



He is Risen!
Alleluia!

Essex Ecumenical Community
Sunrise Service
April 17, 2022

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Easter Sunrise Service
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"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

Welcome..... Father Charles Ranges

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

[insert]

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.....Rev. Mark Mendes

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.

Scripture Readings

Psalter Reading:Rev. Josh Simon

Gospel Reading: Luke 24:1-12..... Father Charles Ranges

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

Pastoral Prayer and **Unison Lord's Prayer** Rev. Mark Mendes

Loving God, 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 do not let us fall into temptation***, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, amen.

Closing Hymn

In the Garden

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Benediction Rev. Mark Mendes

Today's Participants

Rev. Mark Mendes: First Congregational of Essex Junction.

Rev. Charles Ranges SSE: Holy Family Catholic Church

Thanks to Laura Firkey-Cunningham her musical gift of leading us on guitar.