



## **EASTER SUNRISE**

### **ST JAMES GRAVEYARD**

APRIL 4, 2021

**HE IS RISEN**

*On Easter Day, 1866, the Rev. Alfred Augustin Watson, later to become the first Bishop of the Diocese of East Carolina, led the children up to the top of the St James Tower and there held a short service of prayer and song that was, and remains today, a unique and exhilarating experience. To the parishioners who had endured the dark days of the Civil War, Easter took on added significance as those years were left behind and life anew began.*

*The hymns and carols in this service are traditional to the St James Easter Sunrise Tower Service. The Music was derived from Brad Cantwell's memory and recorded by Helen Messick Willetts and Michael Pope, a former choir member. An old word sheet was provided by Jocelyn Peck Strange. The Hymn "Waken Children of the King" was written by parishioner Annie Hart McKoy.*

*This Easter, 2021, we join the spirit of generations before us as we gather before dawn. We gather today in the St James Graveyard to keep the tradition alive celebrating that the tomb where Jesus' body was placed on Friday is EMPTY on Sunday morning. Covid - 19 has not dampen our spirits! Rather than scrambling up the steep, dark steps and sliding through the hole in the tower wall above the organ pipes, ascending the ladders past the old bell and stained-glass windows, and clambering through the narrow hatch to the top of the St James tower, we are gathering in the St James Graveyard to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! Jesus overcame death! Hallelujah!*

*Where there was death, there is now resurrection and hope!*

Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24 John 11: 21 - 27, 1 Corinthians 15

**LET US CELEBRATE! CHRIST IS RISEN!**

THE LORD IS RISEN!  
**THE LORD IS RISEN, INDEED!**

A Reading from John 17: 21

Shortly before Jesus' death on the cross, Jesus prayed for us, His followers: "that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me"

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**Poem of Praise: "Welcome, Happy Morning"**

Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say; Hell today is vanquished. Heaven is won today! Lo! The dead is living; God for evermore! Him their true Creator, all his works adore! "Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say; Hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!

Earth her joy confesses, clothing her for spring, All fresh gifts return with her returning King; Bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough, Speak his sorrow ended, hail his triumph now. "Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say; Hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!

Months in due succession, days of lengthening light, Hours and passing moments praise thee in their flight. Brightness of the morning, sky and field and sea, Vanquisher of darkness, bring their praise to thee. "Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say; Hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!

**Luke 24 Jesus Is Alive**

**Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices that they had prepared. When they found the stone rolled away from the entrance, they went in. But they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus, and they did not know what to think.**

*Together we will say:*

**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Scripture Reading: A Reading from Matthew 28:

**After the sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women: "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: "He has risen from the dead and he is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him." Now I have told you.**

**Poem of Praise: "Waken, Children of the King"**

Waken, children of the King to the glorious Easter Day whose radiant spring does promise bring, of life that is ever and always. The Lord of Light, by His great might, has opened for us the way, and in you and me, his children free, the Lord of Life does say. "because I live, you shall also live" This is the promise of the Resurrection Day

Look, we children, children of the King, to the Father's House above; And praises give that we shall live in the light of the Father's Love. The cares and tears of a few short years shall vanish as a cloud away. Even while we sing, comes the voice of the King, through the realms of an endless day..... "because I live, you shall also live," This is the promise of the Resurrection Day

Come, we children, children of the King to the Father's house today; And voices raise in the strain of praise for the life that is ours always; And nature's heart shall voice her part with the birds and the flowers today till circling bound of earth, resound with the message of the life for forever "because I live, ye shall also live," this is the promise of Resurrection Day.

Let us declare these powerful words together in faith:

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried;  
He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;  
He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the father,  
And will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

**Matthew 28:**

**So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings" he said. They came to Him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, " Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me"..... Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but some doubted.**

Let us say together.....The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who is in heaven,**

**Holy be your Name,**

**Your Kingdom come**

**Your Will be done,**

**On earth as in heaven.**

**Forgive us our sin as we forgive others who sin who sin against us**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil**

**For yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever! AMEN**

**Poem of Praise: Beautiful Morning We Hail Thee with Joy**

Beautiful Morning we hail thee with Joy. Day when the savior rose from the tomb.

Conquered in death, the victory won, light then dispelled the gloom.

Sing Allelujah, Jesus in King, angels now join in the chorus above.

Jesus rose triumphant, reigns king of light and love.

Hail the glad morning when Jesus arose, heaven and earth his majesty sing,

Jesus now lives and reigns evermore, our risen Lord and King,

Sing Allelujah, Jesus in King, angels now join in the chorus above.

Jesus rose triumphant, reigns king of light and love.

Glad alleluias, come let us sing, for us the savior rose from the grave;  
Tell how he triumphed that Easter morn, tell how he lives to save.  
Sing Allelujah, Jesus in King, angels now join in the chorus above.  
Jesus rose triumphant, reigns king of light and love.

Matthew 28: 1 - 10; 16 - 20

**Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.**

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again!***

### **Poem of Praise: The World Itself Keeps Easter Day**

The world itself keeps Easter Day and Easter larks are singing and Easter flowers are blooming gay and Easter buds are springing. Hallelujah, Hallelujah! The Lord of all things lives anew and all his works are rising, too. Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

There they stood Marys by the tomb, on Easter morning early when day had scarcely chased the gloom, and the dew was white and pearly. Hallelujah, Hallelujah! With loving but with erring mind they came to the Prince of Life to find. Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

But earlier still the angel sped, his news of comfort giving; And "Why" he said, "among the dead seek you for the living?" Hallelujah, Hallelujah! "Go tell them all, and make them blest; Tell Peter first, then tell the rest. Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

But one, and one alone, remained, with love that could not vary, And thus a joy past joy she gained, the sometime sinner, Mary. Hallelujah, Hallelujah! The first the dear, dear form to see of him that hung upon the tree. Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

The world itself keeps Easter Day and Easter larks are singing and Easter flowers are blooming gay and Easter buds are springing. Hallelujah, Hallelujah! The Lord hath risen as all things tell. Good Christians, see you rise as well! Hallelujah, Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Closing Prayer

*Almighty God, who through Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life, grant that we, who celebrate the joy of the day of the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia**