

Easter Sunrise Service

6:45 A. M.

April 5, 2015

Words of Welcome

Leader: He is Risen.

People: He is Risen indeed!

Call to Worship

Reader #1: Easter begins in despair. Our life, our love, our hope forever dead, crushed by a boulder, bottled up in a cave.

People: Who will roll away the stone?

Reader #2: Easter takes us by surprise, early in the morning. The obstacles we expect to face are removed. Where once death and despair laid locked in time now the bright light of hope sprouts wings to fly from emptiness. It is, at first, too good to be true.

People: Where have you laid him?

Reader #3: When faced with a miracle, our first reflex is to run.

People: Be not afraid. You seek Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified. He is risen; he is not here: see the place where they laid him. But go your way. Tell his disciples that he goes before you into Galilee. There you shall see him.

Reader #4: Suddenly the realization dawns. It may rise as quietly as the sun creeping over the horizon, or it may explode like fireworks, painting the world with dazzle. We recognize the One who was dead as he comes to life in us.

People: Christ is risen, risen indeed! Alleluia!

Reader #5: And all who encounter the Risen One whether gently roused by the sunrise or surprised by the sudden burst of joy will join the Resurrection procession one by one, slipping into step, some of us singing, some of us silently soaking it in, and all of us feeling like dancing.

ALL: Alleluia! Christ is risen, risen indeed!

Opening Prayer

*Easter Song

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
who did once, upon the cross, Alleluia!
suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia!
who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
sinners to redeem and save, Alleluia!

But the pain which He endured, Alleluia!
our salvation have procured, Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's king, Alleluia!
where the angels ever sing, Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
praise eternal as God's love, Alleluia!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia!

Prayer of Confession

On this morning of hallelujahs, we must confess how human we are, Emptier of tombs. We haven't done any great evil, but we have failed to do good when we had the chance. We have not intentionally hurt anyone, nor have we offered healing to the broken. We easily accept the witness of the angel in the tomb, but find it difficult to share this good news with our friends and neighbors.

Bring us new life, Dazzling God. Where we are tired and stressed, give us the energy to serve your creation; transform our hardened hearts into fountains of grace; forgive us of all the damage we have done, and fill us with the joy of your Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, who gives us new life, we pray. Amen

Receiving God's Grace and Forgiveness

Scripture John 20:1-18

Meditation "I Have Seen the Lord!"

Rev. Chris Carrasco

Easter Litany

Reader #6: Trembling, the women approached the tomb. The tomb: that mysterious place of meeting. Death meeting life. Women meeting the risen Christ. Trembling.

People: Trembling, we approach the edge where death and life meet. Death, the unknown, meets life, new life. New life faces us with its possibilities and uncertainties. Trembling, we approach.

Reader #7: Easter morning: the women came face to face with Jesus, face to face with the risen Christ. They doubted, they feared, they wondered as life returned to them from death.

People: From a triumphant Palm Sunday to a dark, betrayed Friday, we have journeyed to Easter. Wiser now, we know that joy and sorrow, life and death are bound together. Passing through sorrow, through death, to life and joy, we arrive at Easter.

Reader #8: The risen Jesus still bore the marks of the nails. Life knows death, joy knows sorrow. Yet it is life which triumphs over all, love which conquers all threats.

People: Death is shattered. Face to face, the disciples saw death had lost its power.

Reader #9: We have survived the deaths, the sorrows, the pains. We receive new life.

People: Rejoice! Life bursts through death. God is with us. Alleluia!

Communion

(Please take a piece of the bread as it is handed to you and dip it into the cup as it is passed to you.)

*Easter Song

Christ Is Risen, Shout Hosanna

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding, bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna, everyone!

*Blessing

Leader: Because the tomb is empty your life can be full, so go into every place and every day as people brimming with the love of God. Now that you have heard the good news, what will you do?

People: We will go out into the world, showing by our lives that Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: And how will you do this?

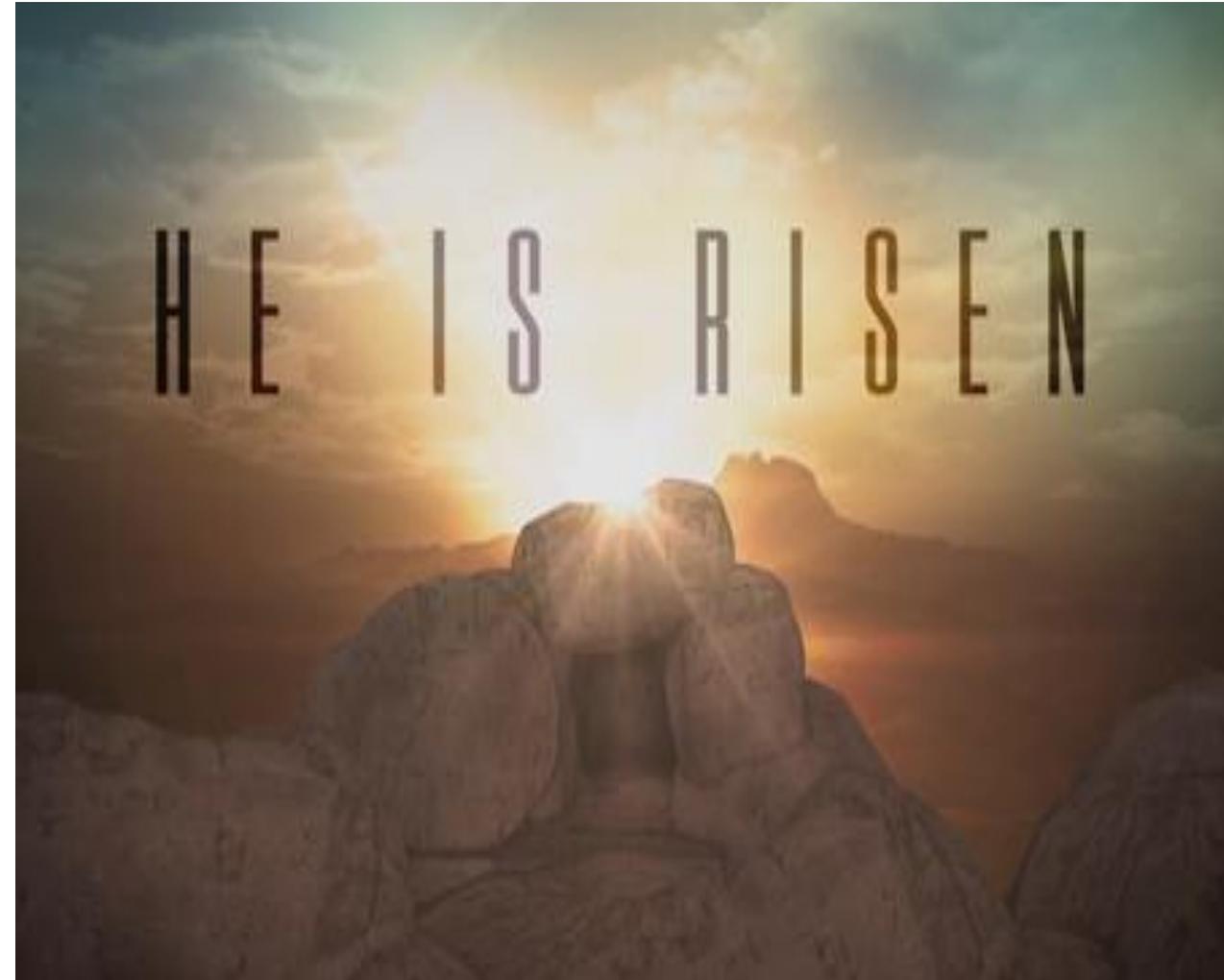
People: We will tell the story of God's love for the world in Jesus Christ, and we will continue Christ's loving acts among humanity.

Leader: Live for the risen Christ as Christ lives in you.

People: Alleluia and Amen!

NOW THE SERVICE BEGINS

After the service, you are invited to the fellowship Hall for a light breakfast and fellowship.



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King's Grant Presbyterian Church

745 Little Neck Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23452