

Easter Morning Outdoor Service

OPENING SONG (IN CHRIST ALONE V. 1-2)

In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My comforter, my all in all
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live

GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you!

People: And also with you!

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord!

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

Leader: We give you thanks and praise, Almighty God,
for the gift of a world full of wonder,
and for our life which comes from you.
By your power you sustain the universe.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever!

SCRIPTURE: Luke 24: 1-12 (The Message)

At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of the Master Jesus.

They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men—light cascading over them—stood there. The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, “Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here, but raised up to life. Remember how he told you while he was still back in Galilee that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and in three days rise up?” Then they remembered Jesus' words.

They left the tomb and broke the news of all this to the Eleven and the rest. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them kept telling these things to the apostles, but the apostles didn't believe a word of it, thought they were making it all up.

But Peter jumped to his feet and ran to the tomb. He stooped to look in and saw a few grave clothes, that's all. He walked away puzzled, shaking his head.

REFLECTING ON THE SCRIPTURE

Leader: He is risen!

People: He is risen indeed!

Leader:

- Where do you need to know the power of Jesus' risen life in these days? Though we cannot ever fully understand,

consider how a risen Jesus makes a way for us to have our deepest needs met through...

- The forgiveness of our sin
- The restoration of our souls
- The reconciling of broken relationships
- Victory over the powers of darkness
- Friendship with our Creator
- The hope of renewal

PAUSE FOR PERSONAL SILENT REFLECTION

AN EASTER PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader:

Gracious Father, you sent your Son Jesus to die and rise to new life in order that death might be brought to an end and that we might live a new life in Him.

Yet we confess that we too often have chosen to remain captive to doubt and fear and ways that lead to death.

By our thoughts, words, and actions, we have unwittingly and even willingly scorned your love, diminished the lives of others, and defaced your image in us.

Father, forgive us for Jesus' sake, and help us by His resurrection power to live no longer for ourselves but for Him who died and rose again for us. Amen.

PRAYING ALONGSIDE OTHERS IN NEED

(pause to silently recall and remember)

Leader:

Loving Father,
with our faces touched by the light of a new day,
and our hearts warmed by our prayers and praises,
we come before you to pray for the needs of others.

Into the light of this COVID-restrained Easter morning,
we raise those who are struggling with illness,
with despair over their lives,
or the breakdown of relationships.

Ah Father, may the light of the crucified and risen Jesus shine upon them.

Into the light of this particular 2022 Easter morning,
we bring those places in our world where war, violence,
poverty and need are the experiences of everyday life.

And loving Father, into the light of Easter morning,
we are bold to bring ourselves—our private struggles, heart
yearnings, hidden dreams and unfulfilled potential.

Ah dear Father, may the transforming life and light of the crucified
and risen Jesus shine upon us. Amen.

CLOSING SONG (IN CHRIST ALONE V. 3-4)

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

BENEDICTION

Leader:

May the rescuing power of the Cross,
the joy of the Resurrection,
and the ongoing presence of the risen Lord Jesus,
be with us all, now and always.

Amen.