

GLADWIN HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH
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The Reverend Dr. Dorothy A. Jeffery
Director of Music: June Dolman
Pianist: Sarah Wiens
Youth Leader: Samuel Glasgow
Scripture Reader: Peter Shaver
Visual Art: Nancy Ritchie, Lyn Warmerdam

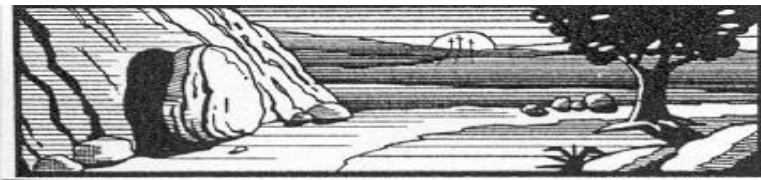
April 24, 2011 Easter Day
Theme: "New Life"

John 1: ¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

We Gather In Silence

*** Please rise as you are comfortable.*

Light Christ Candle



****Hymn: "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"**
Voices United 157

Welcome –

Call to Worship (responsively):

One: When rain washes the soil and we see shoots of green plants, already growing in the wind, we say...



All: Christ is Risen indeed!

One: When we realize we have been helped through a rough time we thought we would never overcome, we say...

All: Christ is Risen indeed!

One: When we set out to help another, and find we have benefited from our time together, we say ...



All: Christ is Risen indeed!

One: When we share our thoughts on spirituality with others and feel Your presence, we say ...

All: Christ is Risen indeed!

One: When we look into the eyes of those we love and see Your love reflected back, we say ...



All: Christ is Risen indeed!

One: When we share the words Jesus taught us, we say...

All: Christ is Risen indeed!

/adapted from Gathering p. 40 Karen Boivin



Anthem:
“On This Joyful Easter Morn.”

Prayer of Approach: (together)

Easter Sunday, God, You are the source of life.

In You, we live and move and have our being.

In the power of Jesus’ resurrection, we know that nothing, not even death itself, can separate us from the love You have for us.

We worship You.

All creation praises You this blessed morn.

/adapted from Sandra Severs, “Living Covenant” p. 51.

Time for Growing Souls:

[Children may sit with parents, go to nursery or remain at the front at the activity table.

We invite you all (including parents) to be comfortable with us].



Prayer of Confession: (together)

We need new life, O God.

We, too, need to emerge from our tombs of doubt and mistrust.

We need to be unwrapped from our fears, our sorrows, our unforgiven sins against humans and your creation.

Grant us, this day, the new life of Jesus, the joy of Easter, and a hope that leans on You.

/adapted WFAS Ila Atze Veldhuis, 1999

[pause]

Words of assurance:

****Hymn: “Now the Green Blade Rises”**

Voices United 186

We Listen for God’s Word...

Hebrew Scriptures: **Jeremiah 31:1, 3-8**

Psalm 118:1, 2, 14-24

Voices United 837 Parts 1, 2, 3

Epistle: **Romans 6:3-11**

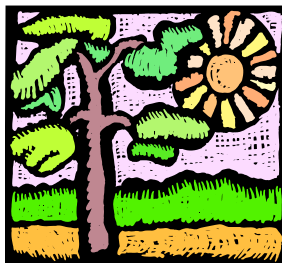
Gospel: **Matthew 28:1-10**

Message:



We Respond in Faith...

****Hymn:
“Joy Comes with the Dawn”
Voices United 166**



****Closing hymn: “Christ Is Alive”
Voices United 158**

We Go Forth with Purpose and Blessing...

Prayers of the People (Dorothy)

....

The Lord’s Prayer **Voices United 960**

Minute for Mission: Laura Bailey

Presentation of our Offerings

Invitation to Offertory: (Dorothy)

Dedication song:

MV 79 “Spirit Open My Heart” refrain only

Spirit, open my heart
To the joy and pain of living
As you love may I love
In receiving and in giving
Spirit, open my heart.

Offertory prayer

Spoken Commissioning (Dorothy)

Sung Blessing: (together)
“May God’s Sheltering Wings”
More Voices 214.
Inclusive language.

Postlude



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Spirit Open My Heart: Ruth Duck.