

Westminster United Church

Order of Worship

Sunday, April 21, 2019



Gathering Music

Welcome and Announcements

(★ invites people to stand as they are able; **people's part in bold type**)

Entry Into Easter Celebration

(Cheryl Lawrie, *holdthisspace.org*, adapted)

Today, we gather as Easter people
in God's subversive world.

We gather to celebrate that no darkness
can extinguish light,
to remember that love will always be
more powerful than death,
and to trust that peace will always be
stronger than violence.

Quiet Reflection

We gather at this sacred time
and in this sacred place
because we are people of faith in God's world.
Welcome to this time of Easter worship
and celebration...

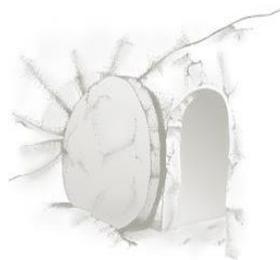
The singing bowl is sounded three times

An Easter Act of Awareness

(Joanna Harader, *re-worship.blogspot.com*, adapted)

Christ is Risen!

Christ is risen indeed!



On this day we celebrate resurrection.

Hallelujah!

The power of life has overcome the power of death.

Hallelujah!

The light of love has shattered the darkness of fear.

Hallelujah!

The way of peace has prevailed
against the violence of empire.

Hallelujah!

We worship and celebrate the One
whose resurrection-love lives on.

Hallelujah!



Opening Prayer

(based on Acts 4)

God of the Resurrection,
we gather this morning
as the Westminster community of faith.
We have come with joy to greet one another,
and to tell again the amazing news:

Christ has risen!

Love is victorious over death!

Christ has risen!

God of the Resurrection,
we have been given new life in the name of Jesus.

Christ has risen!

May our singing, praying, listening and proclaiming
be a testimony to the power of Love
to make each of our lives,
and our community of faith, a new creation.

Christ has risen!

This we pray
in the name of the Living Spirit of Jesus.
Amen.

★Opening Hymn VU 155

“ Jesus Christ Is Risen Today ”

Nature’s Testimony to Resurrection

“ Did the Sun Come Up This Morning? ”
(a poem by Victoria Safford, UUA Worship Web)

★Hymn VU 703 *“ In the Bulb There Is a Flower ”*

An Affirmation of Faith for Easter (unison)
(Discipleship Ministries, UMC, U.S.A., *adapted*)

**We believe in God,
who is love,
whose love is manifest
in all Creation,
in our lives, and in all people.**

**We follow Jesus, who embodied God’s love.
In his life and ministry,
his death and resurrection,
and his granting to us of his Spirit,
he filled us with that love as well.**

**We live by the Spirit,
the presence of God’s love in us.
In that love we participate in the Church,
the Body of Christ,
in loving God by loving our neighbors
through our prayers, our presence,
our gifts and our service.**

**Love is our faith, and it is a gift from God.
We thank God, and ask God’s blessings,
so that we may love in the name of Jesus
and the power of the Spirit, to God’s glory...**

Choral Response VU 167

v.1

“ Christ Is Risen from the Dead ”

**Christ is risen from the dead, glory, hallelujah!
Jesus Christ is risen, glory, hallelujah!**

Sharing the Peace

May a heart of peace rest with you.
And also with you.

Anthem “ Easter Medley ”

(words by Charles Wesley, arranged by Russell Mauldin)

Readings for Easter Sunday

From the New Testament

Luke 24: 1-12

From the ‘Now Testament’

(Responsive)



(Kathy Galloway/cw-adapted)

One: God, source of all life, you are alive

**All: In the beauty of the earth,
In the rhythm of the seasons,
In the mystery of time and space.**

One: God, source of all life, you are alive

**All: In the tenderness of touch,
In the heartbeat of intimacy,
In the insights of solitude.**

One: God, source of all life, you are alive,

All: **In the creative possibility,
of the dullerest conversation,
the dreariest task,
the most threatening event.**

One: God, source of all life, you are alive

All: **To offer re-creation
To every unhealed hurt
To every deadened place
To every damaged heart,**

*One: Set before us is a great choice.
Therefore, we choose life.
The dance of resurrection soars and surges
through the whole creation.
It sets bread and wine, and
countless other gifts, upon our tables.*

All: **This is grace, dying we live.**

One: Amen.

Reflections on Today's Readings (Responsive)

May the readings we've shared restore our faith

And renew our hope...

Choral Response VU 180

"Christ Is Risen, Yes, Indeed"

Centering Silence

("Let Your God Love You",

Edwina Gateley & the St. Hilda **Community**, *adapted*)

Be silent.

Be still.

Alone.

Empty

before your God.

Say nothing.

Ask nothing.

Be silent.

Be still.

Let your God look upon you.

That is all.

God knows.

God understands.

God loves you

with an enormous love,

and only wants

to look upon you

with that love.

Quiet.

Still.

Be.

Let your God –

Love you....

A Moment of Silence and Stillness

Amen and Amen.

Sermon

Rev Del Stewart

"Easter Is Faith in New Possibilities"

★**Hymn VU 409** "Morning Has Broken"

Easter Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Presentation of Our Gifts and Offerings

★**Offertory Hymn VU 542**

"We Give You But Your Own"

★**Offertory Prayer**

★**Closing Hymn VU 173** “ *Thine Is the Glory* ”

★**Parting Words** (H, Babcock, *adapted*)

**Our worship has ended.
And now we go forth
in the certainty of faith,
in the knowledge of love,
and in the vision of hope.**

The singing bowl is sounded three times

★**An Easter Blessing** (Jill Harris, *adapted*)

We know God is Love, and Love is our only hope.
Love lies at the heart of Easter,
which shows us how to live.
So let us, each day, make Love our song.
Let it work its transforming power in us.
We cannot do this alone –
and that is Love’s first lesson...

★**Choral Response VU 586**

“ We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection ”

Postlude

*Hallelujah!
Christ Is Risen!*