

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 see-
who 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	<i>We Rise Again</i>	Christianne Rushton
Benediction		
Postlude		Christianne Rushton

This Easter Celebration

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2020

Aurelia

Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864

1. This Eas - ter ce - le - bra - tion is not like ones we've known.
2. No gath-ered choirs are sing - ing; no ban-ners lead the way.
3. Our joy won't come from wor-ship that's in a crowd-ed room
4. In all the grief and suf-fering, may we re-mem-ber well:
5. We thank you that on Eas - ter, your church is blessed to be

We pray in i - so - la - tion, we sing the hymns a - lone.
O God of love and prom - ise, where's joy this Eas - ter Day?
but from the news of wom - en who saw the emp - ty tomb.
Christ suf - fered cru - ci - fix - ion and faced the powers of hell.
a scat - tered, faith - ful bo - dy that's do - ing mi - ni - stry.

We're dis - tant from our neigh - bors— from wor - ship lead - ers, too.
With sanc - tu - a - ries emp - ty, may homes be - come the place
Our joy comes from di - sci - ples who ran with haste to see—
Each Eas - ter bears the pro - mise: Christ rose that glo - rious day!
In homes and in the pla - ces of help and heal - ing, too,

No flo - wers grace the chan - cel to set a fes - tive mood.
we pon - der re - sur - rec - tion and ce - le - brate your grace.
who heard that Christ is ris - en, and then, by grace, be - lieved.
Now no - thing in cre - a - tion can keep your love a - way.
we live the Eas - ter mes - sage by glad - ly serv - ing you.