

EASTER SUNDAY
Worship from Home
First Congregational Church of Blue Hill, UCC
April 12, 2020

GATHERING & WELCOME

TIME OF SILENCE

THE DAWN OF RESURRECTION
(Mary, the Mother of Jesus Reflects)
Source Unknown)

READER: Jesus has been crucified and laid in the tomb. The time of Passover and Unleavened Bread is over. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is waiting for the sun to rise so that she can go with the other women to take spices to the tomb and say her final farewell.

MARY: So much has happened. I am so tired. I know I must face the awful truth. I know that once day breaks, I must go with the others to the tomb, but for now I need some time alone to ponder all that has happened. How much I remember! Has it been so long? Or was it only yesterday?

Was there really an angel, or did I just imagine it?

READER: "Greetings favored one! The Lord is with you." ... "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ... You will bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High ... The child to be born to you will be 'Holy'; he will be called the Son of God." (Lk. 1)

MARY: "... let it be to me according to your word."

No, it was not a dream. But dear God, I don't understand what has happened! You said he was your Son, that he would be the Savior of our people. Did I misunderstand? Did I fail in some way? Why did it end this way?

(A Candle is lit.)

MARY: What is that? The sun, rising already? Soon the others will be here and I must go and say goodbye for the last time.

He did say he would come back. The sun is getting higher. It is so bright! So bright it reminds me of that night so long ago when a star...

MUSICAL INTERLUDE "Morning Has Broken"

SCRIPTURE READING Gospel According to Luke 24: 1-9, 11-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.

While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 'that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb ...

HYMN "Now the Green Blade Rises"

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain;
Wheat that in dark earth for many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,
Thinking that their Love would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

Christ came forth at Easter, like the risen grain,
Jesus, who for three days in the grave had lain,
Quick from the dead the risen One is seen;
Love is come again like wheat that rises green.

MEDITATION & SHARING

(For those not worshiping on Zoom, please feel free to meditate on Rev. Deb's sermon "An Idle Tale?!" attached in the e-visitor.)

A TIME OF PRAYER

Sharing of Joys & Concerns
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer (Debts)

ACCLAMATION

Leader: Alleluia, Christ is risen!

People: The Lord is risen indeed, Alleluia!

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, glad 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 Christ rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
God has opened paradise, Al-le-lu-ia!**

**Soar we now where Christ has led, Al-le-lu-ia!
Following our exalted Head, Al-le-lu-ia!
Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al-le-lu-ia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al-le-lu-ia!**

WORD OF BLESSING