

## Easter Sunrise Service

31 March 2024 7 am

### Call to Worship

We are gathered here in the moments before dawn

In our time of almost spring.

We live in hope that the songbirds will return and the daffodils will bloom.

We gather in communion with ancient women for whom hope was in short supply.

**All: We gather together to welcome the sun and experience the message of Easter.**

### Opening Prayer

"Growing Easter" from *Seasons of the Spirit* age 15 – 18 curriculum, 11 April 2004.

Dear God,

In the middle of winter, it is easy to forget that the sun will come again.

In the dryness of the desert, it is easy to forget how the rains will wash the sky again.

Standing on solid stones, it is easy to forget the softness of sand and soil.

**Bless us, God, and keep our imaginations warm and moist and pliable.**

When we read about war, it is easy to forget about your peace.

When we hear about violence, it is easy to forget about your love.

When we are told about one way, it is easy to forget that there are other ways.

When we listen to the noise, it is easy to forget about your quiet.

**Bless us and keep our hearts open to hear the Easters that happen everywhere.**

Plant us, Creator, in soil rich with the nutrients we need to grow.

Plant us, Gardener of the universe, in the soil of hope.

Plant us, Lover of all, in the soil of justice and dignity.

**Bless our hidden talents and creativity.**

Nurture us with people who love us for who we are.

Nurture us with the beauty of your creation.

Nurture us with a passion for justice and peace.

(1)

**Bless our doubts and questions.**

Water us with the tears you shed when we are sad.

Water us with the tears of laughter when we are joyous.

**Bless us, gracious God.**

**Thank you for seeing the impossible in us.**

**Thank you for sending your Child to us.**

**Thank you for the promise and hope in the resurrection!**

**May we grow Easter within us!**

**Alleluia!**

One: Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed!**

**Amen**

**Hymn: VU 409 Morning Has Broken (verse 1)**

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!

**The women's back story**

**Margie**

Scripture: Luke 23:50 – 56

**Hymn: MV 150 Spirit God Be Our Breath (verse 1)**

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.

Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.

Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...

Spirit God, be our song.

**The women become the messengers**

**Margie**

Scripture: Luke 24:1 – 12

**Hymn: MV 150 Spirit God Be Our Breath (verse 3)**

Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer.

Reaching out, joining hands as we share,

We seek your guidance through friendship and care.

Loving God, be our prayer.

(2)

*Mary Remembers: A Poem Sermon*

Written by Gordon Nodwell, 1990 and based on John 20

**Margie and Rachel**

**Hymn: MV 121 Hey, Now, Singing Halleluia(chorus)**

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!  
Hey now! The morning has come!  
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!  
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

**Closing Prayer (unison)**

Adapted from *Seasons of the Spirit*, ages6-8 curriculum, 27 March 2005

**Thank you, God, for early mornings, strong women and hopeful messages.  
Thank you for the alleluias, celebrations, and the promise of Spring.  
Thank you, God, for Easter.**

**Hymn: MV 150 Spirit God Be Our Breath (last verse)**

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.  
Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.  
Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn...  
Spirit God, be our song.

**Sending Out**

Adapted from "Easter Meditation" from *Seasons of the Spirit* age 12 – 14 curriculum, 8 April 2007.

One: Go out into the world, to live the promise and hope of the Resurrection

**All: May we see the face of Christ in everyone we meet,  
and may they see Christ in us.**

**Alleluia!**