



Easter Sunrise Service
April 1, 2018

Invitation to Worship:

Don Flowers

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. Your 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!

By Ann Siddall

Scripture John 20:1-18

Invocation

Meditation Why Are You Here?

*Confession of Faith:

We believe in an Easter God, who transforms darkness into light, hatred into tolerance, despair into hope.

We believe God is always working for the good, changing every Good Friday nightmare into an Easter dream of new possibility.

We believe in the risen Christ, who befriends us on our roads of searching, and worry; who touches us through song and silence, word and gesture; who calls us by name to enter the dance of life.

We believe in the Spirit, the hidden presence behind every resurrection, who beckons us to leave tombl-like safety and trust the gracious invitation to live joyfully.

We believe the spirit is always renewing the church and making us a people who practice kindness, encourage beauty, and work for justice and freedom.

We believe we are an Easter People, a sign that with God all things are possible.

Benediction

When it takes hold, resurrection doesn't let go,
it shakes the dead awake,
it shakes the darkness from the light,
it shakes the silence from our throats
and it wrestles death from all that is dying

Let us go into the world
and in the upheaval of resurrection
live out true life

Welcome to this special worship service!

If Port Williams United Baptist Church is your church home, or if you just stumbled upon this service, we are grateful you have chosen to make this time a part of your Easter celebration. The story of Easter is that of God coming to us—to console us in times of tragedy, to comfort us in times of struggle, to confront us when we get apathetic.

That is what we seek to discover throughout the year at Port Williams United Baptist Church--through worship, education and ministry. It doesn't stop today! There are other opportunities coming up that we invite you to be a part of.

Easter is just one part of the great story! It is one that we seek to live into throughout the year. We invite you to join us in that story!

Again, we are glad you are worshipping with us today. We hope you will come again. If there are ways that we can be of assistance to you, please contact us.

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed!

May it be so in our lives this day!