

## **Easter Sunrise Service**

For wherever you find yourself at first light on Easter morning

**Arrive in the space.** Feel your feet beneath you, the air around you. Slow your breathing. Connect to the earth and this moment. Listen, and let the next three sounds you hear (whatever they are!) be the three chimings of the bell that call you to God's presence.

**Whisper**, aloud if you're brave, or in the quiet of your heart: "Christ is Risen!" Hear the world around you echo back: "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!"

**Read John 20:1-18 (on pg 2)**, or [listen to this recording](#) of the reading. What words or phrases stand out to you in this reading? Do you hear anything differently this year than you've heard it before?

**Turn to the first light as it dawns.** Let the hope and promise of this light enter your spirit as it enters the world. Ask this first light for the Easter Blessing that you most need.

**Take three deep slow breaths**, and with each breath, try to breathe in the light as it dawns. Let the light wash over you, and with it, let God's blessings surround you. Feel the presence of the Risen Christ.

**Pray**, using these words or whatever words bubble up for you:

Loving and Holy God, in the hardest season, after the longest night, You rose from death to life eternal. Awaken in me the courage to rise this Easter. Help me to believe that love wins. Bless me with your blessing, and surround me with the peace that only You can provide. In the name of Christ Jesus, the Risen One, Amen.

**Stay for as long as you need to.** There is no rush, and also no expectation that you linger any longer than your spirit desires.

If you want to, take a photo or selfie to post on our church facebook page and share your Easter Sunrise Service with your church family.

When you're ready to go, call out as loudly as you dare (who cares if someone hears you! It's Easter!): **"Christ is Risen! Alleluia!"**

### **John 20:1-18, New Revised Standard Version Translation**

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. 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." Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 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. 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." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 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." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). 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.'" 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.