

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH
April 17, 2022 – Easter – “He is risen, Indeed!”
Welcome to Worship

Prelude

Hymn: VU 155 *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!
3. But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!
4. Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

Inviting Holy Light

Radiant God, you have come into our lives in the mystery of the Resurrected Christ. Alleluia!
Open our spirits that we might experience your glory. Reveal to us the mystery of the ages. Glow
into the skeptical places of our souls. Excite us with a message that kindles hope.
We welcome the warmth and wonder of Resurrection.

[Dave lights candle]

Hymn: MV 101 *Jesus You Fill our Hearts*

Jesus, you fill our hearts with your love,
our minds with your peace, and our lives with your joy.

Nurturing Safe Space

You and I, we are God's beloved. Everyone who hears the voice of Christ and comes to seek –
healing, needing hope, inspiration, community. All are welcome. 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

Christ has Risen.

He has risen indeed!

So goes the greeting that emerged in our Christian tradition. We turn with our eyes and hearts filled with faith and love to our sisters and brothers in Ukraine. As we feel the power of that startling discovery, an empty tomb, may we pray and act to help what seems impossible, peace and healing in Ukraine, in God that that might be possible.

We are blessed today to have Ralph and Deb McIntosh lead music this morning with all those beloved Easter hymns. Thank you both.

Our Steward of the Month for March is Freda Wilson – Worship petal. Thank you, Freda. More details are in the NEWS.

Joanne Ross will be selling the Zatoun olive oil after worship today for those who would like to purchase it in support of Palestine.

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 usually have Virtual Fellowship on Sunday evenings, but it has been cancelled for this evening. It will return next Sunday.

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

There are alleluias in the air,
that skip a beat as they dance over tombs,
that push at stones and reveal a saviour,
that explode with a slow beauty in the sunrise,
that wake the birds and tear at the dawn.
It is God's special word: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

There are alleluias in the air,
that are filled with the voice of God,
that are spoken aloud in the chambers of parliament,
that break open hope for the poor,
that paint faith with the colour of rainbows.
It is God's special word: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

There are alleluias in the air,
that fill silence with song,
that fill fear with hope,
that fill injustice with compassion,
that fill worn out things with new life.
It is God's special word: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Opening Prayer

Our eyes are barely open, the sky has hardly brightened, the morning has just begun, and we see you have already done a new thing. Praise be to you, O God. Your ways are beyond our understanding, your mystery is too vast for words, yet on this day, we dare to believe that you are making us into new creations. Alleluia! Amen.

Hymn: VU 179 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks, vs. 1

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ,
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
firstborn of all creation.

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ,
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

Time up Front

(Big Party – Sue and Jen throw the streamers out to congregation.)

Parties have been different over the last two years. What aspects of parties did children miss the most? Bubbles? Games? Blowing out candles?

Today we celebrate, because today we tell the story of how the people thought that Jesus had died, but then, a big surprise.

His tomb was empty, he had risen. He was alive.

Well, we are going to celebrate...

Hymn: VU 179 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks, vv. 2,3,4

(Kids will have a streamer parade during hymn.)

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ,
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and is risen.

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ,
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

3. We have been crucified with Christ,
now we shall live forever.

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ,
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

4. Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Hallelujah, hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ,
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

This is a repeat after me prayer:

God, thank you for great surprises,
Like sweet things and people we love at Easter.

Thank you for showing us
That when we follow Jesus,
We don't need to be afraid.

Christ is risen! Woo hoo!

Amen.

Scripture Reading

John 20:1-18 (James Warner-Smith)

A paraphrase entitled: **A Wonderful Message**

Mary Magdalene had been one of Jesus' friends. She had stood and watched on that terrible day as Jesus was killed on the cross. Now Jesus was dead, and Mary felt as if she would never smile again.

Early on Sunday morning, Mary went to the place where they had put Jesus' body. By the time Mary reached the tomb, the sun was just starting to come up. The sunrise turned the sky into a jumble of orange, yellow, and purple. Mary looked at the tomb and saw at once that the stone had been rolled away and Jesus' body was gone. What a horrible shock.

Mary was very upset. She ran to call some of Jesus' disciples. They came running to the tomb as fast as they could. They, too, saw that the tomb was empty. Where was Jesus? The disciples didn't know what to do, so they went back home. Everyone was very puzzled.

But Mary didn't want to go home. Mary stayed by the tomb to see if she could find out what had happened to Jesus. Mary was feeling sad. First Jesus had died, and now Jesus' body had gone. Could things get any worse? Mary cried and cried.

Then Mary turned around and saw someone standing there. Mary was crying so hard that the tears made it difficult to see.

"Why are you crying?" the figure asked. "Who are you looking for?"

Mary thought she was talking to the gardener. "Sir," Mary sobbed, "if you have taken Jesus away, please tell me where his body is."

"Mary," the figure said.

As soon as Mary heard her name, she knew who the figure was. It wasn't the gardener; it was Jesus!

Mary couldn't believe her eyes. Jesus had been dead, but now he was alive! Mary's tears disappeared in a flash and in their place was the biggest smile you have ever seen.

"Go and tell the other disciples what has happened," said Jesus. "Tell them that I am going to be with God."

Mary ran as fast as she could to tell the disciples. She was laughing, and jumping, and dancing with joy. Mary had a wonderful message to deliver.

"I have seen Jesus. Jesus is alive."

Let us pray,

God of joy and delight, open our hearts to receive the risen Christ with hope in the new life you promise. Calm our fears and free our voices to sing out for all to hear: Christ is risen! Alleluia!
Amen.

Message: "Resurrection"

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

Questions for Reflection

- Imagine yourself in this story. What do you see? hear? smell? touch?
- What would you ask Mary if you were able to ask her one question?

Offering Moment

Dave gives thanks.

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.

Dedication Hymn: VU 169 *Good Christians All...*, vv. 2, 3, 4

2. The Lord of life, is risen today!
Bring flowers of song bedeck the way;
let every tongue rejoice and say:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

3. Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and singing with hearts uplifted high;
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

4. Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Dedication Prayer

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

As we come to this table, we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ, a banquet prepared for everyone. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith, all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, are welcome here.

The Risen Lord welcomes all to this Table.

We come to be fed by grace and hope.

Here, empty hearts are filled with resurrection joy.

We offer them to the One whose love is ever constant.

Here, we are taught songs of praise and wonder.

We rejoice in our God who has defeated death.

While there was only chaos, God of all time,
the Spirit breathed, waters began to flow.

Everything was formed and shaped
for those who were made in your image,
but we placed our hope in temptation,
and wandered into death's clutches.

Women and men came to us,
speaking, calling, hoping we
would turn towards you,
but we heard sin continue to call our names,
believing it knew us best.

Before you called, your Child

was willing to become one of us,
knowing our thoughts, our temptations,
experiencing our death and fears.

With those who hope in Christ,
with those who come with questions,
we join in our songs of praise to you:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, Steadfast love of all.
All creation joins in Easter's glad songs.
Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

**Blessed is the One who has destroyed our last enemy.
Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

In your holiness, God who listens to us,
you chose to forget the former things we did,
and in your love, your Child became fully human.

When our lives were crumbling around us,
he came to rebuild us as your people;
when we were wandering aimlessly,
he took us by the hand to lead us home.

As we remember his death, and hope in his resurrection.
as we sing glad songs, and whisper of our doubts,
we would proclaim that mystery we call faith:

**The One we thought was dead is alive;
the One we thought was lost has found us;
the One we thought we would never see again
recognizes us and calls us by our names.**

Prayers of Community

The world is different now for, in Christ, we know that your love cannot be contained – not by death's grave, not by human walls that divide and separate, not by barriers of hopelessness and despair.

For all who suffer, are ill, or are in grief, we pray...
(light a tealight)

For all who wait to be fully included, we pray those who are tired, those in need of our prayers
near and far, in silence we pray...
(light a tealight)

For the places of hopelessness within and around us, we pray...
(light a tealight)

The world is different now for, in Christ, your Spirit has pushed its way through and befriends the earth once again.

For the seasons of creation and the earth's pattern of death and renewal, we pray...
(light a tealight)

For all the ways your presence is revealed to us through creation, we pray...
(light a tealight)

For the delights and joy of life, we pray...
(light a tealight)

The world is different now for, in Christ, hands that held a whip and a hammer have seen the futile victory won with violence. And hands once held in death's grip by nails, now offer peace to all the earth.

For forgiveness offered and received, we pray...

(light a tealight)

For tables of diplomacy and cooperation between nations, we pray...

(light a tealight)

For peace that transcends differences, we pray...

(light a tealight)

The Prayer Jesus Taught

We are going to try a slightly different version of the Lord's Prayer, it is very similar, but you might want to read as you pray, and note what is different about it:

Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother, Holy and blessed is your true name. We pray for your reign of peace to come, we pray that your good will be done, let heaven and earth become one. Give us this day the bread we need, give it to those who have none. Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one.

Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days — Come swiftly Mother, Father, come. For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy: Forever your name is All in One. 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."

On this Easter morning, pour out your Spirit
upon this ordinary bread that it might offer life,
and on the cup that it might overflow with grace,
and on your people gathered in this place,
people with great faith, and those who struggle with it;
people who understand the mystery, and those who question;
people who have tried to follow Jesus, and those who have failed.

With the broken bread, you transform us **[elevates bread]**
into new people who will rejoice by
welcoming the stranger,
listening to the ignored,
offering hope to those who grieve.

With the cup of grace, you nourish us **[pours cup]**
so that we may delight in your people by
learning from those
whose stories have never been told,
holding the hands of those
whose only companion is loneliness,
walking with children who know
the forgotten trails to joy. 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.

The bread broken, **[Dave and all take bread]**
and the cup poured, **[Dave and all drink]**

Prayer After Communion

We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.

Closing Hymn: MV 147 *God, Help Us to Treasure*

1. God, help us to treasure those moments of myst'ry;
hallow the Sacred in all that we do.

Throughout ev'ry season may we be your agents
of love, joy, and blessing as hearts are renewed.

2. God, help us to honour your presence among us
in newborn, in elder, in fam'ly in need.

By sharing with others we soon will discover
your kindness and loving in generous deeds.

3. God, help us to value each moment of wonder
when peace shall o'ershadow our sorrow and pain.

In times shared at Table with all who are kindred,
may we find the Healing to sing Love's refrain.

Blessing

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Go to live as the Body of Christ resurrected by love and empowered by the Spirit to continue
God's work in this world.

Amen

Blessing Hymn: VU 424 *May the God of Hope Go with Us, vs. 1*

1. May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

Postlude

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