

**April 23, 2023**  
**Dorchester United Church**  
**Easter 3**  
**WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

**Prelude**

**Lighting the Paschal (Christ) Candle**

Let us light the Paschal candle for the people are in the Church.

**Easter has made us into a people of hope.**

Warmed by the light we dare to to say Alleluia!

**Moment of silent reflection**

Birthdays, celebrations, life and work of the congregation

**Call to Worship**

Let us be open to the stranger in our midst.

**In our journey together we have walked along different paths.**

We gather around a table that evokes a sacred memory.

**The Risen One is known in the breaking of bread.**

**Hymn** We meet You, O Christ **VU 183**

We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise;  
your image we see in simple and wise.  
You live in a palace, exist in a shack.  
We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.

In millions alive, away and abroad,  
involved in our life you live down the road.  
Imprisoned in systems, you long to be free.  
We see you, O Jesus, still bearing your tree.

We hear you, O Man [Christ], in agony cry.  
For freedom you march, in riots you die.  
Your face in the papers we read and we see.  
The tree must be planted by human decree.

You choose to be made at one with the earth;  
the dark of the grave prepares for your birth.  
Your death is your rising, creative your word:  
the tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

**Opening Prayer**

**God of truth, You are always breaking open new worlds. Help us to trust that as we follow you along unknown paths we may not be overcome by newness, but find comfort in the love you show us every day. May we not be held captive by the rumours and lies that surround us, but have the courage to let the Risen One alter the trajectory of our faith. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour. AMEN**

## WE ARE BLESSED BY GOD

### Anthem

### Time for the Young and the Young at Heart

### Hymn

We are pilgrims

VU 595

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load

Sister, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

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.

I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too

Psalm 116

VU 836

### Refrain

*How can I repay you, God,  
for all the goodness you show to me?*

I love you God, because you have heard  
my voice when I made supplication.

**because you turned your ear to me,  
when I called upon your name.**

The cords of death entangled me; and  
the pangs of the Grave laid hold on me;  
**I suffered distress and anguish.**

Then I called upon the name of God:

**“O God, I pray, save my life!”**

***Refrain: How can I repay you, God,  
for all the goodness you show to me?***

How can I repay you, God

for all the good things you have done for me?

**I will take up the cup of salvation,  
and call upon the name of God.**

**I will pay my vows in the presence of all God’s people.**

*Refrain: How can I repay you, God,  
for all the goodness you show to me?*

Precious in the sight of God is the death of the saints,

**O God, I am your servant;**

I am your servant, the child of your maidservant;

**You have freed me from my bonds.**

I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**and will call upon the name of God.**

I will pay my vows to God in the presence of all God’s people,

**in the courts of the house of God, in your midst, O Jerusalem. //**

*Refrain: How can I repay you, God,*

*for all the goodness you show to me?*

## **Gospel**

Luke 24: 13-35

Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah[e] should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

## Sermon

## “Eyes wide Shut”

## Hymn

As We Walked Home at Close of Day **VU 184**

As we walked home at close of day,  
a stranger joined us on our way.  
He heard us speak of one who'd gone,  
and when we stopped, he, too, stayed on.

“Why wander further without light?  
Please stay with us this troubled night.  
We've shared the truth of how we feel  
and now would like to share a meal.”

We sat to eat our simple spread,  
then watched the stranger take the bread;  
and, as he said the blessing prayer,  
we knew that someone else was there.

No stranger he; it was our eyes  
which failed to see, in stranger's guise,  
the Lord who, risen from the dead,  
met us when ready to be fed.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!  
As Mary and our sisters said,  
the Lord is risen from the dead!

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

### Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

### Offertory Hymn: VU 218 (vs1)

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

For all that we have received,  
**may we be thankful.**  
For all that we hold dear,  
**may we be grateful.**  
For all that we are called to give,  
**may we respond with gladness.**  
We offer these gifts in love,  
**And seek only Your blessing.**  
Amen.

## Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

### The Prayer of Jesus

Hymn Stay with Us through the Night

VU 182

Stay with us through the night.  
Stay with us through the pain.  
Stay with us, blessed stranger  
till the morning breaks again.

Stay with us through the night.  
Stay with us through the grief.  
Stay with us, blessed stranger  
till the morning brings relief.

Stay with us through the night.  
Stay with us through the dread.  
Stay with us, blessed stranger  
till the morning breaks new bread.

### Commissioning and Benediction

Response (sung): VU 967

Amen, Amen, Amen.

### Postlude