



EASTER SUNRISE LITURGY FOR HOME WORSHIP

Calvary United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 12, 2020

Easter Greeting

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!

Opening Hymn

"Christ The Lord Is Risen Today"

L. Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

2. Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

Resurrected Lord, we greet you this morning as you burst the bonds of death and usher us into new life. Your mighty acts confront the powers of this world—confront even our own fears and anxieties. Help us to encounter you this day in the words of scripture and in the first witnesses to your empty tomb, that we too may proclaim your resurrection power both for this life and the life to come.
Amen.

Gospel Reading

John 20:1-18 (NRSV)

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. 2 So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. 8 Then the other

disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; 9 for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. 10 Then the disciples returned to their homes.

11 But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look[a] into the tomb; 12 and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. 13 They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." 16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). 17 Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflection Questions

You are invited to use these questions personally or with gathered family as you reflect on the scripture reading this Easter morning.

1. What do you think Mary, Peter and the Beloved Disciple expected to find when they arrived at the tomb? Why?
2. What tastes, smells, sights, touches and sounds do you sense in this scene?
3. What surprises are in this account?
4. Do you particularly resonate with any person in this story? Why?
5. What does this narrative tell us about God? What does that mean for us as God's people?

Closing Song

"This is the Day"

This is the day (this is the day)
That the Lord hath made (that the Lord hath made)
Let us rejoice (let us rejoice)
And be glad in it (and be glad in it.)
This is the day that the Lord hath made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day (this is the day) that the Lord hath made.

Closing Prayer

Resurrecting God, we greet you with the sun, as you bring both light and life to rise. This Easter morning, renew our spirits, cast light over our shadows, and bring us even now into the quality of life which is both eternal and redeemed. Let us live our lives in the light of your love, trusting in your power and presence in our lives and the world to bring healing, hope and new life. Amen.