

in the big love living liturgies

Easter Sunday "Questions"
 Liturgical Year C • Luke 24:1-12
 prepared by Rev. Kathryn M. Schreiber

Focus Scripture Text
 Luke 24:1-12

This Week's Lenten Question
 "Where's Hope?"

Suggested Hymns/Songs

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

Words: Lyra Davidica; Tune: LLANFAIR

"The Day of Resurrection"

Words: John of Damascus; Tune: LANCASHIRE

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today!"

Words: Charles Wesley; Tune: EASTER HYMN

"Hallelujah"

Words: Traditional Caribbean; TUNE: HALLELUJA

"O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing"

Words: Jean Tisserand; Tune: O FILII ET FILIAE

"Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain"

Words: John of Damascus; Tune: ST KEVIN

"Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Words: Matthew Bridges; Tune: DIADEMATA

Meditation Quote

"Why do you look for the living among the dead?" - Luke 24:5b

OR

"To be a Christian means you become a part of the most significant story the world has ever heard. You don't become part of that without an ongoing questioning of what it means to become part of that." - Dr. Stanley Hauerwas, Christian Ethicist

Sanctuary Decorations

Easter is a celebration of God's faithfulness and the power of the Eternal Christ to transcend death. Any decoration which is joyful, life-filled, hopeful is appropriate. Invite artistic members of the community to coordinate decorations; ask them far in advance. Easter Flowers: In addition to Easter lilies, some communities create a floral cross decorated with fresh flowers. The ritual of creating the floral cross is usually done right before the service. Designate someone to help with decoration. Be sure to have sharp pruners and containers for collecting green waste at hand. Also, consider asking folks to bring pots of blooming and lush plants from their homes and gardens, instead of buying new plants and cut flowers.

Celebration Holy Communion on Easter

As many people only attend church services during the holidays, please consider offering Holy Communion during worship if you don't already. Pre-designate teams of communion servers asking any clergy or natural caregivers to serve. Set up multiple

teams around the sanctuary to serve to keep the service flowing. Communion plates and cups do not need to match. Consider using organic elements, to honor all creatures, and to include or use exclusively gluten free and alcohol free elements.

Easter Acclamation (*responsive*)

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: Indeed, Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Words of Gathering (*responsive*)

1st Voice: Why do we look for Christ in empty tombs?

All: **Christ is here, among the living!**

2nd Voice: Why do we look for Christ in exotic locales?

All: **Christ is here, in this community!**

3rd Voice: Why do we look for Christ in esoteric practices?

All: **Christ is here, dwelling in each soul.**

4th Voice: Why do we look for Christ in spiritual celebrities?

All: **Christ is here, within the Beloved Community!**

5th Voice: We look for Christ because we long for Christ.

The One who died has been raised! Alleluia!

The One we seek is risen! Alleluia!

All: **Jesus Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!** ✦ (*kms*)

Affirmation of Faith (*unison*)

We believe in God's eternal presence made known among us in various ways, at various times. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, the Jewish teacher, who revealed to us the embodied Christ. We believe in God's Holy Spirit as divine inspiration, wisdom, and hope dwelling among us for the wellbeing of all. We believe in the gift and grace of faith as well as the integrity of the search for intellectual understanding and spiritual belief. We believe there is more to come and that God continually speaks to our hearts, minds, bodies, and souls. On this Easter morning we affirm our faith in the amazing mystery of the Risen Christ. Amen! ✦ (*kms*)

Living Word for Children

"What Happened to Jesus?"

On Easter we celebrate the transition from Jesus of Nazareth, to the Crucified Messiah, to the Risen Christ. Symbols and metaphors attempt to address these sacred mysteries. Focus on transformation -- that God is able to do such amazing things. Use the example of the "miracle" of a caterpillar becoming a chrysalis becoming a butterfly. God does many things we don't understand, but which delight us. Easter is a good time to assure the children that the eternal Christ is always with us. Prepare butterflies or coloring sheets to hand out. Make extra for guests of all ages. ✦ (*kms*)

Living Word for Adults

"A Mother's Faith" a first-person story sermon inspired by the Biblical account of the women who visited Jesus' empty tomb and the Black Lives Matter Movement. Recorded on Easter Morning 2016 at Arlington Community Church, UCC in Kensington, CA.

Preacher: The Rev. Kathryn M. Schreiber ✦ (*kms*)

YouTube: "A Mothers Faith" Easter 2016 (channel: Kathryn Schreiber)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3b1aF-mepE&t=53s>

Pastoral Prayer

On this Easter Morning we greet the Risen Christ with joyful praises! O Holy God, what wondrous mysteries have You granted unto us! You provided us with a teacher, savior, and friend named Jesus from Nazareth. When human fear, greed and prejudice assaulted his mortal body You resurrected Your Anointed One, who now reigns eternally as the Triumphant Christ.

Today, we the Christian community of faith celebrates the power of Your love to conquer all that strives to destroy each good and perfect gift from You. We also give thanks for our neighbors who practice other religions, knowing there are many paths to You, yet You are but One.

On this bright morning mindful of real shadow and clouds we “trace the rainbow through the rain” calling Your Easter Peace into our world, into our communities, into our homes, and into our hearts. We are so blessed for Christ has truly risen and is rising... within, among, throughout, beyond, eternally! ✦ (*kms*)

Celebration of Holy Communion

(Please use your own words and traditions; these are merely suggestions.)

Invitation

No matter where we are on our faith journey, no matter how we happened to arrive here, we are now connected as community gathered around God’s Resurrection Table where everyone is truly welcome! Beloved Ones, on this bright Easter morning we are fully seen and welcomed. We are fully understood and forgiven. We are fully invited to share in Christ’s eternal liberation. Come, for all things are ready! ✦ (*kms*)

Prayer of Preparation and Consecration

Holy One, We come to You needing Your Living Word, needing Your Living Breath, needing what only You can give. As we prepare to receive Your gifts may we be open to You and the many ways You seek to resurrect persons and communities. We call Your Holy Spirit into these cups and loves. We call Your Holy Spirit into all souls gathered here that the grace of this Holy Communion might be widely shared. Amen.
✦ (*kms*)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*unison*)

We give thanks, Resurrected One, that You are forever with us, especially when we come to God’s Table. Triumphant Christ, when we look for the living in the land of the dead, turn our heads and hearts to You - for You are here! Thank You! Amen! ✦ (*kms*)

Benediction (*responsive*)

“Amazing Peace” (*based upon excerpts from Maya Angelou’s “Amazing Peace” poem*)

1st Voice: Hope is born, again, in the faces of children. It rides on the shoulders of our elders as they walk into their sunsets. Hope spreads around the earth brightening all things, even hate which crouches, breeding in dark corridors. In our joy, we think we hear a whisper. At first it is too soft -- then only half heard.

ALL: We listen carefully as it gathers strength. We hear a sweetness. The word is Peace. It is loud now. Louder than the echo of gunfire.

2nd Voice: We tremble at the sounds. We are thrilled by its presence. It is what we have hungered for. Not just the absence of violence, but true Peace. A harmony of

spirit, a comfort of courtesies. Security for our beloveds and their beloveds. We clap hands and welcome the Peace of Easter.

ALL: We say, come, Peace! Come and fill us and our world with your majesty. We implore you to stay awhile with us, so we may learn by your shimmer light how to look beyond distinctions and see community.

3rd Voice: It is Easter Morning, a halting of hate time. On this platform of Peace we can create a language to translate ourselves to ourselves and to each other. We shout with many tongues the promise of Peace. We look into the empty tomb and speak the word aloud: Peace. We look at our world and speak the world aloud: Peace.

All: We look at each other, and also at ourselves, and say without shyness or apology or hesitation: Peace, My Brother. Peace, My Sister. Peace, My Soul. †
(ma/kms)

Prayer of Dedication/Offering

Amazing God, there is nothing we have to give to You that compares to all You have already given to us. Humbly, on this Easter Morning, we give You our deepest gratitude for the Resurrected Christ. Amen. † (kms)

Worship Credit: Please run this worship credit in your order of worship:

(kms) Rev. Kathryn M. Schreiber, Living Liturgies ©2016.

(ma/kms) "Amazing Peace," a Christmas poem by Maya Angelou, © 2005 adapted by Kathryn M. Schreiber

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