

Opening Song "Were You There?" soprano: Susan Navien

Gathering Words Rev. Will Burhans

Call to Worship Rev. Judith Arnold

This morning begins in darkness and stillness; the day dawns in quiet.

Come, God, arise. Bring forth the sun from its slumber.

Friday ended with great loss and grief. The one who embodied love was crucified by those of us who fear the implications of such love.

Come, God, arise. Bring forth Jesus from the tomb.

Today is a new day. Once again light emerges from darkness, hope from despair, life from death.

Come, God, arise. Bring forth our truest selves in the light of Christ's resurrection.

Opening Hymn "Now the Green Blade Riseth"

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in the dark earth many years has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love by hatred slain,
Thinking that He would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again, like wheat that springs up green.

Morning Prayer Jane Ring Frank, Ben Pulaski
from "A Wee Worship Book" of the Iona Community in Scotland

Lord God, early in the morning when the world was young you made life in all its beauty and terror, you gave birth to all that we know.

Hallowed be your name.

Hallowed be your name.

Early in the morning, when the world least expected it, a newborn child crying in a cradle announced that you had come among us, that you were one of us.

Hallowed be your name.

Hallowed be your name.

Early in the morning, surrounded by respectable liars, religious leaders, anxious statesmen and silent friends, you accepted the penalty for doing good, for being God: you shouldered and suffered the cross.

Hallowed be your name.

Hallowed be your name.

Early in the morning a voice in a guarded graveyard and footsteps in the dew proved that you had risen, that you came back to those and for those who had forgotten, denied, and destroyed you.

Hallowed be your name.

Hallowed be your name.

Early this morning in the company of your church on earth and in heaven we celebrate your creation, your life, your death and resurrection, your interest in us and so we pray:

Lord bring new life where we are worn and tired, new love where we have turned hard-hearted, forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded, and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where we are the prisoners of ourselves.

Amen.

The Easter Story John 20:1-20

Reflection Rev. Will



First Congregational Church

IN WINCHESTER, UCC

Song of Praise “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
Unto Christ, our Heav'nly King, Alleluia!
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
Now above the sky He's King, Alleluia!
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Closing Litany Prayer

from “Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer”

As it was in the silence of the night

So may it be in the stillness of the morning.

As it was in the hidden vitality of the womb

So may it be at my birth into eternity.

As it was in the beginning, O God,

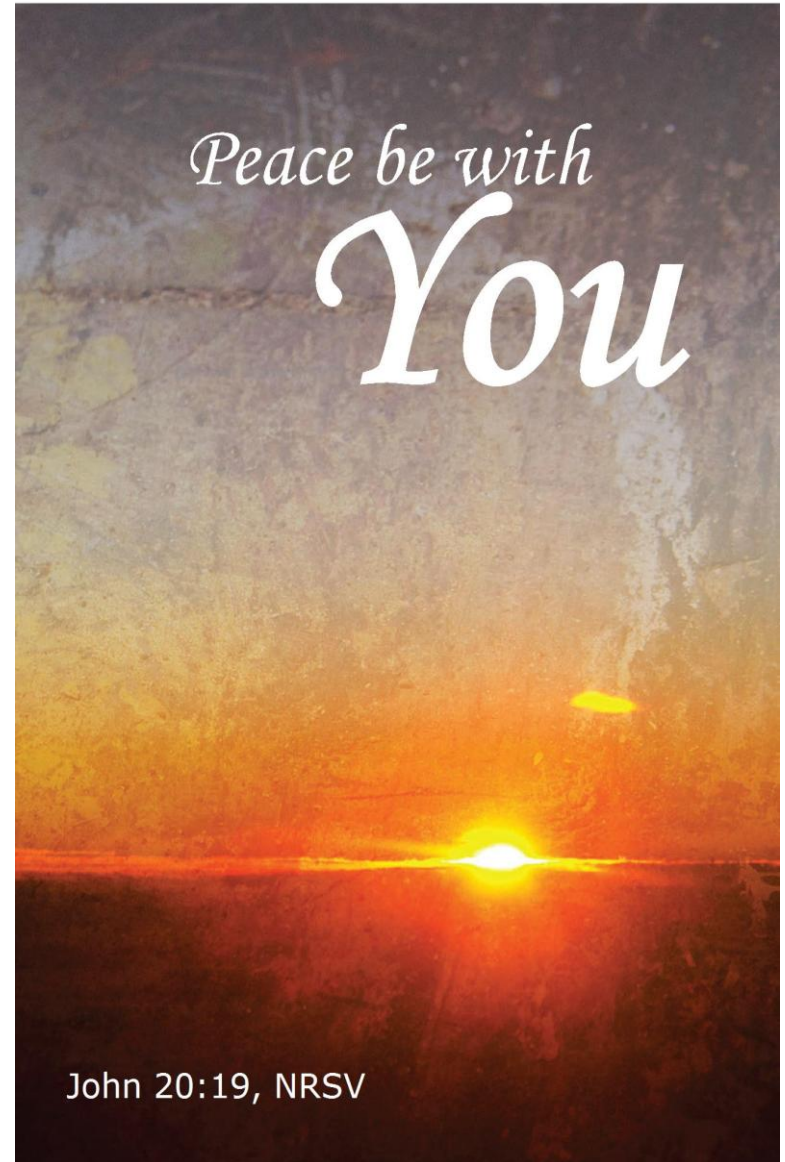
So in the end may your gift be born.

So in the end may your gift of life be born!

Amen!

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Judy



John 20:19, NRSV