays at 4pm starting April 12. Once trained, volunteers are free to collect data on their own schedules.

It's an easy and meaningful way to spend time in the forest getting to know some trees while taking part in supporting real research.

Sign up on this [google form](#). Questions? Email miniforestbelmont@gmail.com.

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias
Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

Thine Is the Glory

Edmond L. Budry, 1854-1932
Tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875-1939

JUDAS MACCABEUS 5.5.6.5.6.5.6.5. with Refrain
Georg F. Handel, 1685-1759

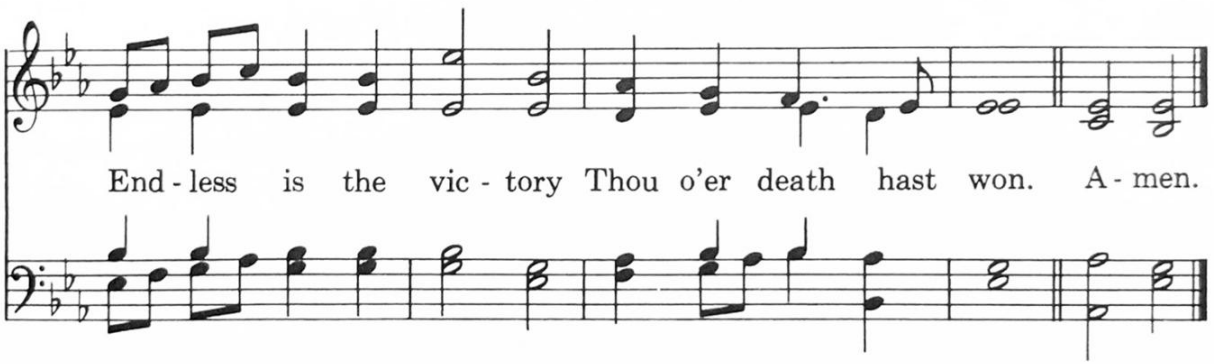
1 Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-que-ri-
2 Lo! Je - sus meets thee, Ris - en from the tomb; Lov - ing - ly he
3 No more we doubt thee, Glo - rious Prince of life! Life is nought with-

vic - tory Thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment
greet thee, Scat - ters fear and gloom; Let his church with glad - ness
out thee; Aid us in our strife; Make us more than con-querors,

Rolled the stone a - way, Kept the fold - ed grave - clothes
Hymns of tri - umph sing, For her Lord now liv - eth;
Through thy death - less love; Bring us safe through Jor - dan

REFRAIN

Where thy bod - y lay.
Death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glo - ry, Ris - en, con-que-ri-
To thy home a - bove.



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Our Wonderful
Adult Choir
March 22, 2026



Christmas Ghosts play + December 13 & 14, 2025

Powerful story of transformation and love. Lots of fun community.

We raised \$1,000 for common cathedral and their partnership with the unhoused and homeless!

Thank you Director Lynda Johnson! Thank you Music Director Pei-Chun Lin!