

April 17, 2022
The Day of The Resurrection
We Gather In God's Presence

Easter Liturgy Written by Jen Dresser, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2016, page 67-68. Used with permission.

Today we remove the stones from the tomb. As Jesus brings new life to the world, we leave behind the stones that weigh us down and open our lives to receive new light and love of that first Easter morning.

(a rock is removed)

We remove the stone that seals our hearts from experiencing life.

VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

After the questions and testing of Lent and Holy Week, after finality of death, we find faith renewed.

(a rock is removed)

We remove the rock from the tomb that shall not be moved and we stand strong.

VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

In the face of pain and death, God's love strengthens and holds us.

(a rock is removed)

We remove the rock of strength from the tomb and discover it is light as we carry it wherever it is needed

VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

In the midst of wonder and awe, we let go of the fear that stops our journey.

(a rock is removed)

We remove the rock from the tomb that causes us to stumble and set it aside from our path.

VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

The resurrection requires us to trust – not in our culture or our institutions – but in God and God's ability to change the reality of the world.

(a rock is removed)

We remove the rock of trust from the tomb and give it its proper place in our lives.

VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

If we are open to the radicalness of the story, the events of Easter morning unsettle us. The events of Jesus' life unsettle us.

(a rock is removed)

We remove the rock of discomfort from the tomb so that discomfort confronts and transforms our lives and the world.

VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Jesus' life and death carry transformative power for the world. When we are tempted to carry on with life as usual, may the wonder of the story call us to faithful discipleship.

(a rock is removed)

Having walked through death, we remove the rock of temptation from the tomb as we turn our lives toward God and new life.

VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

Christ has risen!

Christ has risen indeed!

This day God calls us to be people of the resurrection.

Let us take our place in the procession of all who have celebrated

Christ's resurrection throughout the centuries.

Amen! Alleluia!

Let us live out the power of Christ raised from the dead.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Let us worship God!

Amen!

Hymn VU 157 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Christ the Lord is risen today, Hallelujah!

all creation join to say; Hallelujah!

raise your joys and triumphs high; Hallelujah!

sing, O heavens, and earth reply: Hallelujah!

Love's redeeming work is done, Hallelujah!

fought the fight, the battle won. Hallelujah!

Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er! Hallelujah!

Lo, he dwells in death no more! Hallelujah!

Lives again our glorious King: Hallelujah!
where, O death, is now your sting? Hallelujah!
Once he died, our souls to save: Hallelujah!
where your victory, O grave? Hallelujah!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven, Hallelujah!
praise to you by both be given! Hallelujah!
Every knee to you shall bow, Hallelujah!
risen Christ, triumphant now. Hallelujah!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Christ, in disgrace you were crucified and laid in the tomb. In glory you rose from death, the light of the world, to draw all the world to yourself. Holy One, you have rolled away the stone of sin, releasing love and forgiveness from the tombs of our hearts. Holy Spirit, you open our eyes to faith, and our lips with glad songs of joy. You roll away our fears, so we can tell everyone that we have seen the risen Christ. Holy God, be with us as we celebrate and worship You this Easter season. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: “

Responsive Lesson: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Let Israel now say:

'God's love endures for ever.'

Let the house of Aaron say:

'God's love endures for ever.'

Let those who fear God say:

'God's love endures for ever.'

God is my strength and my song; God has become my salvation.

**There are shouts of joy and deliverance
in the tents of the righteous.**

The right hand of God does mighty things;
the right hand of God raises up.

The right hand of God does mighty things.

I shall not die, but live; and I shall proclaim what God has done.

**God indeed punished me,
but did not give me over to death.**

Open to me the gates of the temple,
that I may enter and give thanks to God.

**This is the gate of God;
through it the righteous shall enter.**

I thank you for you have answered me;
you have become my salvation.

**The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is God's doing, marvellous in our eyes.

**This is the day that God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

The Resurrection of Jesus

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The other readings for this week are: Acts 10:34-43 OR Isaiah 65:17-25; 1 Corinthians 15:19-26; John 20:1-18. You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage.....in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NKJV, NRSV, etc.)

Hymn VU 161 "Welcome, Happy Morning"

Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today:
come then, True and Faithful, now fulfil your word;
this is your third morning: rise, O buried Lord!

Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!

Earth with joyful welcome clothes itself for spring;
greeted with life reviving our returning king:
flowers in every pasture, leaves on every bough,
speak of sorrows ended; Jesus triumphs now!

Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!

Author and sustainer, source of life and breath;
you for our salvation trod the path of death:
Jesus Christ is living, God for evermore!
Now let all creation hail him and adore.

Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!

Loose our souls imprisoned, bound with Satan's chain;
all that now is fallen, raise to life again!
Show your face in brightness, shine the
whole world through;
hope returns with daybreak, life returns with you.

Welcome, happy morning! age to age shall say;
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!

Meditation: “Stone. What? Wow! Why? Oh yeah. Fake news. OMG!”

Hymn VU 477 “I Come with Joy”

I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread,
in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.

The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.

Together met, together bound
by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one,
the love that makes us one.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving & The Lord's Prayer

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It is the Risen Lord, who welcomes us to this Meal.

We come to feast on life and peace.

Here, the Gardener of life plants seeds of hope and wonders.

We nourish them to produce bouquets of grace for others.

Here, the Singer of lyrics of goodness teaches us new songs.

Songs of how death has no more power over us.

There was only chaos, when there was no time, but you breathed your Spirit, God of wonder, and watched waters flow, and life emerge. You whispered through your Word and clapped as mountains grew tall, grass rippled across meadows, cattle and other creatures roamed, and creation's beauty shone in wonder. The breath, the words, the created were brought forth for all made in your image, but temptation infected us with the virus of arrogance and rebellious natures. You would not give up on us, but sent those women and men who kept calling to us, encouraging us to turn away and come back to you, but the soft seductive songs of sin knew our names all too well. You called your Child's name who immediately stepped forward to become one of us, for our sakes. With all who hope in Christ, with all who continue to question, we sing songs of praise to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, Love which never ends.

All creation sings Easter cantatas.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Blessed is the One who has destroyed death.

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

In the chaotic times of a place long ago, you listened to your people, God of all lives, and choosing to forget all our pasts you sent your Beloved Child to become one of us. Into shattered lives, he came rebuilding your people; seeing those who wandered alone, he took us by the hand to lead us home; noticing those quarantined by hate and fear, he went to their hearts to care for them; realizing how many had been forgotten, he called us by name; when everyone forgot who we were, he remembered our names; when it seemed that the pandemic called death would have its way, he became your clinical trial, proving that resurrection love was the vaccine which would protect us from the very power of death itself.

As we proclaim his death, as we hope in the promise of resurrection, as we join in glad alleluias on this day, we proclaim that faith which is a mystery:

The One thought dead, lives;

the One thought to be lost, finds us;

the One we think we will never see

will call us by name to bring us home.

On this Easter morning, we pray you would pour out your Spirit upon this bread that it might give us strength and upon this cup overflowing with grace. Pour out your Spirit, we pray as well, on your family gathered in these moments: people with great faith, yet who struggled not to lose it these past years; people who lived through loneliness, and hungered for community; people who have tried to be compassionate yet who were wearied by worry and fear. As we eat this broken bread, transform us into those who will welcome the stranger, for we have known loneliness; listen to the ignored, for we have lived in silence; care for the forgotten, for we have struggled to be remembered. As we drink of the cup of grace, we pray you would nourish us so we may learn from those whose lives were not noticed, whose fears were not alleviated, whose needs were not met. As we live this gift of life, with which you have blessed us, in this broken world, we pray for Your church that it may be a gateway to grace for the world. Especially we pray for Richwood United Church and their minister, Rev. Mary Elford. We pray for the peoples of this world that they may learn to live in peace and in support of one another and of Your creation. Especially we pray for the peoples of Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine. We pray for all who mourn a loss that they may be comforted. Especially we pray for the friends and family of Leon Denniss and Ron Dickie. We pray for all who are ill or dying, awaiting medical intervention or recovering from treatment, especially Jack, Marlene, Scott, and Tucker, and their loved ones and caregivers and those known only in the silence of our hearts.....

And when that morning comes when we finish this pilgrimage of life, being welcomed by the Gardener of grace, along with our sisters and brothers of every time and place, we will sing of our love for you, forever and ever. And we continue praying, saying the words our Saviour taught us,
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Prayer Following Communion

Life-giving God,
may we, who share Christ's body, live his risen life;
we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others;
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
that we and all your children shall live your love,
and all creation will live to praise your name.
Amen.

We Respond to God's Blessing

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

The depths of God's love and grace have been made known in the resurrection of the Christ.
Let us make the depths of our gratitude known in our tithes and offerings.

Offertory Hymn MV 191 "What Can I Do?"

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Offering Prayer

You, O God, are the Easter One. You are the holy source of resurrection.
You are the dancing spirit of life. We offer these gifts in gratitude for hope restored,
for the mystery of your grace, and for the promise of resurrection. Amen.

We Depart, A Blessed People

Hymn VU 164 "The Day of Resurrection"

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness, the passover of God!
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be free of evil, that we may see aright
the Christ in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and, listening to the accents, may hear so calm and plain
Christ's own 'All hail!' and, hearing, may raise
the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the round world keep high triumph, and all that
is therein;
let all things seen and unseen their notes
of gladness blend,
for Christ indeed is risen, our Joy that has no end.

Commissioning and Benediction

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
The one who came to challenge and to heal,
The one whom death could not contain,
Bless us all with new life.

Sung Response: VU 884 "You Shall Go Out with Joy"

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.....

ALL:

WANTED: Holy Humour Sunday is next Sunday and your jokes (appropriate to be told from the pulpit) are wanted. Submit one. Submit many. It's up to you. The minister will not be held liable for any adverse effects the telling of your joke may have on others!

Bridges Out of Poverty

Bridging Poverty and Privilege... *growing life-changing relationships*

Six Wednesdays: April 27 to June 1, 2022 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. EST / 10:00 a.m. - noon PST

What if our response to poverty went beyond charity? What if we grew intentional friendships with our neighbours who are living in poverty? What if your church community could start a ministry that will make a tangible impact on poverty in the place you live? Explore how this can happen in weekly gatherings of food, fun, and storytelling while learning together how to bridge poverty and privilege.

Register for this program at united-in-learning.com

Siloam United Church is hosting **Expressions of Love**, a concert featuring singer/songwriter Kelly Walker, Actor/Singer Breanne Dietrich and Stratford Poet, David Stones on Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 7:30 pm. Admission is by freewill offering at the door in support of the work and outreach of Siloam United Church.

UNION:

April Outreach: Port Stanley Community Cupboard food bank suggestions: dry and canned goods or a monetary donation.

Unified Board meets on Wednesday, April 20 at 7 p.m.

DORCHESTER:

Central Board meets on Wednesday, April 27 at 7 p.m.

Donations to the Dorchester Food Bank are being collected once again. There is a box next to the back door for food donations.

Lectionary Readings for next week: (April 24, Second of Easter)

Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29 OR Psalm 150; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31