

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018 – 6:18 a.m.**

Opequon Presbyterian Church

Kernstown United Methodist Church

†All who are able, please stand

**Bold print—all respond**

**RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL**

**GATHERING SONG** ..... *Were You There?*

**Were you there, when he rose up from the dead?**  
**Were you there, when he rose up from the dead?**  
**Ohhhhh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.**  
**Were you there, when he rose up from the dead?**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Morning has broken, but this morning is different.  
**The birds are singing tunes of joy in the trees surrounding the graves.**  
**The flower buds are bursting in colors vibrant around each stone.**  
We've come to visit the grave of our Lord and Savior, but "he is not here."  
**The Sun is rising in the East; the shadowed grays turn bright!**  
**The Son has risen in our Hearts; darkness and death end in defeat.**  
Now we understand what Christ said, what God did. Now we can proclaim,  
**CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!**

**DIALOGUE** ..... "Early in the Morning"

**GREETING**

†**HYMN** (Tune: *Hymn to Joy*) ..... *Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to heav'n and voices raise;**  
**Sing to God a hymn of gladness, Sing to God a hymn of praise.**  
**He who on the cross as Savior For the world's salvation bled,**  
**Jesus Christ, the King of Glory, Now is risen from the dead.**  
**Now the iron bars are broken, Christ from death to life is born;**  
**Glorious life, and life immortal, On this resurrection morn.**  
**Christ has triumphed, and we conquer By His mighty enterprise;**  
**We with Him to life eternal by His resurrection rise.**

GATHERING PRAYER AT THE DAWN OF RESURRECTION DAY

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, because we are not left alone and because we are filled with the hope of Jesus Christ. Amen.

ANTHEM ..... *Overcome*  
PS 150

MONOLOGUE (based on John 20:1-18) ..... "The Light Dawns"

†HYMN ..... *Hallelujah*

A crown of thorns placed on His head, He knew that He would soon be dead  
He said did you forget me, Father did you?  
They nailed Him to a wooden cross Soon all the world would feel the loss  
Of Christ the King before His, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

He hung His head and prepared to die Then lifted His face up to the sky  
Said I am coming home now, Father to you.  
A reed which held His final sip Was gently lifted to his lips  
He drank His last and gave His soul to glory  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

The soldier who had used his sword To pierce the body of our Lord  
Said truly this is Jesus Christ our Savior.  
He looked with fear upon his sword Then turned to face his Christ and Lord,  
Fell to his knees crying Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Took from his head the thorny crown And wrapped him in a linen gown  
And laid him down to rest inside the tomb.  
The holes in his hands, his feet and side Now in our hearts we know he died  
To save us from ourselves oh hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Three days went by again they came To move the stone to bless the slain  
With oil and spice anointing hallelujah  
But as they went to move the stone They saw that they were not alone  
But Jesus Christ has risen, Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

CELEBRATING NEW LIFE..... The Flowering Cross

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THANKSGIVING

†DEPARTING HYMN ..... *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*

Christ the Lord is ris'n today. Al le lu ia!  
All creation join to say; Al le lu ia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high. Al le lu ia!  
Sing, O heav'ns and earth, reply; Al le lu ia!  
Lives again our glorious King. Al le lu ia!  
Where, O death, is now your sting? Al le lu ia!  
Jesus died, our souls to save. Al le lu ia!  
Where's your victory, O grave? Al le lu ia!  
Love's redeeming work is done. Al le lu ia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won. Al le lu ia!  
Death in vain forbids Him rise. Al le lu ia!  
Christ has opened paradise. Al le lu ia!  
Soar we now where Christ has led. Al le lu ia!  
Foll'wing our exalted Head. Al le lu ia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise. Al le lu ia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al le lu ia!

CCLI#1622560

†SENDING FORTH WITH A CHARGE AND BLESSING

### **PARTICIPANTS IN THIS MORNING'S SERVICE**

Susanna & Mike Shade..... Greeters  
PS 150 Praise Band, Opequon Presbyterian Church  
Matt Cooper & Sarah Shade.....Directors  
Rebekah Witt..... Monologue  
Aaron Fitch ..... Pastor, Kernstown United Methodist Church  
David Witt..... Pastor, Opequon Presbyterian Church