

*Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service  
Foster Hill Road  
West Brookfield, MA  
Sunday, April 25, 2025  
6:15 a.m.*



**REFLECT**

**“Born in the light of the Bright and Morning Star, we are new. ... In the power of God’s continuing creation, we are: new shoots from the root of Jesse, new branches from the one true Vine, new songs breaking through the world’s deafness. This then is a new day. New shoots, new branches, new songs, new day ... Bathed in the promise of God’s New Creation, we begin!”**

**-- from *New Shoots*, by Ann Weems—**

**EASTER SUNRISE  
ORDER OF WORSHIP**

*Words in **bold** are to be spoken in unison.*

**Gathering Music**

**Mike Spencer**

**Welcome**

**Pastor Sandy Dam**

**Call to Worship**

Pastor Doug: Creating God, early in the morning, when the world was young, you made life in all its beauty and terror; you gave birth to all we know: sky and seas; plants and trees; bodies of light in the sky; creatures of the land, water, and air; man and woman.

**All: We stand in awe of your creation and give thanks, O God.**

Pastor Sandy: Early in the morning, when the world least expected it, a newborn child crying in a cradle announced that you had come among us, that you were one of us. The angels proclaimed it, the shepherds heard it, and in obedience ... worshiped.

**All: We stand in awe of your incarnation and give thanks, O God.**

Pastor Doug: Early in the morning, surrounded by respectable liars, religious leaders, anxious statesmen, and silent friends, your son Jesus accepted the penalty for doing good, for living in perfect harmony with your love: He shouldered and suffered the cross, and with the words, "It is finished!" you put an end to our hopeless state of death, giving instead the promise of salvation and life.

**All: We stand in awe of the sacrifice of Jesus and give thanks, O God.**

Pastor Sandy: Early in the morning, a voice in a guarded graveyard, empty clothes and footsteps in the dew proved that you had raised Jesus, that you had brought him back to those and for those who had forgotten, denied, and destroyed him and turned away from you.

**All: We stand in awe of the resurrection of Jesus and give thanks, O God.**

Pastor Doug: Early in the morning, the body of believers gather together, one in faith and hope, one in purpose:

**All: To believe in and worship you, Amazing God, and to follow the one Sovereign, Jesus Christ, to live forgiven and thankful lives inspired by your Holy Spirit, and celebrate the victory over death and the promise of eternal life. Alleluia! Amen!**



## Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning  
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird  
Praise for the singing  
Praise for the morning  
Praise for them springing fresh from the Word

Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning  
Born of the one light, Eden saw play  
Praise with elation, praise every morning  
God's recreation of the new day

### Passing of the Peace

Pastor Doug: The Peace of Christ be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

**(We offer God's peace to those nearby.)**

### A Unison Easter Prayer

Pastor Sandy: Let us join our voices together in prayer:

**All: Alleluia! God of amazing grace, we praise your name, for you have brought life out of death, and hope out of despair in raising your Son Jesus from the dead. Wise God, you know our doubts, our fears, and our failures, which we bring to the tomb on Easter morning. Through your Spirit, nurture the small growth of hope, courage, and faith within us, that we may forever live to praise and serve you, in the name of Christ Jesus, in whom we pray. Amen.**

Pastor Sandy: Forgiven and inspired by God through the grace made known to us in Jesus, let us join together now in the prayer Jesus has taught us,

**All: *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.***

**The Gospel**

**John 20:1-18**

Reader: May God bless our hearing and understanding of this  
reading from our sacred texts.

**All: Word of God, Word of Life, Thanks be to God**

**A Meditation**

**Pastor Doug Williamson**

**Hymn**

**“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”**

**Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!  
Earth and heaven in chorus say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!**

**Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids him rise, Alleluia!  
Christ has opened paradise, Alleluia!**

**Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!  
Foll'wing our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

**Blessing and Benediction**

*Thank you to Mike Spencer for providing music and for all who gathered this early Easter morning to celebrate the resurrection of Christ! A thank you to the First Congregational Church of West Brookfield UCC for preparing a breakfast for us to share together following this service.*