

April 24, 2022

Second Sunday of Easter

**We Celebrate with Mirth and Merriment**

**Distribution of the Offering** (*as peeps enter the Sanctuary*)

**Postlude:** "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee" J.S. Bach arr. by Cindy Berry

**Benediction**

God be with you till we meet again;  
fill your life with joyous laughter,  
'til you're Christ's fools ever after:  
God be with you till we meet again.

**Sung Response: VU 37 "Gloria"**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Moment of Silent Reflection**

**Closing Hymn VU 179 "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks"**

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

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.

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.

We have been crucified with Christ,

now we shall live for ever.

Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Give thanks to the risen Christ;

hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give praise to God's name.

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.

## Joy Break

Time for the Young and the Young @



Hymn VU 345 "Come, Children, Join to Sing"

Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!

Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!

Let all with heart and voice,

saved by God's gracious choice,

now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!

Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!

Christ calls his people friends,

the helpless he defends,

a love that never ends: Hallelujah!

Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!  
Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!  
The whole creation o'er  
let all God's love adore,  
singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

### *We Listen for Foolish Wisdom*

#### **Responsive Reading: Psalm 150**

Praise God in the holy temple!

**Praise God for mighty deeds!**

Praise God for bountiful mercies,

**Praise God who meets all our needs!**

Praise God with sound of trumpet!

**Praise God with lute and harp!**

Praise God with timbrel and dancing!

**Praise God wherever you are!**

Praise God with holy cymbals!

**Praise God with strings and with pipes!**

Praise God with clash of cymbals!

**Praise God with all your might!**

#### **Scripture: John 20:19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

*The other readings for this week are: Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 118:14-29; Revelation 1:4-8. You can look them up on [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com) and search for the passage..... in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NIV, NRSV, etc.)*

**Anthem:** "Thine Be The Glory" by Handel performed by King's College Choir  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXzmjNE-yLA>

### **Opening Prayer** (unison)

God of De-light and Merriment, thank you for the gift of laughter. As we open our mouths to smile or grin, open wide our hearts to your surprising joy. Tickle our funny bones, we pray. Poke holes in our overly serious outlook. Teach us to relish each moment. Sparkle Spirit through our entire being, and infect every particle of creation with holy hilarity. We pray in the name of Jesus, whose rich, warm laughter surrounds us always. Amen.

**Meditation:** "wHoly Compassionate"

**Hymn VU 406** "See the Morning Sun Ascending"

See the morning sun ascending,  
radiant in the eastern sky;  
hear the angel voices blending  
in their praise to God on high!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Glory be to God on high!

So may we, in lowly station,  
join the choristers above;  
singing with the whole creation,  
praising you for your great love.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Glory be to God above!

For your loving-kindness ever  
shed upon our earthly way;  
or your mercy, ceasing never,  
for your blessing day by day:

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Glory be to God always!

'Wisdom, honour, power, and blessing!'  
with the angelic host we cry;  
round your throne, your name confessing,  
now we would to you draw nigh.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Glory be to God on high!

### **Invitation to Invest in God's Mission**

Did you hear about the two men shipwrecked on an island? The minute they drifted ashore one of them started screaming and yelling, "We're going to die! We're going to die! There's no food! No water! We're going to die!"

The second man was propped up against a palm tree and acting so calmly it drove the first man crazy. "Don't you understand?!? We're going to die!!!"

The second man replied, "You don't understand, I make \$100,000 a week. We'll get found soon."

The first man looked at him quite dumbfounded and asked, "What difference does that make?!? We're on an island with no food and no water! We're going to DIE!!!"

The second man answered, "You just don't get it, do you: I make \$100,000 a week, and I tithe ten percent of that \$100,000 each week to my church----I give \$10,000 each week to my church."

The First Man, still dumbfounded said, "I still don't understand!"

The Second Man said: "Listen, I said to relax, I TITHE \$10,000 a week to my church, BELIEVE ME, my pastor will find me!"

Our tithes and other offerings will be received, via Canada Post or CanadaHelps, the offering plate, the mail slot at the church, or by e-transfer.

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

## **Offertory Hymn VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"**

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

## **Offering Prayer**

Lord of mirth and merriment, we give you thanks for the gift of laughter which brings healing. Accept these gifts we bring and use them to deliver healing and wholeness to our companions on this earth. In Christ's name. Amen.

## **Call to Worship**

"Blow the trumpets;

play the lute and harp;

shake the tambourine;

hear the strings and pipe;

dance— praise God!

**Let the praise break forth in the most unlikely places  
and in silly ways.**

**Let the laughter be deep,  
for we are God's people."**

**Prelude:** "Just as I am, without One Plea" William Bradbury, arr. Cindy Berry

## **Joy Break**

### **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer**

With joy in our hearts, we lift our praise to you, Imaginative God. You smiled, and the sun burst through the shadows of chaos; you chuckled, and the platypus frolicked; you laughed, and all that was given shape by you celebrated the wonder of creation. But we took ourselves too seriously, believing we were too important to join in your joy, and so chose to feast on the pain the world offered, rather than picnicking with you in paradise. Amused as you were at our poor decisions, you could not delight in our sin and so sent the prophets to call us back to your presence. We persisted in our despair and so, you sent Jesus, the Treasure of your heart, to bring us home. Holy are you, Playful God, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Joy, and our Lord and Saviour.

He snickered at the feeble attempts of the Evil One, showing us how to resist temptation; he giggled at sin's desperate desire to hold on to us, releasing us by his love demonstrated on the cross; he howled with laughter at death's belief that the grave could hold him, and brought new life to our despair, striding into the new creation as the stars pealed with joy. As you have brought us into new life, may we delight in sharing it with others; as you have fed us with grace, may we give it to everyone we meet, with laughter on our lips and joy in our hearts; as you have given us the good news which can never be taken away from us, may we rejoice in offering it to the broken, the sad, the lonely. This week we pray for Dunwich United Church as they work to call a new spiritual leader; those we share this world with, the people of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia; all who are in mourning, especially the friends and family of Leon Denniss and Ron Dickie; all those who are ill or dying, recovering from treatment or awaiting medical intervention, especially Jack, Marlene, and Tucker, and their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.. In your good time, bring us all to the joyful feast of all your people, when we are gathered together around your table in heaven: one people, one heart, one hope, one joy, united with one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All this we pray in the name of the one who taught us to pray, saying:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come, thy 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 thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **We Depart in High Spirits**

**Opening Hymn VU 224 "Sing a Happy Hallelujah"**

Sing a happy hallelujah,  
sing it out with heart and style,  
we're the echo of God's laughter,  
we're the image of God's smile.

Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!

Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!

We're the proof of God's good humour,  
we're the twinkle in God's eye,  
made to shine, reflect the glory,  
given light and space to fly.

Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!  
Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!

Sarah laughed at God's good timing,  
Mary sang and David danced,  
Jesus smiled and hugged the children,  
so is life for us enhanced.

Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!  
Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!

Every day sing hallelujah!  
We are loved, though so absurd,  
human, foolish, chosen people,  
God still takes us at our word!

Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!  
Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **ALL:**

*Indwell is currently recruiting for a Canada Summer Jobs position on our St. Thomas team. Please go to our website for more details and to apply: [www.indwell.ca/careers/](http://www.indwell.ca/careers/). Please check often for other job postings. We would also like to thank you for your ongoing prayers for those who are awaiting this supportive housing.*

### **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](http://united-in-learning.com)

**Outdoor Bake and Plant Sale**, May 14, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Union United Church.

### **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.

### **UNION:**

**April Outreach:** Port Stanley Community Cupboard food bank suggestions: dry and canned goods or a monetary donation. There is a bin at the rear of the sanctuary.

**Lectionary Readings for next week:** (May 1, Third of Easter)

Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

(May 8, Fourth of Easter)

Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30