



Moosup Valley Congregational Christian Church, UCC
EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE
April 12, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP

Morning has broken and we come to this place in search of the risen Christ. We seek the rebirth of wonder in the midst of cynicism. We are looking for the ways to say “Yes!” to living . . . to changing . . . to becoming new. We come to experience a really new dawn breaking, full of promise and hope.

HYMN: “Morning Has Broken”

*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.*

*Sweet the rain’s new fall / Sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall / On the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness / Of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness / Where God has passed.*

*Mine is the sunlight! / Mine is the morning
Born of the one light / Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, / Praise ev’ry morning,
God’s re-creation / Of the new day.*

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

Eternal God, as we stand before the empty tomb, like Mary and the disciples, we find it hard to believe that Jesus lives. Forgive our unbelief. Take from our minds the crippling shadows of doubt. Help us to find the spirit of the living Christ in the midst of our pressures and fears, that we might live this day and every day with hope and joy, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Part I: John 21:1-14

Narrator: After this, Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberius, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon Peter, Thomas, called the Twin, Nathaniel of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them,

Simon: "I am going fishing."

All: "We will go with you."

Narrator: They went out and got into the boat, but that night, they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the beach. Yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them,

Jesus: "Children, have you any fish?"

All: "No."

Jesus: "Cast the net on the right side of the boat and you will find some."

Narrator: So they cast it and now they were not able to haul it in, for the quantity of fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved, said to Peter,"

John: "It is the Lord!"

Narrator: When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his clothes, for he was stripped for work, and sprang into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, for they were not far from the land, but about a hundred yards off. When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it and bread. Jesus said to them,

Jesus: "Come, and have breakfast."

Narrator: Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and so with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus was revealed to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

We will take time to eat a piece of bread, perhaps even fish

Part II: John 21:15-19, 24-25

Narrator: When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter,

Jesus: “Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?”

Simon: “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.”

Jesus: “Feed my lambs.”

Jesus: “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Simon: “Yes, Lord, you know I love you.”

Jesus: “Tend my sheep.”

Jesus: “Simon, son of John, do you love me?”

Simon: “Lord, you know everything. You know I love you.”

Narrator: Jesus said to him,

Jesus: “Feed my sheep and follow me! Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you girded yourself and walked where you would; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish to go.”

Narrator: This he said to show by what death he was to glorify God. I am the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that my testimony is true. But there are also many other things which Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

RESPONDING TO GOD’S LOVE

O risen Christ, for this common food of fish and bread that we have shared together in community with you, we give thanks. With all your disciples throughout the ages, may we know the new life and hope that comes from your power and presence among us. Help us to recognize you, for you are continually shaking us and shaping us into an Easter people with new life sparkling in our eyes. Amen.

HYMN: “Alleluia! The Strife Is O’er”

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The strife is o’er, the battle done; The victory of life is won;

The song of triumph has begun: Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

BENEDICTION

May the peace and joy of the risen Christ go with us now and forever.

Amen.

May the love of God, which binds us together as a community, always be with us.

Amen.

May the communion of the Holy Spirit guide us as we go forth to serve one another. Alleluia! Amen.

HYMN: “Let There Be Peace on Earth”

Let there be peace on earth,

And let it begin with me,

Let there be peace on earth,

The peace that was meant to be,

With God as our Father,

Neighbors all are we,

Let us walk with each other,

In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,

Let this be the moment now,

With every step I take,

Let this be my solemn vow,

To take each moment,

And live each moment

In peace, eternally,

Let there be peace on earth,

And let it begin with me.