

WORSHIP GUIDE FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Easter Sunday

Setting Your Space

Happy Easter! What do you need in your worship space today? An empty cross? An egg or flower or other symbol of new life? Several items from your Holy Week bags are for exactly this time – the rainbow ribbon is meant to be reminiscent of the banners hanging at the front of our sanctuary... hang your own mini-banner in your worship space. And you'll find some paper butterflies in that bag – one already colored in and one waiting for you to color it – have those nearby during worship, too, and listen for instructions! And we'll miss seeing you in your Easter outfits, but if you want to text a picture to Erika or Sean, we'll create a collage of our church family on Easter morning in their best bonnets or sundresses or seersucker suits... or pajamas. We'd love to "see" you on Easter morning.

Call to Worship *by e.e. cummings*

One: i thank You God for most this amazing
 day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
 and a blue true dream of sky;and for everything
 which is natural which is infinite which is yes

All: (i who have died am alive again today,
 and this is the sun's birthday;this is the birth
 day of life and of love and wings:and of the gay
 great happening illimitably earth)

One: how should tasting touching hearing seeing
 breathing any—lifted from the no
 of all nothing—human merely being
 doubt unimaginable You?

All: (now the ears of my ears awake and
 now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

Gathering Song: *Morning Has Broken*

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 dew fall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where his 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

Communal Prayer *from the New Zealand Prayer Book*

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 27:57-28:15

When evening fell, a wealthy man from Arimathea named Joseph, who had become a disciple of Jesus, came to request the body of Jesus; Pilate issued an order for its release. Taking the body, Joseph wrapped it in fresh linen and laid it in his own tomb, which had been hewn out of rock. Then Joseph rolled a huge stone across the entrance of the tomb and went away. But Mary of Magdala and the other Mary remained sitting there, facing the tomb.

The next day - the one following the Day of Preparation - the chief priests and the Pharisees called at Pilate's residence and said, "We recall that, while he was still alive, the imposter made the claim, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore, please issue an order to keep the tomb under surveillance until the third day. Otherwise, Jesus' disciples might go and steal his body and tell the people, 'Jesus has been raised from the dead!' This final deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard. Go and secure the tomb as best you can." So they went to seal the tomb and post a guard.

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary of Magdala came with Mary to inspect the tomb. Suddenly, there was a severe earthquake, and an angel of God descended from heaven, rolled back the stone, and sat on it. The angel's appearance was like lightning, with garments white as snow. The guards shook with fear and fell down as though they were dead.

Then the angel spoke, addressing the women: "Don't be afraid. I know you are looking for Jesus the crucified, who is no longer here. Jesus has been raised, exactly as it was foretold. Come and see the burial place. Then go quickly and tell the disciples that Jesus has risen from the dead and now goes ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Jesus there. That is the message I have for you." The women hurried away from the tomb with awe and great joy and ran to carry the good news to the disciples. Suddenly Jesus stood before them and said, "Shalom!" The women came up, embraced Jesus' feet, and worshipped. At this Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid. Go tell the disciples to go to Galilee, where they will see me."

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests what had happened. The chief priests in turn held a meeting with the elders and, after working out their strategy, gave a considerable amount of money to the soldiers, with these instructions: "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' And if any word of this gets to the governor, we will straighten it out with him and keep you out of trouble." The soldiers took the money and carried out their instructions. This is the story that circulates among Judeans to this very day.

Response Song: *In the Bulb, There is a Flower*

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter, there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
There's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
In our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Going Forth Song: *Christ the Lord is Risen Today*

Christ the Lord is risen today, alleluia!
Mortal tongues and angels say: alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, alleluia!
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, alleluia!
God has opened paradise, alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, alleluia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, alleluia!