

**West Newbury Congregational Church**

**Easter Sunrise Service – April 8, 2012**

Rev. Cynthia Batten, Minister

Parsonage: 429-2869

**Order of Worship**

**Preludes**

Sue Cole, Flute

Jeremiah Gallant, Banjo

**Call to Worship**

Easter begins in despair.

Our Life, our love, our hope forever dead,

Crushed by boulder, bottled up in a cave.

**Who will roll away the stone?**

Easter takes us by surprise, early in the morning.

The obstacles we expect to face are removed.

Where once death and despair laid locked in time

Now the bright light of hope sprouts wings to fly from emptiness. It is, at first, too good to be true.

Listen....for the sound of resurrection....

**The sun rises, flowers open, a blackbird sings  
And Jesus is alive!**

Listen ....for the sound of resurrection...

**The earth trembles, the stone is rolled away,  
The tomb is empty, And Jesus is alive!**

Listen...for the sound of resurrection...

**Footsteps race, heartbeats quicken, and words tumble out,  
That Jesus is alive!**

Join the sound of resurrection...

The Easter song, the bubbling, building, bursting shout:

**Jesus is alive!**

**Hymn**                    *“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”*

**Unison Prayer**

**Early in the morning before chaos was awake, You tiptoed quietly past, Surprising God: and whispered the Word which caused grace and love to blossom into creation.**

**Early in the morning while the disciples slept, Jesus Son of The Living God, You prepared a feast to fill their**

**emptiness; You rolled away their hardened hearts to open them to grace; You whispered their names to awaken them**

**to new life. Early in the morning while we are still drowsy,**

**You sing your songs to us, Holy Spirit: hymns of hope,**

**Cantatas of compassion, psalms of peace, litanies of love.**

**God in Community, early this morning we bring our prayer to You as Jesus has taught us, saying,**

**The Lord’s Prayer (trespasses)**

**Gospel Reading**                    John 20: 1-18

**Hymn**                    *“Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day”*

**Prayer**

**Special Music**

**Homily**                    *“Stones”*

## Hymn

## *“He Lives”*

### **Benediction:**

When it seemed that love was dying, love showed it could rise again.

**Filling our empty hearts with courage, hope and joy,  
a glad “Amen!”**

Let us be glad Alleluias, serving You, Lord to the end.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Live in us, now Risen Friend!**

The stone in our lives has been rolled away. The Easter light still shines on our faces. Let us go out into the Galilees of this world to spread the news that Christ is loose again, to join together with God in building the new creation, to live in such a way that others must say:

**“Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!” Amen.**

## **Cascarone Blessing**

Please join us for breakfast at the Hall after this service and for worship in the Sanctuary at 10:45 a.m.

**The rugged, wooden CROSS beside the Church was  
hand hewn with axes from a cedar log  
by John Nininger and Mark McCulloch.**

Cover photo courtesy of Allen Fuller