

APRIL 4th, 2021

EASTER SUNDAY

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: This is God's miraculous new day! Rejoice in Easter's hope!

People: All around us and everywhere we look there are signs of new life! In seeds and budding trees, in bright smiles and loving embraces, we sense God's resurrection power.

Pastor: God has raised Jesus from the dead. Therefore, death does not have the final word.

People: Christ lives! The grave could not hold him! And he is here with us now! We praise God for the victory of life over death that we celebrate today!

Pastor: Let us worship the Lord!

#HYMN #205 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today!*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

God of awesome mysteries and unexpected surprises, we have come here with open ears and receptive hearts to hear the good news of Easter, to be filled with its hope, and to reflect on the transformative potential it has for our lives. This morning we celebrate how, after three days of darkness and despair, you acted in such a forceful and overwhelming way that good triumphed, life won, and salvation came to all people through Jesus' resurrection. Be present with us on this most holy and festive day, dear Lord, and inspire Easter joy to radiate from us so powerfully that, through our words and our witness, others will come to believe that Christ is risen; he is risen indeed! We ask these things in the name of our resurrected Savior, who taught us to pray like this, saying...

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 10:34-43 and Mark 16:1-8

SERMON MESSAGE: *Something Happened* Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests
Silent Prayer
Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Thank you, loving God, for the joy of Christ's resurrection and how it offers the hope of better, brighter days to come because you have shown that you can transform our darkness into light. Please receive these gifts as an expression of gratitude for the Eternal Life you made available to us when you raised Jesus from the dead. Bless and use our offerings, we pray, to help this church share the Good News of Easter with the world and resurrect people from their tombs of anguish, grief and fear. Amen.

HYMN #214 *Thine is the Glory*

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: Be glad, O people! The days of sorrow and despair are over. God has acted and death has been destroyed!

People: Jesus has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Pastor: May your faith in the risen Christ sustain you and bring you hope; and may the love of Almighty God who raised Christ from the dead fill your hearts.

People: We will always rejoice because of Easter, and God's promise to renew all life. And we will not stop glorifying God for the marvelous thing that He has done.

Pastor: Go now in peace, and may the joy of Easter inspire your lives from this day on.

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL