

April 9, 2023
Easter Sunday

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Hornpipe" from Water Music by George Frideric Handel

Lenten Candle Liturgy

*Written by Won Hur. **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2023, pages 66-69. Used with permission.*

Christ is risen!

He has risen, indeed!

Hallelujah!

In Christ's resurrection, God has spoken.

This indeed is God's world.

God's power is stronger than the earthly powers.

God's way of peace and justice will ultimately prevail.

This is the news that we have been waiting for.

Christ is risen!

He has risen, indeed!

Hallelujah!

The Christ candle is lit.

VU 157 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" vs. 1

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!

Prayer (*unison*)

O God of the universe, yours is the glory. Your heartbeat echoes in our heartbeat. Your breath is our breath. Your vitality pulsates in us and throughout this vast universe. You are the creator of the universe. In you, we live and love and rejoice in the gifts of life. We thank you and praise you for the gift of Easter resurrection that we may put our ultimate trust in your goodness and gracious love. In the indomitable spirit of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn: VU 157 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today" vss. 2-4

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!!

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

Moment of Silent Reflection

We Are Blessed By God

Anthem: "Rejoice! The Lord is King!" Glenn Wonacott

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Refrain: Hallelujah! hallelujah!

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.'

Refrain: Hallelujah! hallelujah!

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.**

Refrain: Hallelujah! hallelujah!

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!**

Refrain: Hallelujah! hallelujah!

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

The other readings for this week are: Acts 10:34-43 OR Jeremiah 31:1-6; Colossians 3:1-4; John 20:1-18 (alt)

Meditation: "Solitary or Communal?"

Hymn VU 158 "Christ Is Alive"

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war,
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The God of early mornings be with you, **and also with you.**

People of the first day, lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the One who makes every day Easter.

People of Easter joy, give thanks to the One who is your salvation.

We offer our hallelujahs to the God of steadfast love.

We lift our praise to you, Gardener of Creation. On the first day, your Light split the shadows of chaos, and all goodness flowed forth. Gently and tenderly, you gathered up the dust of the earth and shaped us into your image. But the day came when we chose to run away from you, preferring our petty schemes to your dreams for us. You sang to us through the prophets, hoping we would join you in the heavenly chorus. But we kept silent, believing our wisdom was far superior to your love. And when we dug our heels in through blind stubbornness, refusing to follow you, you became one of us that you might lead us back to you. Therefore, we join our glad songs of Easter with those in every time and in every place, who sing to you their praise:

Rejoice, heavenly powers!

Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our Lord, is risen!

You alone are holy, Steadfast God, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. God's true Light, he wandered the shadows of hell to bring us out; God's own Beloved, he endured our sin, to heal us forever; God's own Glory, he went into the grave, that we might enter the gates of righteousness. As we remember you raising him from the dead and giving us life, we proclaim our faith:

Sin is conquered; death is defeated; Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Here at this Table we are nourished by your steadfast love, God. As you pour out your Spirit upon the bread and the cup, fill us with the grace of Jesus. As we have been raised to new life, may we reach out to our brothers and sisters around the world, especially the peoples of Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania; as we have been fed, may we fill the hunger of the world; as we have been comforted, may we comfort those who mourn, especially we think the friends and family of Jack Killins; as we have been healed, may we care for those who are ill, especially we think of ... And their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts..... ; as we have seen the empty tomb, may we bear witness to the presence of the Risen Lord in our lives. Then, when we are united with all the saints, may we gather around your Table, one people, lifting our voices in praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. We continue praying, saying the words that Jesus taught us,

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,
Forever and ever.
Amen.

Prayer after Communion (*unison*)

Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

Truly I say to you, God has done marvelous things. God created the heavens and the earth. God created life, in all its myriad forms. God has reached out, and continues to reach out to us, seeking to be in relationship with us. God has blessed us in word, and at God's table. And so it is, with joy and gratitude in our hearts, we respond to God with offerings of our own. What we offer most, is our commitment and support for the work of Christ's mission in this world.

Offertory Hymn VU 218 "We Praise You, O God"

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

Prayer of Dedication

God of life, may all that we offer bring light to those in the shadows, laughter to all who mourn, and hope to those longing for new life. In the name of him in whom we have light and life, Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

Hymn VU 173 "Thine Is the Glory"

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Commissioning and Benediction

Go forth and live in the power of the resurrection

**In the name of the God who makes us,
In the name of the Christ who makes us free,
And in the name of the Spirit who makes us one.**

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Response: VU 958 "Halle, Halle, Halle"

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Postlude: "The Strife is O'er, The Battle Done" by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina
arranged by Cindy Berry

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALL:

In response to the devastating earthquakes in Türkiye and northern Syria, The United Church of Canada is working with partners in the Middle East Council of Churches, ACT Alliance, the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, and the Humanitarian Coalition to show tangible support for the people of Türkiye and Syria. To contribute to the United Church response, you can mail a cheque to:

The United Church of Canada Philanthropy
Unit - Emergency Response 3250 Bloor Street
West, Suite 200 Toronto, ON M8X 2Y4

Please be sure to note "Emergency Response—Türkiye" on the face of your cheque.

Or, go online to:

<https://www.gifttool.com/donations/Donate?ID=1955&AID=2274&PID=6564>

DORCHESTER:

Ham and Oyster Supper: Homemade Oyster Soup, ham, scalloped potatoes, baked beans, cabbage salad, rolls and dessert. Friday, April 21st, 2023 at Dorchester United Church. Adults \$25.00 Children Ages 6-12 \$10.00 Children Ages 5 and Under Free. For tickets please call Marion Woods at 519-461-1136 or Betty Crockett at 519-268-0983. (Take-out Available)

UNION:

Outreach for April is Pearce Williams Christian Centre

Wishlist items: copy paper, popsicle sticks, large bottles of white glue, art and craft paint brushes, paint roller, sleep out tarps (12x20) or gift cards to Walmart, Briwood, Home Depot.

Another option is to collect funds to pay for a camper to attend a week-long camp. The cost for one camper is \$400 - \$500. If everyone donated \$20 that would cover it.

Lectionary Readings for next week:

(April 16, Second Sunday of Easter)

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31