

Early One Morning ...

Easter Sunrise Service, April 16, 2017 at 6:30 am

Sing: Words Revised by Ali Anningson, 2017

*Early one morning, just as the sun was rising,
I heard the birds singing on the river-banks below:
Sing, for the day is born! Sing, for its Easter morn.
How can we celebrate the Good News we know?*

Say: Re-telling adapted from *Young Children and Worship* by Stewart & Berryman

One: Today is Easter - the day we celebrate the mystery
that Jesus died but lives anyway.

**All: We have come first thing in the morning
to the tomb, this special place for the dead.**

One: When Jesus died, his friends took his body
from the cross and put it here.

All: They rolled a huge stone in front to close it.

Sing: #703 VU In the Bulb There is a Flower, v. 2

*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.*

Say:

One: Mary Magdalene loved Jesus very much.
So early one morning,
Mary and her friends went back to the tomb.
The tomb was open. Jesus was gone.

All: "Where is he?" they cried.

One: Then the angel said,
"Don't be afraid. Be joyful. Jesus is alive!
Go tell the others. Jesus is risen from the dead."

Sing:

#958 VU Halle, Halle, Halle

*Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-u-jah! Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-u-jah!
Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le-lu-u-jah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

Say:

All: Mary would not leave the tomb. She stood crying.

One: Then someone said, "Who are you looking for?"
And he called her by her name: "Mary"

**All: Then she knew it was him. It was Jesus!
Jesus was alive!**

One: Mary was so happy, she couldn't help
but tell Jesus' friends, "I have seen the Lord!
Jesus is risen! The Lord is risen indeed!

Sing:

#703 VU In the Bulb There is a Flower, v. 3

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

Pray:

By Ali Anningson, 2017

One: Holy one, early one morning the earth was born.

All: Hallelujah for each new day!

One: Early one morning, a newborn child, crying
in a feed box, reminded us that you are here with us.

All: May we remember this each new day.

One: Early one morning, that child, who grew to be a man,
walked into his last day.

**All: But early one morning, a voice in a guarded
graveyard, empty cloths, and footsteps in dew
proved that death was not the end.**

One: Early one morning, many years later, a small group of
people gathered on a hill to feel the joy of Jesus' rising,
through the rising of the sun.

**All: May we go from this place,
carrying with us the hope of this Easter moment,
a hope that has existed since the world began. Amen.**