Easter Worship Port Williams United Baptist Church April 12, 2020

Welcome

Prelude Christianne Rushton

Litany

We are not eye-witnesses to an event, as were Mary and the disciples; we have not journeyed through a dangerous city to seek answers or consolation;

We have not seen angels gathering at the rim of this day, or wept in the garden this morning because we could not find Him.

But we are here to attest to a story that has not lost its power during twenty centuries of change and conflict.

We are here because those before us carried this story as if it were precious gold; cherished it as if it were the key to a hidden wisdom.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, take your places here today in celebration and in awe. What you are about to hear again, has the capacity to change the world.

Our very presence attests to the rising up of life from the tomb of despair, and to the uncontrollable power of God.

It is Easter morning again: and we will celebrate.

Hymn Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah! our triumphant holy day, hallelujah! who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah! suffer to redeem our loss, hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah! unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah! who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah! sinners to redeem and save, hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah! our salvation have procured, hallelujah! now above the sky he's King, hallelujah! where the angels ever sing, hallelujah!

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah! praise eternal as God's love, hallelujah! praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah! praise the Son and Holy Ghost, hallelujah!

Children's Moment

Scripture John 20:1-18 Anita Flowers

Prayer

Hymn This Easter Celebration See below for score

This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known. We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone. We're distant from our neighbors – from worship leaders, too. No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way. O God of love and promise, where's joy this Easter Day? With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.

Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb. Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to seewho heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.

In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well: Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell. Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day! Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.

We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be A scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry. In homes and in the places of help and healing, too, We live the Easter message by gladly serving you.

by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

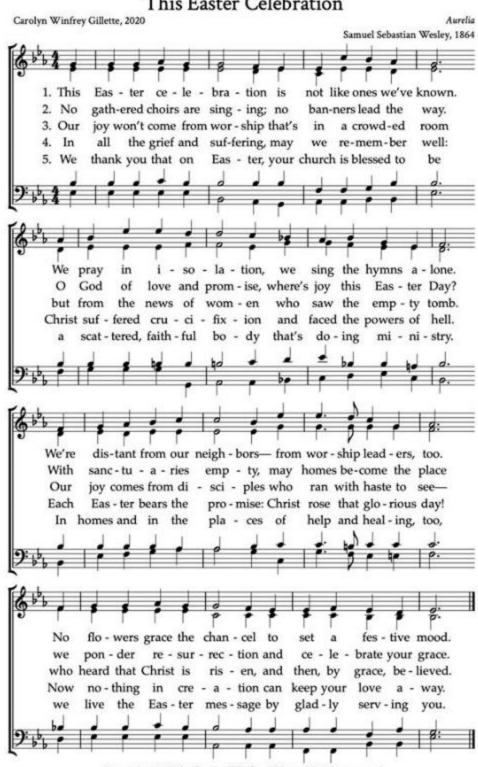
Sermon A Tale of Two Easters Don Flowers

Special Music We Rise Again Christianne Rushton

Benediction

Postlude Christianne Rushton

This Easter Celebration



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