

# Easter Sunrise Service

April 12, 2020 | 6:00am | Live-stream from Elm Lawn Cemetery behind the Historic Sanctuary

**Welcome to Parkway UCC** on this morning of *Alleluias!* Easter is a time of great joy! Early in the morning, however, the story begins in dark, cold, quiet. Gathering in the darkness like the women did so long ago, we are warmed and encouraged by prayers, songs, community and the “new fire”. The Day of Resurrection dawns on us as we begin to see things more clearly like Mary did that early morning. She and the others believed that all was lost, that Jesus and his mighty mission were over...tears flowed...but this sunrise moment reminds us that there is always a split second when there is suddenly more of one thing than the other...this story is all dark and dread and grief...then comes light and love and resurrection...and the tears flow again. We know who Jesus is! We know who we are again too! Alleluia!

## **Hymn** *Were You There?*

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

**Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble**

**Were you there when they crucified my Lord?**

v.2 **Were you there when God wept at Mary's cry?...**

## **Lighting the New Fire**

### **Call to Worship**

One: We have walked a rough path these last few days. We wondered if any of this was real. We weren't sure if we even knew who we were amidst all the turmoil.

Many: **We have watched the disciples lose focus—as they became distressed, dismayed, separated and isolated. We've wondered about how Jesus felt through it all. We ached for him—brokenhearted. What did he do with his deep disappointment and all of the denials? Was he afraid of who he was becoming?**

One: And now light is pushing out the darkness and dread. Things are not the way they had seemed. Jesus was right. There is a way out of 'no way'. Things are becoming clear. This is resurrection. This is restoration. This is real.

Many: **Christ is risen from the tomb!  
God's steadfast love endures forever!**

All: **This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it! Christ is risen indeed! The Spirit is pouring out upon us. Alleluia!**

### **Opening Prayer**

We believe in You, God, the power of life and love that flows through each of us and the entire universe. We believe in You, Jesus, as You revealed the good news of our connectedness with God and with all people, Your solid compassion standing up for justice, even if that meant losing Your life. You gave us an experience of God by demonstrating the power of life and limitless love. Through Jesus' words and example, we believe that we too have this power and the capacity to give people an experience of the Holy by living life fully, loving with our whole heart, and striving to be all we can be – even when that involves risk and courageous action. We believe in You, Holy Spirit, as You weave us all together, engaged in the search for meaning and the quest to be connected with the Source, Solidarity and Sustainer of all that exists. With You we ask questions, seek answers and find comfort and reassurance in the spirited inquiry when there aren't answers or clarity at all. We were lost. Now we know who we are again! Amen.

## **Hebrew Scripture Lesson** Psalm 118, selected verses

O give thanks to God—for God is good. God’s steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say, “God’s steadfast love endures forever.”

Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to God.

I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is God’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that God has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we beseech you, O God!

We beseech you, give us success!

Blessed is the one who comes in God’s name. We bless you from the house of God.

God has given us light. Bind the festal procession with branches, up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will give thanks to you; you are my God, I will extol you.

O give thanks to God, for God is good. God’s steadfast love endures forever!

## **Response** *Were You There?*

**Were you there when He rose up from the tomb?...**

## **Gospel Lesson** Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus’ body. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

## **Moment of Silent Reflection**

### **Sermon** *I Know Who I Am*

### **Praise Song** *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.**

**This is the day, this is the day  
Jesus rose again, Jesus rose again;  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice  
And be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day Jesus rose again,  
We will rejoice and be glad in it;  
This is the day, this is the day Jesus rose again.**

## **Easter Prayers and Prayers of the People**

## **Lord's Prayer** an alternate version

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen**

## **The Sacrament of Communion at our Open Table**

Take a piece of bread or a cracker and dip it into some juice or whatever you have with you as spirit symbols of Jesus' presence, nurture, encouragement, commitment. He is with us. We are with him.

## **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**Holy One, we give You thanks for this simple and sacred meal. It informs, nurtures and inspires us now. We become more Christ-like as we receive from his life and love. We feel Your Spirit shaping and guiding us. Heighten our senses so that we are more and more available to You and to one another. We want to be all about Your love with all we have been given. Amen.**

## **Hymn** *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Mortal tongues and angels say: Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, glad heavens, and earth reply: Alleluia!  
Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Christ rise, Alleluia!  
God has opened paradise, Alleluia!  
Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

## **Benediction**