

Responding to the Word

Closing Hymn: "Morning Has Broken":

Morning has broken like the first morning
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird
Praise for the singing
Praise for the morning
Praise for them springing fresh from the world

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven
Like the first dew fall on the first grass
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass

Mine is the sunlight
Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play
Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning
God's recreation of the new day

Sending forth: "Seen", a blessing poem for Easter Day (by Jan Richardson)

Closing sentences:

L: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!



St. George & St. Andrew United Church
—Open Doors, Open Minds, Open Hearts—

Worship Leaders:
Rev. Elisabeth Bachem-Jennings
Marg Brown

Easter Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 1, 2018

Gathering the Community

You are invited to gather around the Easter fire and, if possible, form a circle.

Welcome & Introduction to the Service

Opening Sentences

L: In the beginning, before time before people, before the world began

All: God was

L: Here and now, among us, beside us, enlisting the people of earth for the purposes of heaven

All: God is

L: In the future, when we have turned to dust, and all we know has found its fulfilment

All: God will be

Silence

**All: Come, Lord, in the dawning,
Come in the newness of the morning
Come, make yourself known in the break of day.**

Music: "The Deer's Cry" (words attributed to St. Patrick)

[see bulletin insert]

Blessing of Four Elements

L: Giving Thanks for earth (North, Winter, Nighttime)

All: May we always love this land as you love it. May we care for this good earth that gives us such good life.

L: Giving thanks for Water (West, Autumn, Sunset)

All: Water gives us new life. May we treasure that gift and share it with others.

L: Giving thanks for Fire (South, Summer, Noontime)

All: You light our way and enlighten our minds. May we be open to the fire of your Spirit.

L: Giving thanks for Air (East, Spring, Sunrise)

All: You offer your Spirit to us with every breath we take. May we protect this gift that gives us life.

Hearing the Word

A reading from Isaiah 9:2, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined"

The Easter Gospel retold, according to John 20-21

Silence for reflection

Psalm 118 (*from Psalms for Praying, an invitation to wholeness by Nan C. Merrill*)

All: Harken to songs of victory, to the music of my soul: "You, Loving Presence, have been my strength. You have stood beside me in the darkness, you have walked with me into the light!"

L: *Continues the reading, finishing with...* "Praise be to You, O merciful One!"

All: This is the door to life. Those who know Love shall enter through it.

L: *Continues the reading, finishing with...* "This is the day that you have made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!"

All: "Remain ever by our side, O friend! We welcome you into our hearts as Loving Companion Presence!"

L: *Continues the reading, finishing with...* "You are my beloved, greatly will I praise you!"

All: We give thanks to you, O blessed One, for you are kind. Your steadfast love endures forever!

The Deer's Cry

I arise today through the strength of heaven
Light of sun, radiance of moon
Splendour of fire, speed of lightning
Swiftiness of wind, depth of the sea
Stability of earth, firmness of rock

I arise today through God's strength to pilot me
God's eye to look before me
God's wisdom to guide me
God's way to lie before me
God's shield to protect me

From all who shall wish me ill
Afar and a-near
Alone and in a multitude
Against every cruel, merciless power
That may oppose my body and soul

Christ with me, Christ before me
Christ behind me, Christ in me
Christ beneath me, Christ above me
Christ on my right, Christ on my left
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down
Christ when I arise, Christ to shield me

Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me

I arise today.

— Recorded on "Lisa"
by Lisa Kelly, Celtic Woman Records

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