

Central Queens United Church
Easter Sunrise Service
April 17, 2022 at 0630

Gathering

Longing for meaning.

As the world wakes up, once more:

aware of so much brokenness.

Between the graveyard and the cracked boulder:

looking for signs of God's presence.

In the sound of the waves, the song of a bird:

hoping to hear God's voice.

In this time and place, together and alone:

yearning for new life.

Song "Morning Has Broken"

VU #409

Prayer

God of love and life,
there are times when we feel that we have lost you,
that you have gone far away, out of reach:
as we stand by a hospital bed,
sit in a lonely home, separated from family;
as we struggle with growing gaps of memory,
watch someone we love suffering,
when the world news makes us despair;
Easter Morning
in a frosty garden,

by a graveside,
on a cold shore,
among the world's waste,
we grieve your absence, our loss.
And yet you have not gone away,
you are there mysteriously,
even in the darkest places,
even when they – and we – feel empty.
There, most of all, you are present:
you are there for us.
In Jesus you lived and died as God-with-us, Immanuel.
And you came back to life, in our lives.
Out of death's silence you speak a living Word.
Speak to us and through us, now,
living, loving God. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading Luke 23:55–24:5

The women who had come with him from Galilee followed, and they saw the tomb and how his body was laid. Then they returned, and prepared spices and ointments. On the sabbath they rested according to the commandment. But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Reflection

Hymn "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

VU #155

Blessing:

May God bless you where you are now,
and when you journey on to where you are called to be:
a place that will change you,
and where you can make a difference,
where you may be a sign of God's love
as you live out the Good News.

Amen.