



# Welcome to West Side Christian Church

~ Sunrise Service of Word and Communion ~

April 12, 2009

Rev. Nathan Brown, Minister

Becky Barclay, Minister of Music

*Please take a flower out of the flower basket before the sunrise service begins.  
Flowers will be placed at the cross after communion.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

**LEADER: Christ is risen!**

**PEOPLE: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

**LEADER: Praise the Lord!**

**PEOPLE: Praise the Lord whose name is exalted, whose glory is above heaven and earth.**

**LEADER: Christ is risen!**

**PEOPLE: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## GREETING AND PURPOSE

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. My brothers and sisters in Christ: On this holy morning in which Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, we gather as the Church to watch and pray. This is the Passover of Christ, in which we share in Christ's victory over death.

## OPENING PRAYER

God of life, through Jesus Christ you have bestowed upon the world the light of life. Sanctify this new fire, and grant that our hearts and minds may also be kindled with hold desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, that we may attain to the feast of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN "Morning Has Broken" CH, 53

## ~ SERVICE OF THE WORD ~

Let us hear the record of God's saving deeds in history, and be confident that each one of us have already received the fullness of this grace.

## OLD TESTAMENT

### The Creation

**Genesis 1:1-2, 4a**

With a word God creates order out of the primeval, watery chaos. God's good creation reaches its pinnacle in humankind, the bearer of God's image.

### Israel's Deliverance at the Red Sea

**Exodus 14:10-31**

The ruler who kept God's people in slavery pursues them to the Red Sea as they try to escape. Despite a hopeless situation, God rescues God's people, leading them on dry land through the parted sea and closing the waters on their former masters. Miriam then sings a song about God's marvelous deliverance.

### Salvation Offered Freely to All

**Isaiah 55:1-11**

The prophet Isaiah issues an invitation of abundant life to the hungry and thirsty.

HYMN "In the Garden" CH, 227

## NEW TESTAMENT

### Buried and Raised with Christ in Baptism

**Romans 6:3-11**

The Apostle Paul reminds us that in Christ we have already died, drowned in baptism. Yet we who have died are raised to newness *of life*.

### Who Will Roll Away the Stone for Us?

**Mark 16:1-8**

HYMN "Christ Arose" CH, 224

~ SERVICE OF COMMUNION ~

**INVITATION**

Even as Jesus called his disciples, one by one –by name, so the risen Christ calls each of you, one by one –by name, to come and share about this table in a community of love. Join him, not because you are good, but because Christ wants you. Eat and drink with Christ within the universal fellowship of those who are loved without reservation –just as they are.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**PRAYER**

Creator God, we bless you for making all things and pronouncing them good. We thank you that when we have missed your gifts, you have not left us alone, but sought us out in Jesus Christ. The bread which we break and the cup which we drink reminds us that Christ, though crucified, lives. By the gift of your Holy Spirit make Christ known again to us that we may take fresh hope and live in his presence each day. Amen.

**PARTAKING OF BREAD AND CUP**

HYMN                                      “He Lives”                                      CH, 226

**BENEDICTION**

The feast is ended; the world is waiting; go, in peace. Go in peace to love and serve the world, and give thanks to God for all that is accomplished in us through Jesus our risen Christ. Amen.

# *Easter Sunrise Service*



*2009*