

Easter Sunrise Service
Ocean View Pavilion, April 1, 2018, 6:15 a.m.

Gathering Prayer Steve Hollaway
O living God, this morning begins in darkness, the day dawns in quiet.
Come, God, arise! Bring forth the sun from its slumber, and Jesus from the tomb. Break forth the Holy Light, your blessed Child. Greet us on this morning of mystery and hope. Amen.

Unison Reading by Thomas Merton (1915-1968)
Sunrise is an event that calls forth solemn music in the very depth of human nature, as if one's whole being had to attune itself to the cosmos and praise God for the new day, praise God in the name of all the creatures that ever were or ever will be. I look at the rising sun and feel that now upon me falls the responsibility of seeing what all my ancestors have seen, in the Stone Age and even before it, praising God before me.... When the sun rises each one of us is summoned by the living and the dead to praise God.

Invocation Prayer
Leader: Lord God, early in the morning,
when the world was young, you made life in all its beauty;
you gave birth to all that we know.
All: Hallowed be your name.
Leader: Early in the morning, when the world least expected it,
a newborn child crying in a manger
announced that you had come among us,
that you were one of us.
All: Hallowed be your name.
Leader: Early in the morning, surrounded by respectable liars,
religious leaders, anxious statesmen, and silent friends,
you accepted the penalty for doing good, for being God:
You shouldered and suffered the cross.
All: Hallowed be your name.
Leader: Early in the morning, a voice in a guarded graveyard
and footsteps in the dew proved that you had risen,
that you had come back to those and for those
who had forgotten, denied, and executed you.
All: Hallowed be your name.
Leader: This morning, in the multicolored company
of your church on earth and in heaven,
we celebrate your creation, your life,
your death and resurrection,
your interest in us, and your redemption of all creation!

All: Hallowed be God's name, now and forever.

Leader: How blessed is this day, when earth and heaven are joined,
and humankind is reconciled to God!
May the light of Jesus shine continually to drive away all darkness.
May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find his light
ever burning in our hearts—he who gives his light to all creation, and
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Pause in silence to watch the sun.

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 Word.
Mine is the sunlight, Mine is the morning,
Born of the one light Eden saw play;
Praise with elation, Praise every morning,
God's re-creation Of the new day.

Hymn *When Morning Gilds the Skies*
When morning gilds the skies
my heart awakening cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer, to Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

The night becomes as day
when from the heart we say:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
The powers of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Scripture Reading John 20:1-18 Patrick Tengwall
Reading from Frederick Buechner Patrick Tengwall
“It has always struck me as remarkable that when the writers of the four Gospels come to the most important part of the story they have to tell, they tell it in whispers. The part I mean, of course, is the part about the resurrection. They are trying to describe it as truthfully as they can. It was the most extraordinary thing they believed had ever happened, and yet they tell it so quietly that you have to lean close to be sure what they are telling. They tell it as softly as a secret, as something so precious, and holy, and fragile, and unbelievable, and true, that to tell it any other way would be somehow to dishonor it.”

Meditation Steve Hollaway

Expecting to Find Only Death

Easter Carol *Now the Green Blade Rises*
(To the tune of the French carol *Noel Nouvelet*)

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again like wheat arising green.

Poem "The Answer" by R. S. Thomas (Wales)

Easter Litany of Sending

Leader: Today and tomorrow,

All: today and tomorrow,

Leader: lo, I am with you always,

All: when we try to do your will,

Leader: I am with you always,

All: when we go where we do not know,

Leader: I am with you always,

All: when we meet one we do not recognize,

Leader: I am with you always,

All: where faith ends and doubt begins,

Leader: I am with you always,

All: and should we forget you,

Leader: I am with you always,

All: today and tomorrow, today and tomorrow,

you are with us always to the end of the world. Amen.

Thank you for joining in this Community Easter service. Please come up to the Harbor Church for a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall prepared by Diane Tripler. The Ecumenical Choir will present its Easter Concert in our sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. Our Worship Celebration will begin at 10:00 a.m. this morning (and every Sunday morning).

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