

EASTER SUNDAY
April 20, 2014

“Easter Joy”

Happy Easter!! John and the other gospel writers place the first news of the Resurrection in the hands of women – and, in John’s case, in Mary Magdalene’s hands alone. The surprise of resurrection prepares disciples for surprising witness. Christ is among us. So, said Mary, so say those who follow her lead. Christ *is* risen. Allelujah!

Prelude

Easter Greeting

L: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

P: Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah! Alleluia!

Welcome and Announcements

Christ Candle

L: Today as we light the Christ Candle we proclaim that Jesus’ resurrection has forever changed who we are. It has given us the courage to boldly proclaim our hope in Christ, and in a new heaven and a new earth. We celebrate new life, new joy, and new possibilities – the Spirit of Christ alive among us. (*light candle*)

All: Alleluia, Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Sung response (seated): 958 “Halle, Halle, Halle-lujah” (sung twice)

Call to Worship

L: On Good Friday we left worship in shadows, mourning Jesus who went to the cross.

P: This morning we celebrate with great joy an unexpected discovery.

L: Early on Sunday, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb.

P: She saw that the stone had been removed.

L: She was afraid and began to cry. A gardener comforted her, but to her surprise:

P: It was Jesus!

L: She went and announced to the disciples:

P: “I have seen the Lord.”

L: This is the Good News of Easter.

P: This hope, this miracle, this joy is ours.

L: Let the light stream. Let the grief be lifted.

For God has done a marvelous thing. Christ is risen.

ALL: Jesus Christ is risen. Hallelujah!

***Opening Hymns – 155 “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”
164 - The Day of Resurrection**

Opening Prayer

Kilsyth - Music for Meditation

Keady - Children's Time

Gospel: John 20:1-18

Music for Meditation

Sermon - *Easter Joy*

Music for Meditation

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern

Offering & *Offertory - 542 "We give you.."

***Prayer of Dedication (*in unison*)**

You, O God, are the Easter One. You are the holy source of Jesus' life and death and new life. You are the dancing spirit of life. We offer these gifts in gratitude for hope returned, for the mystery of your grace, and for the promise of resurrection and new life. Amen.

***Closing Hymn – 211 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”**

***Commissioning and Sending Forth**

***Sung Benediction - 958 “Halle, halle, Halle-lujah” (*sung once*)**

Wishing you a happy Easter and a great day!

Announcements