



Essex Ecumenical Community Sunrise Service  
April 1, 2018

**The Essex Ecumenical Community  
Easter Sunrise Service  
April 1, 2018**

**"I am the resurrection and the life, those who believe in me, though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."** John 11:25-6

**The Order of Worship**

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Christ is Risen!

**People: Christ is Risen indeed!**

Leader: On this sacred morning, we come to proclaim our faith in God and remember the morning so long ago when Jesus awoke and changed the world with the miracle of resurrection.

**People: Out of despair, hope came to life. If Jesus overcame death, then kings can be brought down, injustice can be challenged and goodness can overcome evil.**

Leader: Jesus calls us to this hope. Jesus empowers us to overcome. Jesus demands optimism. As we greet this Easter dawn, let us never forget the power resurrection unleashes

**People: We will never give up because Jesus is on our side. We will never be stuck in darkness because Jesus lights our way. We shall overcome.**

Leader: Come, let us follow Jesus and live life to the fullest.

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

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Al – le – lu – ia!  
Mortal tongues and angels say: Al – le – lu – ia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Al – le – lu – ia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Al – le – lu – ia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Al – le – lu – ia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Al – le – lu – ia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Al – le – lu – ia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Al – le – lu – ia!**

**Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Al – le – lu – ia!  
Praise to thee by both be given, Al – le – lu – ia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Al – le – lu – ia!  
Hail, the resurrection thou, Al – le – lu – ia!**

## A Time of Confession

### A Call to Confession

Leader: God created humanity and declared us “good.” And yet, we all fail to live into our potential. We all fall short of the kingdom of God. We all need Jesus’ grace.

**People: Jesus teaches us how to move forward through this conundrum: have mercy, forgive freely, live in peace with all, love your neighbors and enemies.**

Leader: Lord Jesus, HELP.

### Unison Prayer of Confession

**From the crib, Baby Jesus, you teach us to rely on others. From Galilee, Rabbi, you teach us to love. From the cross, Crucified Savior, you teach us that love can hurt. Forgive us for being too independent, too self-absorbed and too easily turned away from meaningful living through sacrifice. Help us to focus on your resurrection as we draw power and joy from your victory. Help us to sense your goodness within and share it with others. We pray this in Christ name, Amen.**

### The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: The good news brothers and sisters is that God is in charge and calling you to be on the team that is really winning. He loves and forgives you and always welcomes you to the cause....if you but accept it.

**People: We accept God’s presence in our lives. We accept Christ’s forgiveness for our sins. And we accept the challenge to live more faithfully.**

Leader: I declare to you that your sins are forgiven. Leave this place and spread the Good News of Christ's love. Amen and Alleluia!

Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

*Let us all show our acceptance of God's call by passing Christ's peace to our brothers and sisters.*

Gospel Reading.....John 20:1-18

An Easter Meditation..... Rev. Josh Simon

An Easter Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer**

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.**

Closing Hymn.....Low In The Grave He Lay (song insert)

### **Today's Participants**

Rev. Mark Mendes: First Congregational of Essex Junction.

Rev. Charles Ranges SSE: Holy Family Catholic Church.

Rev. Joshua Simon: Associate Pastor of First Congo E. J.

Thanks to Laura Firkey-Cunningham for leading us on guitar.

\*Everyone is invited back to The First Congregational Church of Essex Junction for a hot breakfast. All are welcome!