

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
May 1, 2022 – 3rd Sunday of Easter, Communion

Welcome to Worship

Join us for a Zoom Virtual Coffee Time at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, May 1

Email sketchingalong4@gmail.com to get the Zoom link.

Prelude

Hymn: VU 352 *I Danced in the Morning*

1. I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2. I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

3. I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

4. I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

5. They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Inviting Holy Light

We breathe. We connect with our bodies, gifts from our Creator. Each new day reminds us of the importance of dark, and rest, and the contrast with light that awakens – the light God has placed within our hearts. We light the Christ candle, remembering the complimentary symbols that feed us – night and day. As we light this candle, awakening, we remember that we are welcomed by God's dawn, good news of resurrection that we are to live in everyday life. *[Dave lights candle]*

Hymn: VU 595 *The Servant Song, vs. 3*

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

Nurturing Safe Space

Everyone who is seeking, who wants to follow Jesus - for healing, hope, inspiration, or just looking for community - all are welcome. We God's love, the neighbourly love that Jesus taught and modelled, is grounded deeply in diversity.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

We as people of faith inherit a legacy, a history of hurt, but also journey into new chapters of healing and reconciliation. Today, here we are worshipping on the ancestral land the Wahnapiatae First Nation and of the Atikameksheng Anishnawbek, this land where the Robinson Huron Treaty was made in 1850, and never honoured by Canada. We live, work, play, and pray on the Treaty lands. May we live in harmony and respect with all those who share the earth with us and be thankful to God as we move into a peaceful and healthy future together.

Welcome and Announcements

Welcome today to Gordon Brown who again is leading music this morning with all those beloved Easter hymns. Thank you to our reader today, Jeannine Zadow. Jeannine also prepared the Communion elements.

Church Annual General Meeting: May 15 after worship. You can join that meeting physically in the sanctuary by coming to worship, or by being here at 11:15, approximately when worship ends. It will also be live on Zoom and the link will be shared in the weekly NEWS the week before.

Place Annual General Meeting: Wednesday May 18 at 5pm on Zoom.

All the people today and this week who have dedicated their skill and talents for the worship services over this past Holy Week. Thank you!

Those at home, if you are new here, note that our contact information is at the end of the video, and you might want to visit our website or Facebook page, or email our office manager so you can receive our weekly e-newsletter called the NEWS. We also have a Social Hour on Zoom, every Sunday night at 7:00. As always, you can get your Zoom link to join that time of connecting by sending an email to Diane. That email address will be part of the credits after this worship.

For our online congregation, please gather your Communion elements and type first name only in the comments box for Prayers of the Community.

Call to Worship

Now is the time to sing!
to sing the good news of God:
who awakens us with dawn's embrace,
who surrounds us with joy and life.

Now is the time to offer praise to God,
in every place, with every voice:

**to rejoice in the One who leads us through each moment
with a gentle hand and a word of hope.**

Now is the time to join all creation in extolling God,
from the depths of the sea to the farthest galaxies:

We will sing the good news of Easter!

We will rejoice in the God who loves us.

Let us worship amidst the alleluias, let us pray...

Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery, Great Spirit, Wisdom Child, may our hearts overflow with your praise like our earth overflows with her spring abundance. God of our lives, in Jesus we find the everyday and the sacred, the death and the resurrection, the human and the divine. Help us, we pray, to notice you in worship and in the world. Help us, we pray, to follow you, wherever we may go. Amen.

Scripture Readings *Jeannine Zadow*)

Psalm 30 – CEB (Common English Bible)

I exalt you, Lord, because you pulled me up;

you didn't let my enemies celebrate over me.

Lord, my God, I cried out to you for help,

and you healed me.

Lord, you brought my soul up from Sheol, (pron. "shee oal")

brought me back to life from among those going down to the pit.

You who are faithful to the Lord,

sing praises to him;

give thanks to his holy name!

His anger lasts for only a second,

but his favor lasts a lifetime.

Weeping may stay all night,

but by morning, joy! ...

You changed my mourning into dancing.

You took off my funeral clothes

and dressed me up in joy

so that my whole being

might sing praises to you and never stop.

Lord, my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

John 21:1-19 The Message translation

After this, Jesus appeared again to the disciples, this time at the Tiberias Sea (the Sea of Galilee). This is how he did it: Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed "Twin"), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the brothers Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. Simon Peter announced, "I'm going fishing."

The rest of them replied, "We're going with you." They went out and got in the boat. They caught nothing that night. When the sun came up, Jesus was standing on the beach, but they didn't recognize him.

Jesus spoke to them: "Good morning! Did you catch anything for breakfast?"

They answered, "No."

He said, "Throw the net off the right side of the boat and see what happens."

They did what he said. All of a sudden there were so many fish in it, they weren't strong enough to pull it in.

Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, "It's the Master!"

When Simon Peter realized that it was the Master, he threw on some clothes, for he was stripped for work, and dove into the sea. The other disciples came in by boat for they weren't far from land, a hundred yards or so, pulling along the net full of fish. When they got out of the boat, they saw a fire laid, with fish and bread cooking on it.

Jesus said, "Bring some of the fish you've just caught." Simon Peter joined them and pulled the net to shore—153 big fish! And even with all those fish, the net didn't rip.

Jesus said, "Breakfast is ready." Not one of the disciples dared ask, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Master.

Jesus then took the bread and gave it to them. He did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus had shown himself alive to the disciples since being raised from the dead.

Let us pray, Ever-living God, may your Easter story become our story. May the wonder and awe of lives made whole take hold deep in our soul. May we receive and live the miracle account of resurrection. We pray in the name of the enlivening Christ. Amen.

Message: "Teaching them to fish..."

Message will be posted on the website when it is available.

Questions for Reflection

- The Muslim community celebrates the festival of Eid al-Fitr this coming Tuesday, the end of the Ramadan fasting - a celebration after a long time of deep soul searching?
- Did *you* mark the end of Lent? Or, have you ever had an intentional time of "fasting", spiritual space for prayer and transformation, ending with some sort of celebration? If you haven't, would this spiritual practice be meaningful for you?

Offering Moment

On this road past the empty tomb, carrying with us stories of wonder and amazement, we make stops along the path where yet more people encounter holy wonder, Christ risen. That is rather like us, the modern church, whether we are feeling blessed or feeling rather pressed in by economic, health or relationship woes. We are here because we somehow know that God's healing still happens. We are part of that.

Here at St. Andrew's, every week there are acts of kindness offered to many – nourishing food, kind gestures through calls and casseroles connecting people who might feel alone. We are all a part of God's work. If you give of your time, if you give of your financial treasures to St. Andrew's, thank you. If you don't, perhaps consider calling or emailing us to find out how you can be part of resurrection moments today.

The United Church of Canada, through Mission and Service, does marvellous ministry near and far, collaborating so that the most vulnerable feel God's love – that is thanks to you. Thank you.

Now let us come to offer our talents, our skills, and our very being as an offering to do God's work in the world, as we also share in the Gifts given us, the Bread and the Cup.

Hymn: VU 563 Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (vv. 1,2,3)

1. Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,

and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

2. You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labour.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

3. You need my hands, full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

Dedication Prayer

God, you have the power to transform the most unlikely people into influential witnesses. We dedicate ourselves to being open to the movement of the Holy Spirit and moments where we might be agents of healing and change in today's world. Use our gifts, and us, to show people your presence in their everyday lives, symbols of the risen Christ broken for our world.

As we turn to you, God of this morning, may we rejoice in our communities, even as we pray you would use our gifts to bring healing and new hope to them. May we delight in those around us, even as we pray you would fill them with the grace, the peace, the life for which they are longing. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Sacrament of Communion

All are welcome at this table. No conditions, no rules, only that you want to follow Jesus. For you joining online, if you don't already have your elements – your cup of something and your bread to share with us – please hit the pause button and bring those over.

Jesus was always finding people who were excluded from grace and love of community, healing them, loving them, and connecting them with community. Here, today, we recognize that not all are here, many who have become disconnected from community, as we share in this sacrament, may we find the courage and vision to share the grace and love we receive with all whom we meet.

May the God of morning joy be with you!

May the God of gracious moments be with you!

Lift your hearts to God, children of love and hope!

We offer them to the One who fills us with life!

Let us sing glad praises to our God!

Our voices join all creation in glad songs!

You looked, and in the midst of chaos,
you heard the Spirit singing
creation into existence, Wondrous God:
majestic eagles and tiny hummingbirds,
graceful giraffes and awkward aardvarks,

earthworms and moles,
hermit crabs and sea horses.
Dust could not praise you, so
you gathered it up, using it
to shape us in your image
that we might enjoy the gifts found
in heaven and on earth
and under the earth and in the sea.

But, we foolishly fell into the traps
dug by death to capture us.
You sent the prophets to us who,
through their words and actions,
reminded us that we had been shaped
to be as upright as mountains,
but we continue to allow our transgressions
to transform what is forgivable, into molehills.
With those whose nets are empty of hope,
with those whose lives overflow with grace,
we sing your praises with full voices:

**Holy, holy, holy are you,
God who loves us more than these.
Creatures of heaven, earth, under the earth,
and in the sea join in extolling you.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the One who is worthy.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Prayers of Community

May this be a place of welcome, a home to all, a community of forgiveness, a place to learn how to be together, a way of growing closer together, learning from each other, beginning to trust one another.

May we let go of our prejudices, seeing the variety of life in all rather than live suspiciously with one another. May we believe that love can transform. May we refuse to let life make us bitter with one another, and to accept the grace of time and space to find Love.

Creator God, may we be the change;
that opens our community to the impossible,
that accepts people can change and be renewed.
May your patience, and time, and love
open the path before us in a cluttered, busy world,
space before us enough for us to come to believe:
that love is stronger than hate, goodness is stronger than evil,
and that life is stronger than death.

In silence, now, we turn our hearts towards the concerns of our world, ourselves, our loved ones, and strangers alike. Situations of injustice and violence that make us angry and want to do something, situations of tragedy that touch our hearts. Let us pray for the people and situations weighing on our hearts... [silence]

Hear us God:

**Hear us as we dedicate ourselves and our futures to you,
trusting your grace-filled love, that can change everything.**

The Prayer Jesus Taught

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin-dom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kin-dom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

On the night that he was betrayed,
he took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:
“This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me.”
In the same way, he passed the cup after supper saying:
“This cup is the new covenant in my blood.
Do this whenever you drink it, to remember me.”

Lead us by the hand, gracious God,
to the Table where the bread, the cup,
and the guests all receive the Spirit
which is poured out upon them.

As we come to eat of the bread, **[elevate]**
may its brokenness give us strength
to stand up to persecutors of the most vulnerable;
to challenge those who love themselves
more than the frightened and lonely.

Hymn: *Bread of Life, vs. 1*

1. I am the Bread, the Bread of Life;
who comes to me will never hunger.
I am the Bread, the Bread of heaven;
who feeds on me will never die.
And as you eat, remember me,
my body broken on the tree:
my life was given to set you free,
and I'm alive for evermore.

May the cup of life **[elevate]**
fill us with the courage to feed those who hunger for grace and hope;
to tenderly care for those discarded by the world.

Hymn: *Bread of Life, vs. 2*

2. I am the Vine, the living Vine;
apart from me you can do nothing.
I am the Vine, the real Vine:
abide in me and I in you.
And as you drink, remember me,
my blood was shed upon the tree:
my life was given to set you free,
and I'm alive for evermore.

Then, when your Beloved gathers those of every time and place
for the Supper of Joy in eternity, may we all worship you,
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

Let us eat and drink together for our strengthening in the faith,
and for the sake of the world. Join in the banquet, for all is ready.

Text

The bread broken,
and the cup poured,

[Dave and all take bread]
[Dave and all drink]

Prayer After Communion

Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.
We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life.
We are sent forth into this world to live into the visions God has laid on our hearts.

**We are now commissioned to:
feed as we have been fed;
forgive as we have been forgiven;
love as we have been loved. Thank you, God. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: MV 106 *I Am the Dream* (vv. 1,3)

1. I am the dream and you the dreamer.
I am the song and you are the rhyme.
You are the tune sung in ev'ry silence.
You are the now in the endless stream of time.

3. You are the word and I the echo.
You are the leader and I am the led.
You are the joy and I the laughter.
You are the Rock on which I lay my head.

Blessing

The Spirit of Christ says, "Get up and go."
Go and extend God's circle of love, go and offer a healing touch
to the world, go and celebrate Spirit's presence in all.
**Our eyes have been opened, and we are filled with new visions
of the way. We will go where the Spirit of Christ leads.**

Blessing Hymn: MV 209 *Go, Make a Difference* (vs. 1)

Go make a difference,
we can make a difference,
go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference,
we can make a difference,
go, make a difference in the world.

1. We are the salt of the earth,
called to let people see
the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but to be seen.
Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference,
we can make a difference,
go make a difference in the world.
Go make a difference,
we can make a difference,
go, make a difference in the world.

Postlude

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