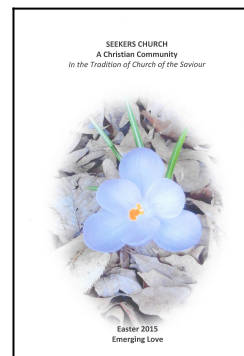


2015 Easter – Emerging Love

GATHERING



ENTRANCE

REFLECTION

The point of the resurrection...is that the present bodily life is not valueless just because it will die...What you do with your body in the present matters because God has a great future in store for it...What you do in the present—by painting, preaching, singing, sewing, praying, teaching, building hospitals, digging wells, campaigning for justice, writing poems, caring for the needy, loving your neighbor as yourself—will last into God's future.

N.T. Wright, *Surprised by Hope:*

Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church, p 192

CANDLE LIGHTING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Hope emerges from the tomb: God's promise kept.

Voice 1: God has handed us a mystery:

the one who lived and died on a cross
lives again,

calling us to something new.

Voice 2: We may not understand,

but we are not alone.

The air is alive with hints of love
emerging.

Art and action point the way.

Leader: We come to pour out our spirits

into this vessel that is the church
so we can offer fresh Good News
of God's emerging love.

All: : Alleluia! Christ is Risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Amen.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SILENCE

PRAYERS

CONFESSION

Leader: We are troubled by a future that we cannot
see.

People: News of flood and drought,
horror at the sight of torture and
death
all contribute to our fear of the
times ahead.

Leader: Our own efforts at painting and preaching,
singing and sewing,
justice work and peace advocacy
seem overwhelmed by the angst of what
lies ahead.

People: We feel our lives are without value
because we're doomed to die.

Leader: We fear the garden tomb is sealed and closed.

All: Your Resurrection promise seems empty.

ASSURANCE

Leader: The Holy One knows our fear and our anxiety.

 The future that God promises is open, new and fresh.

 The stone is truly rolled away.

 The empty tomb beckons us into God's future.

People: Amen.

THANKSGIVING AND PRAISE

INTERCESSION AND PETITION

COMMITMENT

All: O Holy One, we come today
to claim our relationship with you.
We pray for the commitment to grow together,
sharing the gifts you give us with others
here and in the wider world.
Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted,
and help us forgive those who have hurt us.
Give us strength and discipline
to nurture our relationship with you;
to care for every part of your creation;
to foster justice and be in solidarity with those
in need;
to work to end all war, and violence, and discord;
and to respond joyfully when you call,

freely giving our selves as you have shown the way.

We open our hearts to you and your
creation

in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ.
Amen.

HYMN

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

COMMUNION

PREPARATION

Leader 1: This is the table of the Heavenly Feast,
the joyful celebration of the people of God.

Leader 2: We gather now as one body, joined around the
table.

Here we celebrate God's presence among us
united in Christ's spirit, broken and whole all at
once;

All: Nourished and hungry, loved and loving,
sinner and forgiven; we make one circle of
knowing,

believing, rejoicing, being,
as God lights and rests among us.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Leader 1: God of life and death and new life,
we give thanks for the bodies you give
us,
for the work you have given each of us
to do,
and for the love that sustains us as
your future emerges
in us and around us and through us.

People: We give thanks
for the life, death, and resurrection
of Jesus Christ,
who taught us all we need to know about
love.

Leader 2: We give thanks for the Holy Spirit,
who fills us with visions of loving
community,
and gives us the power to bring them to
life.

People: We give you thanks for your Holy Church,
the living body of those who give away
their lives
in joyful witness to your ever-emerging
love.

BLESSING THE ELEMENTS

Leader 1: Christ invites everyone to eat the bread of
life,
to drink the cup of the new covenant.

Leader 2: Jesus said, I am the bread of life.
You who come to me shall never hunger,
You who believe in me shall never thirst.

Leader 1: On the night of his arrest, Jesus took bread,
and after giving thanks to God, broke it and said,

This is my body,
broken for the healing of the world.

Whenever you eat it, do so remembering me.

Leader 2: After supper, Jesus took the cup and said,
This is the cup of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for all.

Whenever you drink it, do so remembering me.

All: O Holy One, send down your Spirit
that these gifts of bread and cup
may be for us the body and blood of Christ.
Unite us with Christ forever
and bring us with the whole creation
to your eternal realm.

SHARE THE ELEMENTS

If you do not wish to receive the elements today you are welcome to join the circle and allow them to pass, or remain in your seat. We serve grape juice in our cups.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

All: God of abundance and mercy,
we give joyful thanks
for your eternal love and healing presence
in our celebration of bread and cup.
Bless this body of Christ
that we may attend faithfully
to our call to be your servants,
with each other and throughout the world.

All: Amen.

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader:
life,

sustaining love

brokenness.

world

and love with others

our triune God –

and resurrected Christ,

with signs of peace.

All:
Alleluia!

God of life and death and new

by your resurrection and

you have healed our

Send us forth now into the

to share our emerging joy

And now, in the spirit of

Creator, divine spirit,

let us greet one another

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Amen.