



MOUNT VERNON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EASTER SUNRISE

APRIL 5, 2026 • 7 AM

Reaching out to ... Welcome. Worship. Share. Serve.

† *For those who are able, please stand.*



"Rabbouni!" by Rev. T. Denise Anderson (oil on canvas)

GATHERING

GATHERING MUSIC

Jill Hudson

WELCOME & OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

† **CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: What are you looking for?

ALL: The light before dawn.

ONE: What are you looking for?

ALL: A reason to hope.

ONE: What are you looking for?

ALL: Joy after grief and flowers after winter.

ONE: What are you looking for?

ALL: A place to belong.

ONE: What are you looking for?

ALL: We are looking for the Messiah.

ONE: Good news! Come in. Love is alive!

ALL: Surely God is in this place. Let us worship God!

† OPENING HYMN (*see insert*)

“Morning Has Broken”

† PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt

We confess we wander around aimlessly. We chase around, looking for things that provide answers to the suffering of the world, looking for comfort to our longest nights. You meet us in the darkness before dawn, but we mistake you for the gardener. Forgive us for seeking after worldly things. Forgive us for forgetting to seek you. Speak to us. Call us by name, that we might recognize you in our midst. With hope and gratitude we pray, amen.

† ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ONE: So hear and believe the good news of the gospel, the good news proclaimed in resurrection. What once was lost is found.

ALL: **We are held in God’s loving embrace: forgiven, claimed, and sent to serve. Alleluia! Amen.**

† RESPONSE

“Be Not Afraid”

Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

Text: Taizé. Music: Jacques Berthier

† PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please greet each other with the peace of Christ, in a manner comfortable for one another.)

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 3:1-4

John 20:1-18

SERMON

“Who are you looking for?”

RESPONSE

† HYMN (*see insert*) "Christ is Alive"

† AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*A Sanctified Art*)

Rev. Shari Freeman

We believe in resurrection—
mysterious, beyond our understanding, and yet,
like tulips after the snow: real.
We believe in Easter morning—
in the promise of a God who would roll back every stone to return to us.
We believe in Jesus—
who calls us by name and asks,
"Who are you looking for?"
So we look—
for justice, for mercy, for God in our midst.
And as we look, we sing, "Alleluia!"
Amen.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER
INVITATION TO THE TABLE
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes
Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt
Rev. Shari Freeman

ONE: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER OVER THE ELEMENTS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD & COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

† **CLOSING HYMN** (*see insert*)

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

† **BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

(The primary role of a postlude is to provide a musical transition, connecting the sacred worship experience to the secular world as people leave the church. Feel free to depart during the postlude, or hang around and hear the grand Mount Vernon organ!)

The artwork is from A Sanctified Art
Liturgy by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Leading Today's Worship Service

Rev. Kate Colussy-Estes, Interim Senior Pastor

Rev. Isaac Toney-Schmitt, Associate Pastor

Rev. Shari Freeman, Associate Pastor

Jill Hudson, Music Director/Organist

We are located at:
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