



**Worship @ Home Guide**  
**EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4,**  
**2021**

**Woodstock Presbyterian Church, 142 E.  
Court St., Woodstock, VA 22664**

*Alleluia! His is Risen!*

**RECONNECT**

**Gathering Music/Announcements** - *“Easter Medley”, Liz Sollenberger*

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

One: This day is like every other day.

**All: Alarm clocks beeped. Covers were removed.**

**Coffee was brewed. Weary bodies came to life.**

One: And yet this day, is like *no* other day—

**All: For the sun rose, and we knew it was a miracle.**

**The tomb was empty, and they knew it was love.**

One: So again and again we say—

**All: The longest night is over.**

**Death has lost its sting.**

**Jesus is among us.**

**Alleluia! Amen.**

One: Again and again and again—

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

**Hymn** – *“Jesus Christ is Risen Today!”*

**Call to Confession**

It is likely that many of us would have been with the disciples—

Hiding out in fear,

Locked behind doors,

Alone with our thoughts in the upper room.

I wish I could say that I would have gone with the women,

That I would have been brave and determined.

I wish I could say that I would have held onto my faith,

But the truth is, we'll never know.

What I *do* know is that Jesus came back for all of us—  
Not the few who had maintained faith  
Or the few who stayed with him until the end.  
He came back for the broken and the afraid,  
For the cowardly and the greedy,  
For the women in the garden,  
And for the disciples hiding in the upper room.  
He came back for those who betrayed him  
And those who worshiped him.  
He came back for you and for me.  
So join me in the prayer of confession,  
Knowing that no matter where we are on the spectrum of faith,  
Jesus lived, loved, and returned for us.  
Let us pray. . .

### **Prayer of Confession & Assurance of Forgiveness**

One: Beloved Community, before God and before you, my family, I confess:  
I have seen the sun rise and withheld my praise.  
I have seen my neighbor suffer and withheld my aid.  
I have seen love extended and chosen to walk away.  
I have seen divisions deepen and managed to remain unfazed.

**All: We hear you. We see you. You are forgiven.  
God's love is like the sun.  
No matter how lost we are in the night,  
Day after day, the light will find you.  
Rest easy. You are held in God's warmth.**

One: Thanks be to God. Amen.

**All: Now we must pray.  
Beloved friend, before God and before each other, we confess:  
We have seen the sun rise and withheld our praise.  
We have seen our neighbors suffer and have withheld our aid.  
We have seen love extended and chosen to walk away.  
We have seen divisions deepen and managed to remain unfazed.**

One: I hear you. I see you. You are forgiven.  
God's love is like the sun.  
No matter how lost we are in the night,  
Day after day, the light will find you.  
Rest easy. You are held in God's warmth.

**All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, amen.**

**Hymn – “My Redeemer Lives”**

## READ

### Prayer for Illumination

*There are a million ways that you speak to us,  
God of the garden and God of the empty tomb.  
You speak to us in rituals, both formal and organic—  
In drops of water on foreheads,  
In vows said at the altar,  
Through pieces of bread dipped in ordinary wine,  
And through shared candlelight on Christmas Eve.  
You speak to us in nature—  
Your artistry showing up in starry nights,  
In the smell of pine,  
In rushing water and in most every sunrise.  
You speak to us through our relationships—  
The comfort of a loved one,  
The laughter of our friends,  
The security of those who support us and cheer us on.  
You speak to us in so many ways, and we are grateful for them all.  
However today, we just need one. That would be enough.  
So lean down and breathe life into these sacred texts.  
We are craving to hear your word like never before.  
We are craving to understand, to see ourselves in the story.  
We are craving proximity to you.  
There are a million ways that you speak to us.  
Today, we just need one.  
With hearts full of gratitude we pray, amen.*

### Scripture Reading      Mark 16:1-8

**16** When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. <sup>2</sup> And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. <sup>3</sup> They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" <sup>4</sup> When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. <sup>5</sup> As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup> But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him." <sup>7</sup> But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." <sup>8</sup> So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.<sup>[a]</sup>

## REFLECT

**Message**     **“Again & Again, The Sun Rises”**

## RESPOND

### Offering

God’s grace has been poured out on us, in extravagant and inexplicable ways. Let us respond in kind, as we receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering today, that our gifts of time, talent and offering may combine, overflowing mercy and love to repair the world.

### Doxology

### Prayer

We offer these gifts, O God, in gratitude and hope. Through this One Great Hour of Sharing, may our individual contributions combine to raise up foundations for many generations. May hungry be fed, oppressed go free and homeless be housed. Use these gifts for your glory, O Lord. Amen.

### Communion

We know the fear of the upper room.  
We know the feeling of hard days and long nights.  
We know the grief of the tomb,  
And the particular ache of saying goodbye.  
We know the pain of Good Friday,  
And we know the darkness before dawn.  
And still,  
*And still,*  
We believe.  
We believe that again and again,  
The sun will rise.  
Again and again,  
God will draw near.  
Again and again,  
We will march toward justice.  
Again and again,  
The tomb will be empty.  
Again and again,  
Love will win.

Again and again,  
God will lead the church.  
Again and again,  
And again and again,  
We will be loved.  
The journey will not be perfect.  
We will need to rise before dawn.  
We will need angels along the way.  
But again and again,  
The sun *will* rise.  
So Again, we are met here,  
  
again we witness the miracle & mystery  
  
again, bear witness to the grace & love of God.  
  
AGAIN, we are invited to taste & see & wonder &  
believe...

### Prayers of Thanksgiving & the Lord’s Prayer

### Sharing of Bread & Cup

*“For the Beauty of the Earth”, Heartstrings Dulcimer Group*

### Charge

**Sending Hymn - “Thine is the Glory”**  
**Postlude - Halleluiah Chorus**

*Thanks to:*

*Joan Wilson, liturgist*

*Liz Sollenberger, on organ*

*Heartstrings Dulcimer Group*

*Recording & tech support: Lori Staley, JJ Jones*

*Video production: Rev. Kate Rascoe*

*Credits:*

*Art and Liturgy from A Sanctified Art.*

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*“My Redeemer Lives”, “Jesus Christ is Risen Today”, FPC Sterling, IL, used with permission*

*“Thine is the Glory”, UMC Discipleship Ministries Easter Choir*

*“Easter Medley”, “Halleluiah Chorus” and “For the Beauty of the Earth” recorded for our use.*