

Forest Hill United Church
'open doors, open hearts, open minds'

Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 6:52 am

After worship, please join us back at the church for potluck breakfast.

Singing to Greet the New Day:

This is the Day:

This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.

This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.
This is the day, this is the day that our God has made.

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!

Preparing for Worship:

One: Creating Spirit, early in the morning,
when the world was young, you gave birth to all that we know.
And we thank you for this new day.

**All: Early this Easter morning, we give thanks for all creation:
the trees and rocks of the land,**

the rivers, lakes and bodies of the ocean,
the air that embodies all life,
And for all living things.

One: Early in the morning, when the world least expected it,
a newborn child crying in a cradle announced that you had come
among us.

**All: Early this Easter morning, when armies occupied that land,
we recall the One who healed the sick, befriended outcasts,
and welcomed all people into the family and household of
God.**

One: Early in the morning, when frightened priests,
anxious officials, and silent friends gathered at Golgotha,
the powers of sin and death appeared to triumph.

**All: Early that first Easter morning, a voice in a guarded
graveyard revealed that the power of love triumphed over
the powers of fear and hate.**

One: So early on this Easter morn, we celebrate your creation, your
love, and your promise of new life for all. Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Let us pray:

**All: Holy One, we give thanks for your gifts of new life,
and celebrate the power of your love.
Where we are worn and tired, bring new strength.
Where we have turned hard-hearted, bestow compassion.
Where we feel hurt and wounded, send us a forgiving spirit.
Send your resurrection Spirit upon us, and all creation.
Amen.**

Listening to the Story: Luke 24:1-12

Reflection

Prayer

**All: God, make Easter my home.
Shelter me from apathy
with a desire to do good.
Let the rhythm of my days
pulse with your call to live justly.**

**Set the table of my soul
with the generosity of your Spirit.
Furnish my life with such hope
that, while I have breath,
I might not only share good news
but also be a source of it.
God, make Easter not only my home
but also my mission.
Amen.**

Giving Thanks as We Go Forth:

One: In words of compassion, in words of reconciliation,.

All: Christ is alive!

One: In acts of peacemaking, in acts of peace bringing.

All: Christ is alive!

One: In support for those living in fear
and with a sense of helplessness,

All: Christ is alive.

One: With this good news in our hearts,
we shall go out with joy, saying:

All: Christ is alive! Christ is alive indeed!

Singing Our Blessing:

You Shall Go Out with Joy (Isaiah 55):

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.

I Danced in the Morning:

They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never, die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

May the God of Hope Go with Us:

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.