



**A Time Apart Worship
Rutland & Church of the Wildwood
Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020**

Welcome - *May Easter's full blessings be with you as we celebrate Christ's resurrection this morning. It is good that we can gather in this way, being together despite being in our own safe places. May God bless us all in this time of worship.*

Greeting

Good morning friends. Happy Easter! ...

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: This Easter is different. Even so...

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: We are still behind closed doors. Even so...

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: We long to be together. Even so...

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Fear may grip us. Even so...

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Hope feels a long way off. Even so...

People: Christ is risen!

Leader: Christ is risen, indeed! Hallelujah,

People: Christ Is Risen!

Hymn *Christ The Lord Is Risen Today*

Charles Wesley

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 Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once he died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where's thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

O God of all our days and nights, You tell us that you love us with an everlasting love. When the days of isolation pile up and the nights are full of grief, Unlock hope within our hearts. When we feel closed in by fear, speak peace to our fretful souls, that we might rejoice in the presence of your Son. Teach us to proclaim, "We have seen the Risen Lord!" and share with others your peace and joy. Amen.

Scripture Reading - Jeremiah 31:1-6

Silent Reflection – *Let God's words through Jeremiah sink in. Feel the truth of being God's people, loved with an everlasting love. Where have you found grace in the wilderness of these past few weeks of Lent and of social isolation?*

Sung Response *In the Garden*

C. Austin Miles

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
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

Gospel Reading John 20:1-20

Sermon Reflection

Prayers of the People

After each silent moment, I will say "Lord in your mercy..."

Please respond, "receive our prayers."

Leader: Risen Christ, we come today trusting in the power of your love to overcome even death. Yet there is much we do not understand. Like Mary when she found the stone rolled away, we find previously unimaginable things unfolding before us. Today we lift up those who walk alone and confused through the darkness of anxiety, illness or death. *(Silent Prayer)* Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Receive our prayers.**

Leader: Like the disciples who ran toward the tomb, our minds race toward anything that

might bring us hope. Today we lift up those who labor on our behalf to find answers, make decisions, and offer responses in our communities. *(Silent Prayer)* Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Receive our prayers.**

Leader: Like grief-stricken Mary crying out to the Gardener, we weep in exhaustion and beg for help. Today we lift up those who care for the sick, who walk with the grieving, and who offer essential services for us all. *(Silent Prayer)* Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Receive our prayers.**

Leader: Like Mary reaching toward Jesus, we grasp for security, and find it elusive. Today

we lift up those who face the insecurity of lost jobs, closed businesses, and financial distress. *(Silent Prayer)* Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Receive our prayers.**

Leader: Lord in your mercy, unlock hope within our hearts today. Do for us what you did for Mary and the disciples: Open our eyes to see that you are with us; open our ears to hear you calling us by name; and turn our hearts toward others, that we might share the good news that we too have seen the Risen Christ! **Amen.**

Closing Song

Christ Is Risen

Brian Wren

Christ is risen! Shout hosanna! Celebrate this day of days.
Christ is risen, hush in wonder; all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding, see a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding bring a taste of love unknown.

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.

Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus: Christ is risen! Get you gone!
God the First and Last is with us, sing Hosanna, everyone!

Benediction

Go into this day knowing that no door is locked so tightly that Jesus cannot enter.
May the resurrected Christ unlock hope in your life today! Go in peace. Amen.



Reaching Out – *I encourage you to share your experience with this worship time with someone else. Share your insights and ask them about theirs. What doors have unlocked for you recently?*

Songs – *would you like to sing an Easter song and share it with us? Please share on Facebook video.*

Pictures - *we thought it would be nice to see your Easter pictures current or from years past – bonnets and pretty dresses, spiffy suits, matching outfits, Easter baskets. Please share them to our Facebook page along with a brief description.*

ZOOM Fellowship – *Join us at 11:00 for a time of fellowship on ZOOM. To join in, call # 1-929-436-2866 Meeting ID: 133 216 724, Password: 333830. Please do not post this on social media.*

Your Offering Contributions for Rutland UMC may be sent to Rutland UMC at 60 Strongs Ave. or call the church office to contribute by credit card. Lori will return your call and walk you through the process. Offerings for Church of the Wildwood may be sent to Cyndie Clark 1 Merrick St. also in Rutland, VT 05701

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