Visions United Spirit Gathering April 4th, 2021 - Easter Sunday "Early On the First Day..."

Our Community Gathers

God's Doors Are Open to All!

Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts

Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

Prelude Sonata in C Major, K. 545" (Mozart)

Daphna Pearson, Piano

Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little Children Music Box Dancer" (Frank Mills)

Jesus Loves Me (Bradbury)

Children's Medley. Arr: Marilynn Ham © 1974 North Country Music Ltd.

Gathering Invitation Early On The First Day

Readers: Ainsley MacTavish-Hawkes,

Audrey Heyward, Shawn Redden

Song VU#409 Morning Has Broken (v1 & 3)

Lead: Ainsley MacTavish-Hawkes Brian Affleck (+guitar), Daphna Pearson

Words: Eleaner Farjeon ©1931. David Higham Associates.

Music: Gaelic melody, harm: Alex Wyton © 1982

From The Hymnal © The Church Pension Funds.

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Lighting of the Christ Candle

Morning has broken!
The Tomb is Empty!
God's Springtime is here!
Love Lives!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Song VU#958 Halle, Halle, Halle (3x)

Lead: Visions Virtual Choir

Ainsley MacTavish-Hawkes, Joan Hawkes, Lorna Teed, Anna & Bill Peters, Brenda MacKenzie, Brian Affleck (+guitar), John Foster, John & Daphna Pearson Words: trad. Liturgical text. Music: anom, arr. The Iona Community © 1987

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Welcome

We Listen for Wisdom

Story Reflection A dramatic retelling of the Easter story

Based on John 20: 1-18

Monologues by Ruth Burgess

published in Spill the Beans <u>spillthebeans.org.uk</u>

Adapted by Shawn Redden

Mary Magdalene (Carla Bourque)

John (Justin Landry)

Peter (Matt Slupsky-Clark)

An Angel (Glenna Lightfoot)
Mary, the mother of Jesus (Jane Aikman)

Jesus (Brian Botten)

Reflection "Don't Cling to Me" - Welcoming Jesus in a New Way (Shawn Redden)

We Respond with Gratitude and Prayer

Song VU#178 Because You Live, O Christ Lead: Brenda MacKenzie

Words: Shirley E. Murray ©1987 Hope Publishing Company. Music: J. Oudaen's David's Psalmen 1685. Harm: Charles Wood © 1902 Mowbray

Gathering at the Table & Sharing the Peace

One: Peace of the Risen Christ Be With You!

All: And Also With You.

Sung Response MV#59 Alleluia, Praise to God (v.1) Lead: John & Daphna Pearson Traditional Yoruba song, Nigeria. Public Domain

Musical arrangement and English translation ©Emmanuel Badejo.

Alleluia, praise to God Alleluia, praise to God. Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God. Alleluia, praise to God.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer

One: Alleluia. Christ is Risen

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them in song!

(Prayer continues...)

Sung Response MV#59 Alleluia, Praise to God (v.2) Lead: John & Daphna Pearson
Traditional Yoruba song, Nigeria. Public Domain
Musical arrangement and English translation ©Emmanuel Badejo.

Songs of joy sing out to God. Songs of joy sing out to God Dancing and singing, we praise you, O God. Songs of joy, sing out to God.

Prayers of Healing for Community

Sung Response MV#59 Alleluia, Praise to God (v.3) Lead: John & Daphna Pearson
Traditional Yoruba song, Nigeria. Public Domain
Musical arrangement and English translation ©Emmanuel Badeio.

Beat the drums, sing out to God Beat the drums, sing out to God Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God. Beat the drums, sing out to God

Prayer of Blessing for the Spirit

Spirit of Christ, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on grace.

May your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing be upon every table where we gather this day.

May bread broken be shared in Love.

May every cup lifted celebrate your promise,

and renew hope, even in the midst of this pandemic.

Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you.

Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.

May we be your compassion and a living prayer of your presence,

today and every day. Alleluia and Amen.

Prayer inspired by words by Maren C. Tirabassi, Gifts in Open Hands https://giftsinopenhands.wordpress.com/2020/03/26/communion-for-palm-sunday-april-5-2020/

Breaking and Sharing the Bread

Pouring and Sharing the Cup

Prayer of Blessing for the Journey

Easter God you have met us in bread and wine and surprised us with grace. May our lives become your table in the world. May we help others know Jesus' presence in a new way as we share Love's gift. Christ is Risen! Alleluia! Amen.

We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

Changing of the Light and Blessing

Song

VU#175 This is the Day That God Has Made

Lead: Visions Virtual Choir

Joan Hawkes, Lorna Teed, Bill Peters, Anna Peters, Brenda MacKenzie,

John Foster (+whistle), Brian Affleck (+guitar), John & Daphna Pearson

Words/ Music: Natalie Sleeth © 1976. Hinshaw Music, Inc.

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Postlude I Danced in the Morning

Brian Affleck (guitar), John Foster (whistle)
Lorna Teed (drums), Daphna Pearson (piano)
Words, harmony: Sydney Carter © 1963 Strainer & Bell.
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Thank You for Joining Us!

May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.