



Essex Ecumenical Community Sunrise Service
April 21, 2019

The Essex Ecumenical Community
Easter Sunrise Service
April 21, 2019

| |
|---|
| <p><i>"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."</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">John 11:25-6</p> |
|---|

The Order of Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: Christ is Risen!

People: Christ is Risen indeed!

Leader: On the morning Christ arose from the dead, the disciples were fearfully hiding and the women were preparing for an anguished anointing as they walked toward Christ's cave.

People: Easter starts in darkness and we bring our own to this hallowed ground. Financial worries, violence in our schools and places of worship, a divisive political landscape, international instability and an unknown future.

Leader: Then the Son turned darkness into light, weakness into strength, hatred into love and fear into hope. Jesus defeated death and rose to new life.

People: Jesus still brings light, strength, love and hope to our lives. God will provide for our needs, draw goodness out of the evil and help shape our future.

Leader: Jesus rose from the dead long ago and his presence continues to meet us in life. We are stronger. We are not afraid. We proclaim our hope. We embrace love. And we proclaim with loud and resounding voices.

All: Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

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: We come this morning to proclaim a faith in Jesus Christ. We belong to his movement and try to follow in his ways of love. But we all fall short of the glory of God.....

People: We are fearfully and wonderfully made and yet we do things we know to be wrong; we turn in weakness to false idols and ridiculous excuses. Hear us God as we honestly admit to our mistakes.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Loving Creator, what have we done to your magnificent creation? We have polluted its air, water, land and oceans to the point of severe degradation. Merciful Savior, what have we done to your message of Love? We degrade and demonize others, we mercilessly oppress the poor and outcast, we wantonly wage war and accept violence. Divine Spirit, what have we done to your presence? We claim you for our own, we deny you and your quiet ever present guidance and we simply stop including you in our lives. Forgive us and help us to do better. Let the resurrected light of Christ warm our hearts and lead us closer to your Way. We pray this in Christ's name, amen.

The Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Creation continues, nation and prophets seek justice and humanity learns to love more deeply. Christ's resurrection spirit lives on.

People: God rules, Christ lives and I will welcome the Spirit into my heart to live more fully.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Let us all show the victory of the resurrection by passing Christ's peace to our brothers and sisters.

Gospel Reading.....Luke 24:1-12

An Easter Meditation..... Rev. Mark Mendes

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.....*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 our Creator, family all are we,
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me. Let this be the moment now.
With ev'ry breath 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.**

Today's Participants

Rev. Mark Mendes: First Congregational of Essex Junction.

Rev. Charles Ranges SSE: Holy Family Catholic Church

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

**Everyone is invited back to The First Congregational Church of
Essex Junction for a hot breakfast!*