

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
EARLY EASTER OUTDOOR SERVICE  
APRIL 4, 2021 - 9 AM**

**GREETING**

**OPENING MUSIC**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**Pastor:** Christ has risen!

**People:** Christ has risen indeed.

**Pastor:** Faith, hope, and joy are alive.

**People:** A new age is dawning, and death cannot harm us.

God of all creation, we praise you.

God of resurrection and eternal life, we have gathered in this garden to worship you and celebrate your victory.

**GATHERING PRAYER**

**Unison:** Loving God, we gather in the early morning of your Resurrection. We have been mourning and weeping believing that you have been taken from us. Instead, you meet us in the garden of new life. Here, in this sacred place, we discover that you are alive, that sin and death cannot defeat you. Now our tears of sorrow turn to tears of joy as we experience your presence among us. Today, we begin to understand that joy comes from grief. You call us to go into the world to share this good news, and because we are not left alone, we can pray your prayer. *(All pray the Lord's Prayer.)*

**SCRIPTURE READING:** John 20:1 – 18

**MEDITATION:** *Let Me Out Already! (Condensed)*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Lord, we have so much to be thankful for this Easter morning. In the chill of the morning air, we do feel the warm blessing of your Spirit. We can rejoice this day because our tendency toward disbelief is overcome by our capacity for faith. We are truly amazed that a cross of crucifixion has been transformed into a symbol of new life, a symbol of eternal life. We are thankful that you come to greet us in a garden of hope, trust, and faith. We thank you that a dark and empty tomb has emerged into a garden of light and living. In all our days, we shall live for Christ, the resurrected and risen Savior. Amen.

**CLOSING MUSIC**

**BENEDICTION**