

COLUMBIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
APRIL 4, 2021
6:30 AM

GREETING

GOD MEETS THE PEOPLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are not eyewitnesses to an event, as were Mary and the disciples.

People: **But we are here to attest to a story that has not lost its power**

Leader: We are here because those before us carried this story to us

People: **We take our place here today in celebration and in awe.**

ALL: It is Easter morning again, let us celebrate with joy.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION: (IN UNISON)

O God of Easter joy, we come this morning with glad shouts of acclamation, CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN, INDEED! We come with anticipation; to know You, to see You, to touch You, to have You enter us. So, we pray, O God, open our hearts, that we might experience You anew. Open our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses to Your resurrection. Open our mouths, that we, with shouts of joy, proclaim Your steadfast, liberating love to all people, everywhere. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE PASCHAL CANDLE

Leader: May the light of Christ, rising in glory, banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. Christ is our light!

People: ALLELUIA! THANKS BE TO GOD!

BLESSING OF THE NEW FIRE

Eternal God, giver of light and life, bless this new flame that by its radiance and warmth we may respond to Your love and grace, and be set free from all that separates us from You and from each other; through Jesus Christ, the One of Righteousness. Amen.

GOD PREPARES THE PEOPLE

GOSPEL LESSON: Mark 16:1-8 (NRSV)

The Resurrection of Jesus

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. ²And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. ³They had been saying to one another,

“Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”⁴ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.⁵ As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.⁶ But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him.⁷ But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”⁸ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.^[a]

REFLECTION ON THE WORD

HOLY COMMUNION with MUSICAL INTERLUDE

THE INVITATION AND COMMUNION BLESSING

EASTER CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

THANKSGIVING PRAYER (IN UNISON)

Bountiful God, we give thanks that You have refreshed us at Your table with the presence of Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

God Sends the People

PROCLAMATION AND SENDING FORTH

Leader: Go to the world! Go to all the earth! And preach the Good News
that Christ renews life.

People: Christ is risen, ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

WORSHIP HAS ENDED, SERVICE BEGINS