

# ***Easter Sunrise Service***

## ***April 21, 2019***

**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*

**Invocation**

**Scripture**

John 20:1-18

**Meditation**

A Race to the Finish

Don Flowers

**\* 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 tomblike 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

*You are invited to join us for breakfast at Port Williams  
United Baptist Church following this service.*

*In addition, we will gather for our Easter Celebration at  
10:00 in the sanctuary. We invite you to join us as we  
celebrate this holy day!*