

## Jordan Station United Church

April 4, 2021

### Easter

being renewed and transformed  
by the Risen Christ Jesus

Sunrise Service at 6:50am

### **THE PEOPLE GATHER TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP** **AT OAKLAND CEMETERY AT 6:50am**

#### **Silence and Darkness**

The service begins in the silence and darkness, reflecting the time of Jesus' death. Then . . .

Come let us be renewed in the breaking of a new day. Not just any new day. This is the dawn of Easter morning!

#### **Call to Worship**

One: It was dawn. The was warming the earth. The birds were singing

**All: The beauty of the day was lost on the grieving women. It may as well have been midnight as they approached the tomb.**

One: It was dawn. The earth was rejoicing. The breeze whispered alleluias across the land.

**All: It made no sense. The stone had moved. The body was gone. Confusion and fear shoved grief to the side.**

One: It was dawn. The trees swayed in the rhythm of songs from heavens.

**All: Dazzling clothes, strange voices, familiar words. On the third day the Son of Man will rise again.**

One: It was dawn. Th women were running. The words were forming.

**All: Praise the Lord! Christ is risen! Come and see!**

One: Christ has been raised from death to new life!

**All: He is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

#### **Preparing to light the Christ Candle**

Fire - as in resurrection - light and life - comes from the creative energy of God who makes all things new. God's response to the darkness of the crucifixion parallels God's response to the darkness shrouding the earth on the first day of creation - 'Let there be light.'

Darkness and death are not the final words. They are light and life. God's activity raised Christ on the first day of the new creation.

#### **Light the Christ Candle** *(saying together)*

**ALL: This is the day when Jesus broke the bonds of death and all that is death—dealing in the world. Darkness has passed. The light has come. Morning has broken!**

The Pascal Candle is lit.

**ALL: Christ is risen!**

#### **Opening Prayer**

God of Resurrection, You have rolled the stone away and the tomb of our world has been opened wide with the dawn has come a new creation. Let our celebration today empty our tombs, renew our lives and release your power.

Through the risen Christ we pray:

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed by 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: Luke 24:1-32**

**Reflection: A Reading**

One: Christ is risen!

**ALL: Jesus Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

#### **A Responsive Shared Blessing**

One: Risen with Christ,

**ALL: may we know the reassurance of God's presence.**

One: Risen with Christ,

**ALL: may we accept the challenge to work in God's way.**

One: Risen with Christ,

**ALL: may we be living proof that God's love will never die.**

**Benediction**

One: Go in peace to love and serve our living Lord.

**All: We go in the power of Christ's resurrection! Alleluia!**

One: May God, the creator of all life, Jesus Christ, the source of eternal life, and the Holy Spirit, bless you, this day and every day.

**All: Amen**

*After the sunrise service, the newly lit Christ Candle  
is taken into the Church.*