



**SUNDAY MORNING
WORSHIP**
with UCC Westerly
on EASTER!!!

**April 4, 2021 @ 6:15 am
EASTER SUNRISE
in our Pollinator Gardens**

Gathering Music -- The sounds of God's Creation all around you!

Words of Welcome and Call to Worship – from Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;
It is God that made us and we are his people. Give thanks to God and bless God's name.
For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever.

Opening Song – “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

[© Public Domain]

1. *Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing ye heavens and earth reply, Alleluia!*
2. *Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!*
3. *Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like him, like him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

Scripture Reading: John 20:1-18

Easter Sunrise Meditation -- “I Have Seen the Lord”

Song of Response: “In the Garden”

[© Public Domain]

1. *I come to the garden alone while the dew is still on the roses
And the voice I hear falling on my ear, the Son of God discloses
Refrain: And he walks with me, and he talks with me, and he tells me I am
his own; and the joy we share as we tarry there none other has ever known.*
2. *He speaks and the sound of his voice is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
And the melody that he gave to me within my heart is ringing.*

Refrain

3. *I'd stay in the garden with him though the night around me be falling
But he bids me go through the voice of woe, his voice to me is calling.*

Refrain

An Easter Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Almighty God, through Jesus Christ you overcame death and so gave us freedom from the fear of death. Be with all our dear ones this day, those close at hand and those whom we have not seen in so long due to the pandemic. You know what we have endured in this past year, Merciful One. Thank you for all those who worked and are working still to defeat this fearful illness through vaccine and by caring for others who have suffered from it over these past months. On this Easter morning we ask that you especially be with those for whom this illness proved too much so that they are now in your eternal care. So many have died that it is impossible to wrap our heads around these numbers – a half million, maybe more. Welcome them into the light of your presence and wrap your arms around their loved ones who grieve. So many lives disrupted as business shut down and schools were completely up-ended. Guide us through this post-Covid Resurrection ahead of us as vaccines become more prevalent. Ease the fears of those who resist taking it. Fill with patience those who have already had enough – of masks and restrictions on so much of life. Be with each of us every day as we move forward into the new reality just emerging, Merciful Redeemer. Grant that we who celebrate this Easter dawn will leave all sin behind and accept renewal as followers of the Risen Christ. We give you thanks and praise for this great eternal gift as we say together the prayer Jesus taught us to pray, saying **Our Father...**

Closing Song – “The Day of Resurrection”

[© Public Domain]

1. *The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
The Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from sin's dominion free,
Our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.*
2. *Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth its song begin!
The world resound in triumph, and all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend;
For Christ the Lord has risen, our Joy that has no end.*

**The Ancient Easter Greeting to Welcome the Dawn!
Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Risen Indeed!**

A Prayer of Benediction

[adapted from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, Eds., © 1990 The Pilgrim Press, p. 243]

The way is long, let us go together. The way is difficult, let us help each other. The way is joyful, let us share it. The way is Christ's for Christ is the Way, let us follow. The way is open before us, let us go; with the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
