

Willow Springs Worship April 4, 2021 EASTER Sunday

FOCUS - We have seen the Lord! What a surprise! A rich feast has been prepared for all peoples on the mountain of God. Like Mary, Jesus calls us each by name into abundant life.

Thematic Slide Show

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: And while it was still dark, Mary found the light!

Many: The disciples came running, but they did not understand.

One: Mary stood weeping and saw angels but did not recognize Jesus.

Many: But when Jesus calls our name, then we recognize the way, the truth, and the life.

One: And then there was feasting! And there is feasting to come.

God will make for all peoples a feast of rich food and well-aged wines
and will wipe away tears from all faces.

**Many: It will be said on that day, "This is our God for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice. There is peace by Jesus Christ."**

One: Hold firmly to the good news, which you received, in which you stand,
through which you are being saved.

Song

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Many: Deep calls to deep.

We give thanks from the depths of our hearts!

One: Once weeping, now proclaiming:

"I have seen the Lord!"

Many: Once famished, now feasting:

"This is the God for whom we have waited!"

One: Once divided, now convicted:

"Jesus Christ is Lord of all!"

Many: We shall not die but we shall live and keep telling the deeds of the Lord.

One: Deep calls to deep.

You call to us from the depth of your love, O God.

You have come to us in Jesus Christ.

Many: We answer your call to deep living!

Song

Children's time

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Sermon: The Surprise of All Surprises!

Song Christ Is Alive and Goes Before Us VT#565

Sharing/Pastoral prayer

Offering our lives/song

Announcements Church Board meeting on Wednesday, 7:00 pm

SENDING BLESSING

In the early light, urgent feet pound along the path toward the room: "He is alive!" they say. The tomb is empty, and the room is full of wonder. What a surprise! And the feasting, the deep nourishment, and knowledge of a risen Christ begins! May we receive this news, once again, with a call to deep living. Go into this day, forever changed. Amen.

John 20:1-18 The Empty Tomb

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. **2** So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. **4** Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. **5** He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. **6** Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, **7** as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. **8** Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. **9** (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) **10** Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb **12** and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." **14** At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

16 Jesus said to her, "Mary."

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher").

17 Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.