



Our spiritual practice for April is **Embracing Possibility**.

"Ask what's possible, not what's wrong. Keep asking."

~Margaret J. Wheatley

Sunday, April 5th, 2026
"The Possibility of Transformation"

with Rev. Mary Gear, Rev. Sara, & Music Director Troy Fisher

We celebrate Easter with a reflection on transformation and a ritual of blessing to go forth. Join us for this celebration of Spring and new life.

At OUUC, masks are welcome and optional. Please join us online if you don't feel well.

Kindly put your cell phones into Airplane Mode to help us ensure a meaningful experience for all in attendance, onsite and online.

Hearing assistance devices are available in the sanctuary at the tech desk.

Prelude

"Alleluia" Music: Adam Paltowitz

Troy Fisher (he/him)

OUUC Choir

Morning Song

Hymn #38 "Morning Has Broken"

Congregation

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the
world!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet
pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the
world!

Welcome

Curt Hill (he/him)

Chalice Lighting

“Early Signs of Spring”
words of Rev. Brigitte Bechtold

Curt Hill

Opening Words

“Easter Again”
by Rev. Lindasusan Ulrich

Rev. Mary (she/her)

Opening Hymn

Hymn #61 “Lo, the Earth Awakes Again”

Words: Samuel Longfellow / Music: Lyra Davidica

Congregation

Lo, the earth awakes again — Alleluia!
From the winter's bond and pain.
Alleluia! Bring we leaf and flower and spray —
Alleluia!
to adorn this happy day. Alleluia!

Once again the word comes true,
Alleluia! All the earth shall be made new.
Alleluia!

Now the dark, cold days are o'er, Alleluia!
Spring and gladness are before. Alleluia!

Change, then, mourning into praise, Alleluia!
And, for dirges, anthems raise. Alleluia!
How our spirits soar and sing, Alleluia!
How our hearts leap with the spring! Alleluia!

Share the Plate Offering

Curt Hill

Offertory

OUUC Choir

“There Will Come Soft Rains”

Text: Sara Teasdale / Music: Matt Podd

The spring is fresh and fearless.
And ev'ry leaf is new,
The world is brimmed with moon light,
The lilac brimmed with dew.

Here in the moving shadows
I catch my breath and sing.
My heart is fresh and fearless,
And overbrimmed with spring,

There will come soft rains and the smell of the
ground,
And swallows circling with their shimmering
sound;
Come soft rain,
Circling round with shimm'ring sound.
Come.

And frogs in the pools singing at night,
And wild plum trees in tremulous white,
Singing at night

And robins will wear their feathery fire
Whistling their whims on a low fence-wire;
Circling round with shimm'ring sound.

And not one will know of the war,
And not one will care at last when it is done.
Not one would mind, neither bird nor tree
If mankind perished utterly;

And Spring herself, when she woke at dawn,
Would scarcely know that we were gone.

Ritual of Sharing from the Heart

Rev. Mary

Prayerful Practice

Rev. Mary

Musical Response

Congregation

Hymn #391 "Voice Still and Small"

Words & music: John Corrado

Voice still and small, deep inside all,
I hear you call, singing.
In storm and rain, sorrow and pain,
still we'll remain singing.
Calming my fears, quenching my tears,
through all the years, singing.

Reading 1

Curt Hill

Easter Prayer: "Voice Still and Small"

By Rev. Shari Woodbury.

Part 1: The Possibility of Transformation

Rev. Mary

Musical Interlude

Troy Fisher

Reading 2*Curt Hill*Excerpt from *Easter In The Ruins - Enfleshed*

By Anna Blaedel (they/them)

Part 2: Embodied Possibilities*Rev. Sara***Blessing***Rev. Mary***Closing Hymn***Congregation***Hymn #12 “O Life That Maketh All Things New”**

Words: Samuel Longfellow / Music: Thomas

Williams’s Psalmodia Evangelica

O Life that maketh all things new,
the blooming earth, our thoughts within,
our pilgrim feet, wet with thy dew,
in gladness hither turn again.

From hand to hand the greeting flows,
from eye to eye the signals run,
from heart to heart the bright hope glows,
the seekers of the light are one:

One in the freedom of the truth,
one in the joy of paths untrod,
one in the soul’s perennial youth,
one in the larger thought of God;

The freer step, the fuller breath,
the wide horizon’s grander view,
the sense of life that knows no death,
the Life that maketh all things new.

Closing Words & Extinguishing the Chalice*Rev. Mary*

“Closing Words for Easter” by Alex Holt

Postlude*Troy Fisher*

Reflection Questions:

1. What meaning do you give to Easter and/or Spring?
 2. What is your still, small voice telling you?
 3. What helps you see beyond despair?
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Today's After-Service Forum (12:15 pm, onsite and online):

None: Egg Hunt at Burri Park

Next Sunday, April 12th 2026, at 9 am (onsite only) & 10:45 am (online & onsite):

"Preemptive Radical Inclusion" with CB Beal

CB is returning to our congregation to share stories and reflections on the framework of Preemptive Radical Inclusion as an entryway to increase equity and justice among ourselves and in the world; a way we embody Beloved Community.

After-Service Forum on April 12th, at 12:15 pm (onsite & online):

Faith in Action: Trees

Share the Plate Offering: Our Share the Plate organization for March & April is POWER:

Parent's Organizing for Welfare and Economic Rights, is an organization of low-income parents and allies who advocate for a strong social safety net while working towards a world where children and their caregiving are truly valued, and the devastation of poverty has been eradicated. They work to provide grass-roots support for members of our local community through mutual aid, support groups, and legislative advocacy.

If you write a check, please note "PLEDGE" if it is a pledge payment. All other donations in the basket will benefit the Share the Plate program.

- Checks can be mailed to: 2306 East End St NW, Olympia, WA 98502
 - Donate online at: <https://onrealm.org/OUUC/give/offering>
 - Donate by text: Text "OUUC offering" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to cancel
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We will celebrate Easter with an easter egg hunt at noon in Burri Park, with treats traded for eggs in the Commons. Everyone is welcome.

If you haven't pledged for the 2026-2027 Stewardship Drive yet, we invite you to carefully consider the role the church plays in your life and the value it adds to you, our church community and the community we serve. May our love drive our desire to support OUUC to its fullest potential. To pledge visit <https://www.ouuc.org/give/stewardship/>

Change to Beverages in the Sanctuary Policy! In order to be more welcoming, we will now allow **cups with lids** inside the sanctuary. Bringing your own cup is encouraged. If you do not have your own cup, some disposable cups will be provided.

Find more details on these and other announcements in the Weekly Update: <https://www.ouuc.org/weekly-update/>