



## *The Flowering of the Cross*

April 9, 2023

8:00 A.M.

*To help maintain the spirit of worship, please silence all electronic devices.*

† – Please rise in body or in spirit.

Gathering Music

David Weigle

†Hymn [ see insert ]

Congregation

*Dawn Is Approaching* – BUNESSAN

†Opening Sentences

Congregation

This is a day to celebrate new life,  
to open our ears to the sounds of God's world,  
to open our eyes to the beauty of creation.

**We are glad for green grass and flowers,  
for the music of birds and raindrops.**

This is a day of gladness and joy;  
we remember Jesus, who welcomed all people  
and recognized the value of each one.

**We are glad for Jesus,  
our helper and our friend.**

Jesus is alive! His Spirit lives in us,  
helping us when we are afraid  
or lonely or ashamed or sad.

**Jesus shows us how much God loves us,  
and lets us know we are forgiven.**

Be glad today.

**Let us rejoice together.**

Life is good!

**We are accepted and loved.**



☩ Morning Prayer

Congregation

Let us pray:

**God of radical hope, you meet us in the garden of our daily lives. You help us to tend hearts that are broken, love that is lost, hope needing resurrection. Give us an encounter that springs joy, shines love and light as we meet the Christ today. Amen!**

Scripture Lesson

Rev. Victoria Robb Powers

John 20:1-18 (Pew Bible page 882 of the New Testament)

For the Word of God in Scripture, For the Word of God within us,  
For the Word of God among us, **Thanks be to God!**

Time of Silent Reflection

Hymn [ see insert ]

Congregation

*In the Darkness of the Morning* – KAS DZIEDAJA

Testimonies of Joy – *Why Royal Lane*

Rita Kirk  
Kay & Rick Carpenter

☩ Hymn 206

Congregation

*Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!* — W ZLOBIE LEZY

☩ Prayer of Dedication

Congregation

Let us pray:

**Surprising God, early this morning, with your help, we will transform the darkness of a Good Friday cross with the beauty of spring flowers. Thank you, God, for our beautiful cross of flowers. It reminds us that Jesus is alive, helping to make our lives beautiful. Thank you for sharing Jesus with us. Thank you for choosing us to carry on the work of Christ. Amen.**

The Flowering of the Cross

Congregation

Please gather on the front lawn for the flowering of the cross.  
*(Additional flowers are available in the Narthex.)*

Postlude

David Weigle

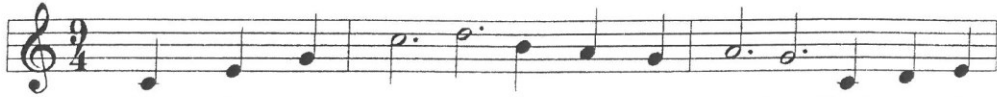
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All Church Breakfast in Vickrey Hall following the service.

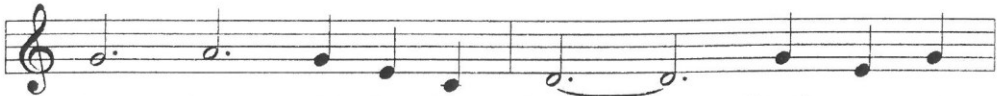
# DAWN IS APPROACHING

## BUNESSAN 5.5.5.4 D

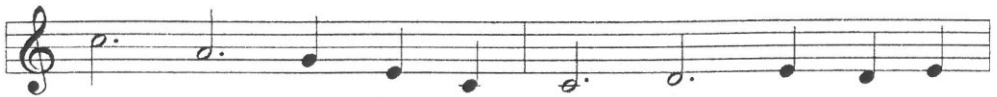
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1. Dawn is ap - proach - ing, sun - rise is com - ing, Dark - ness is  
2. *Great is God's mer - cy, fall - ing from hea - ven Like the first*  
3. Here comes the sun - light, here comes the morn - ing! Gift of a



bro - ken, with the first light; Death can - not  
*bles - sing, giv - ing us life. Praise for the*  
new life for us, we pray. Blest with sal -



hold him, sin shall not bind him, Je - sus is  
*great - ness of God's for - give - ness, Grace in com -*  
va - tion, praise God this morn - ing, Christ's re - sur -



com - ing back to this life!  
*ple - ting his sac - ri - fice.*  
rec - tion on Eas - ter Day!

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# In the Darkness of the Morning

1. In the dark - ness of the morn - ing, just be -  
 2. Days be - fore, she faced his suf - f'ring; she stayed  
 3. As she wept the warmth of sun - rise filled the  
 4. Asked the man, "Why are you weep - ing?" in a  
 5. "Mar - y!" said the smil - ing stran - ger as her

fore the hint of dawn, Mar - y Mag - da - lene dis -  
 with him as he died. See - ing now his tomb was  
 wait - ing world with light. Then she turned and saw a  
 voice she vague - ly knew. "He is gone, and I must  
 vi - sion was re - stored. She cried "Teach - er!" and she

cov - ered Je - sus Christ, her friend, was gone.  
 emp - ty, she re - mained out - side and cried.  
 stran - ger, though her tears ob - scured her sight.  
 find him," she re - plied as morn - ing grew.  
 touched him: Je - sus Christ, her ris - en Lord.