

Easter 2002

Bearing Witness

SEEKERS CHURCH

A Christian Community

In the Tradition of the Church of the Saviour

Easter 2002

Bearing Witness

REFLECTION

In his speech, foxes, breaddough
and much mended nets became sacred
the down and out were his proof
and actually he had as much assurance
of victory as we in these parts do

None

Dorothee Sölle, Revolutionary Patience,
in "Cries of the Spirit," by Marilyn Sewell

SILENCE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The loneliness of the cross
led Jesus to the resurrection.

All: We are invited by Jesus
to follow him into this loneliness,
the loneliness in which God is too close
to be experienced by our limited hearts and minds.

Let us pray for the grace
to surrender our spirits to God as Jesus did.

INVOCATION

HYMN

WORD FOR THE CHILDREN

SILENCE

LITANY

Leader: You give us answers
to the questions we don't dare to ask.
You ask us questions that have no reply.

Voice 1: You give us bread and say it is your body,
and in eating it, we become your body, too.

Voice 2: You pour your life out into ours,
and we learn to pour ourselves out to heal the world.

Voice 1: We ask for proof. We don't understand:
The empty tomb, and you, here among us!

Voice 2: Despite our doubts and confusion,
We shout, "Christ is Risen!"

All: And know that, improbable as it seems,
Christ is risen, indeed.

SILENCE

PRAYERS

CONFESSION

All: To believe in resurrection
is to believe in the impossible;
To believe in the bread of life and living water
is to believe in that which cannot be proved;
To believe in the reality of the cross
is to believe in the reality of love.

Leader: To have faith is to live
without guarantee,
without certainty,
without proof.

All: We confess to the comfort of knowledge.
We confess that relying on our intellect
is easier than relying on faith.

Too often, belief requires too much of us.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE

Leader: In the Resurrection, God gives us a healing
mystery:

by giving over our limited minds and hearts

to a limitless God

we are made whole.

All: Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

HYMN

THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

SERMON

SILENT REFLECTION

OFFERING

The first Sunday of each month we switch to a [Communion Liturgy](#) here.

SHARED REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

BENEDICTION

Leader: If we have one thing to do in these times,
it is to bear witness.

Go out to the ordinary places of your life,
filled with this extraordinary mystery:

"Christ is risen!"

People: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Worship Resources

Confession: Based on Henry J. M. Nouwen, *Bread for the Journey*, entry for July 31

Benediction: Based on ETTY HILLESUM, as quoted in "In Wisdom's Path," by Jan L. Richardson.

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Additional Prayers during Easter

March 31, 2002 (Easter Day)

Prayers by Peter Bankson, Liturgist