

"He is risen so we, too, may rise."

Downtown United Presbyterian Church

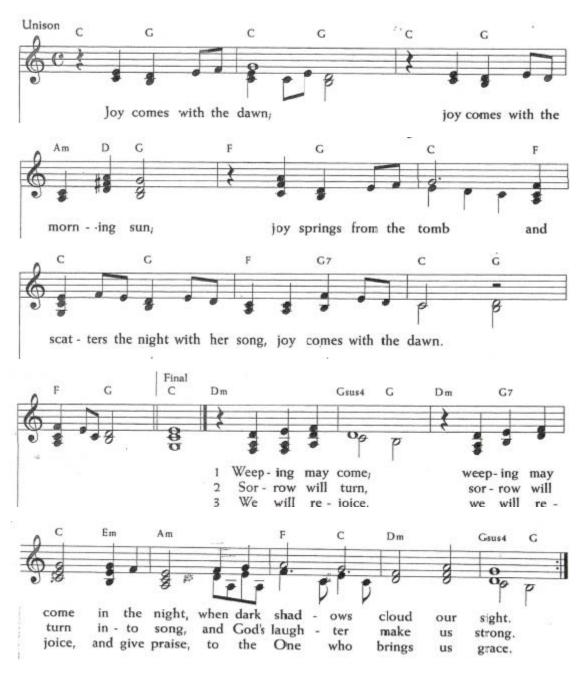
Lakeside at Lake Ontario, New York

April 20, 2014

Were you there? - Alan Jones

Embracing God's Presence; Remembering in Prayer

In Song Together: Joy Comes With the Dawn



In Prayer Together: Into the Mystery

The music of light always follows the basso of darkness.

We are made into this rhythm, made to live

while strumming the brightness of creation,

even when - especially when -

the chords fall broken, silent and hard.

Eil, the Creator God that Jesus called to from the cross,

knew hard the day that Jesus was tortured and died.

Abba, the God Jesus loved and who loved Jesus -

the God who is wildly in love with us, knew that whatever the suffering –

whatever the dark and cold and brokenness of the tomb might

be –

all would be overcome by "joy in the morning."

That just as light always reveals the warmth and wholeness and hope of the Universe,

So, too, it ignites the strumming of eternal songs of love, songs that

lift us in our sorrow and in joy,

and assure us of the immeasurable presence and power

of God in Jesus and God in us.

Yes, we, too, are risen indeed.

Yes, thank, God and let us continue to worship this Loving God, together.

--Ray Bagnuolo

Midnight Sharpens, Starfields, Fading – Alan Jones

In Prayer Together: A Prayer of Confession

God, we confess that we need help living alive in your presence. Help to embody the teachings of Jesus into assurance and action. Help to trust the Holy Spirit, when confused and longing for guidance.

God, Jesus and Spirit: all around us. Fully present in one another. Available. Always. Grace-full. Always. We confess that we often forget you are so with us.

We say what you already know: we hide our doubts and fears – trying to assume "Fine, we are fine!" when our hearts are really in turmoil. We confess we need to be more "real," to share our hearts and hear yours in the company you have given us, this side of the tomb: this promised, wonderful side of the tomb.

--Ray Bagnuolo

Easter Sunday IS the Assurance of Pardon

Now, in the closing, that is the evening of the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, came Maryam of Magdala and the other Maryam that they might see the grave. And behold, a great earthquake occurred for a Messenger of YHWH descended from heaven and came and rolled away the boulder from the entrance, and the Messenger was sitting upon it. And the Messenger's appearance was like lightning with clothes as white as snow. And from fear of the Messenger, those who were watching trembled and they became like the dead. But the Messenger answered and said to the women, "Do not fear, for I know it is Y'shua who was executed on the stake, you seek. He is not here. For he has risen as he said. Come and see the place in which he was laid. Now go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead. And behold he goes before you to Galeela. There you will see him. Behold, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the grave with fear and with great joy and were running that they might tell the disciples. And behold, Y'shua met up with them and said to them, "Peace to you." And they drew near him and grabbed his feet and worshipped him. Then Y'shua said to them, "Don't fear. Rather, go and tell my brothers to go to Galeela, and there they will see me. Now the eleven disciples went to the mountain where Y'shua had arranged for them to meet. And when they saw him, they worshipped him, but some of them were doubting. And Y'shua drew near and spoke with them and said to them, "All authority is given to me in heaven and on earth, and as God has sent me, I send you. Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations and immerse them in the name of Mother/Father, and of the Son, and of the Ruach hakodesh. And teach them to keep all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you all the days until the end of the world. Amen."

Reflection: Out of the tomb; now what? – Ray Bagnuolo

Link to Reflection

¹ Translation by Andrew Gabriel Roth of the Peshitta [Aramaic]: The Syriac Vulgate of the New Testament.



Invitation to the Eucharist Feast! All are invited and welcome!

We pray as Jesus taught us to pray... Luke 11:1-4

"Pray then in this way," Jesus said: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Spirit 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 Spirit, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Blessings Upon You

This is the Day That God Has Made – Alan Jones