



## Panther Valley Ecumenical Church

*April 12, 2020*  
*SUNRISE SERVICE*  
*EASTER!*

***Behold the light of the world,  
the light no darkness could overcome***

**I Believe**

Mark A. Miller

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Morning has broken, but this morning is different.

The birds are singing tunes of joy in the trees surrounding the graves. The flower buds are bursting in colors vibrant around each stone.

We've come to visit the grave of a friend, but "he is not here."

The Sun is rising in the East; the shadowed grays turn bright!

The Son is risen in our Hearts; darkness and death end in defeat.

Now we understand what Christ said, what God did.

Now we can proclaim,

**CHRIST IS RISEN! HALLELUJAH!**

**Here Comes the Sun**

James Taylor

### **OPENING PRAYER**

Astounding God, very early on that first day you caught chaos unawares; planting grace in a garden, setting love loose on creation, flinging joy into the air.

Jesus, Sun of Justice, You rose very early on that first day, staggering sin, confounding death, You opened the gates of the kingdom so all could follow you into life.

Soaring Spirit, very early on that first day of the week, while we were washing sleep from our eyes and trying to make sense of our lives, you sang glad songs to us,

rolling away fears from our hearts so we can see the Risen Lord.

God in Community, Holy and One, very early on the first day of this week we lift our praise and prayers to you, using the words that Jesus taught us:

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 and ever. Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE READING**

John 20:1-9

*Spend some time silently reflecting and observing  
God's New Day!*

### **Morning Has Broken**

Eleanor Farjeon

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord, we have so much to be thankful for this Easter morning. In the chill of the morning air, we do feel the warm blessing of your Spirit. We can rejoice this day because our tendency toward disbelief is overcome by our capacity for faith. We are truly amazed that a cross of crucifixion has been transformed into a symbol of new life, a symbol of eternal life.

We are thankful that you come to greet us in a garden of hope, trust, and faith. We thank you that a dark and empty tomb has emerged into a garden of light and

living. In all our days, we shall live for Christ, the resurrected and risen Savior. Amen.

### **BENEDICTION**

We thank You, Lord, for re-igniting the flame of hope within us, for filling our hearts with light and evicting the darkness, and for giving a new vision of Your glory.

Go now, as light-bearers to a world in darkness,

Go now, as hope-carriers to a world in despair;

We go in the name of Christ, in the love of God and in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

### **Christ the Lord Is Risen Today**

Charles Wesley

Artwork: Woman at the Tomb by HeQi

The music playlist can be found on Spotify by clicking on this link:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4QOBGKVStoLeakMLHy6l4i>