

Ramsey Memorial UMC
Easter Sunrise Service Liturgy
April 12, 2020

Opening Prayer

Lord, we lift our hearts to you.

As the dawn breaks, may we carry the unity we share into every moment knowing that we are one with the Risen Christ.

Lord, we lift our eyes to you.

As the sun rises, may this moment stay with us, reminding us to look for the beautiful colors of promise in your Word.

Lord, we lift our prayers to you.

As the dew of night falls away, and we breathe in the fresh morning air, may we know that you sustain us, keep us and work within us always.

And so, we lift our voices to you.

We celebrate the greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death, defeated darkness and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light.

May we ever live to praise you!

Amen.

Song **“Christ Is Risen”**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

That saved a wretch like me

For I once was lost, but now I'm found

Was blind, but now I see

Hallelujah

Christ is risen from the grave

Hallelujah

Christ is risen from the grave

The prodigal was welcomed home

The sinner, now a saint

But the God who died came back to life

And everything is changed

Oh death, where is your sting?

Oh fear, where is your power?

The mighty King of Kings has disarmed you

Delivered and redeemed

Eternal life is ours

Oh, praise His name forever

All throughout eternity

Our song will be the same

Hallelujah

Christ is risen from the grave

And on the day You call me in

To Heaven's sweet embrace

I see Your scars, Your open arms

The beauty of Your face

Through tears of joy, I lift my voice

In everlasting praise

Hallelujah

Christ is risen from the grave

Scripture John 20:1-18

The Resurrection

1. Early on Sunday morning, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance.
2. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, "They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"
3. Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb.
4. They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.
5. He stooped and looked in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he didn't go in.
6. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings lying there,
7. while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying apart from the other wrappings.
8. Then the disciple who had reached the tomb first also went in, and he saw and believed—
9. for until then they still hadn't understood the Scriptures that said Jesus must rise from the dead.
10. Then they went home.
11. Mary was standing outside the tomb crying, and as she wept, she stooped and looked in.
12. She saw two white-robed angels, one sitting at the head and the other at the foot of the place where the body of Jesus had been lying.
13. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" the angels asked her.
"Because they have taken away my Lord," she replied, "and I don't know where they have put him."
14. She turned to leave and saw someone standing there. It was Jesus, but she didn't recognize him.
15. "Dear woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Who are you looking for?"
She thought he was the gardener. "Sir," she said, "if you have taken him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will go and get him."
16. "Mary!" Jesus said. She turned to him and cried out, "Rabboni!" (which is Hebrew for "Teacher").
17. "Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"
18. Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, "I have seen the Lord!" Then she gave them his message.

Meditation

Mary Magdalene had a relationship with Jesus based on His having freed her of seven demons.

She wanted to thank Jesus not only with her resources but with her life.

She supported Jesus' ministry, contributing to the care of Jesus and the 12 disciples, was present at the cross when Jesus was crucified and now, in our text this morning, Mary Magdalene is going to the tomb to care for Jesus's dead body.

She is very sad to learn that Jesus body is missing.

But that does not deter her from still seeking to find where Jesus might have been laid.

She is grateful to Jesus for what He has done for her and what He means to her.

Mary models for us what it looks like to actively express appreciation.

She used her hands, feet, heart and financial resources to live out her thanks to Jesus.

What an example she sets for us.

In the process of going to serve – Mary receives the blessing of being the first one to see Jesus alive! We hear the love between them as they experience this first of Jesus's appearances to His followers.

On this Easter Sunday morning, I encourage us to meditate on these questions:

Mary came to the tomb because she loved Jesus and wanted to serve Him, even in death.

As you come symbolically to the tomb this morning, what is your relationship with Jesus right now?

Mary is saddened and confused by Jesus's body being gone.

What circumstance in your life is causing you to feel as sad and confused as Mary did in the garden that morning?

What would it mean to realize that Jesus is alive and well and very present to you in this place, at this time in your life?

Song **"Hear the Bells Ringing"**

Hear the bells ringing
They're singing that you can be born again
Hear the bells ringing
They're singing Christ is risen from the dead
The angel up on the tombstone
Said He has risen, just as He said
Quickly now, go tell his disciples
That Jesus Christ is no longer dead
Joy to the world, He has risen, hallelujah
He's risen, hallelujah
He's risen, hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hear the bells ringing
They're singing that you can be born again
Hear the bells ringing
They're singing Christ is risen from the dead
The angel up on the tombstone
Said He has risen, just as He said
Quickly now, go tell his disciples
That Jesus Christ is no longer dead
Joy to the world, He has risen, hallelujah
He's risen, hallelujah
He's risen, hallelujah, hallelujah
The angel up on the tombstone
Said He has risen, just as He said
Quickly now, go tell his disciples
That Jesus Christ is no longer dead
Joy to the world, He has risen, hallelujah
He's risen, hallelujah
He's risen, hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah
Hallelujah

Benediction

The tomb is empty, Christ has risen.
As you journey in faith, may your life be full, your love be abundant, and your hope be eternal.
Live this day and always for Christ Jesus because the Risen Christ lives in you.
Alleluia!
Christ is Risen!