

**Sunday May 4, 2025
Third Sunday of Easter**

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken" Words: John Newton. Music: Franz Joseph Haydn.
(Austrian Hymn)

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Lighting the Christ Candle

Jesus Christ, the Light of the world!

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worship

He is risen!

Breaking through the barriers we erect.

He is risen!

Challenging us to do things in ways we have never done them before.

He is risen!

Offering us new life.

He is risen!

Imploring us to be one. Imploring us to love one another.

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Let us worship our Lord and our God.

Hymn VU 389 "God Is Here" Words: Fred Pratt Greed, 1978. Music: William P. Rowlands, ca. 1905.
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God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.

Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit, here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

God of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
 keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
 Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
 we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Opening Prayer (*unison*)

Anointed One, after you rose from the dead you appeared to your disciples in the upper room, at the sea of Tiberias, and on the road to Emmaus. You blessed them, fed them, challenged them, offered them new life, and gave them a new commandment. We too are your disciples. We too long to have you break through the barriers we erect, to bless us, to feed us, to challenge us, to offer us new life, and to call us to live out your new commandment. We believe. Help our unbelief, reinforce our resolve, and grant us courage to work for your justice that we may live as faithful examples of your love and grace in our world and bring glory to God. Amen.

Ministry of Music: "Fairest Lord Jesus" By Derek Hakes. Revised by Craig Courtney (ASCAP)

Apostles' Creed VU 918

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn VU 563 "Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

Words: Cesáro Gabaráin, 1979, trans. Gertrude C. Suppe, George Lockwood, Raquel Gutiérrez-Achón, 1987.

Music: Cesáro Gabaráin, 1979, harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987.

Words and Music © 1979 Cesáro Gabaráin. Translation © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.

Harmony © 1987 Skinner Chávez-Melo. License NOT AVAILABLE. PLEASE USE HYMN BOOKS.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Responsive Reading: Psalm 30

Though tears flow for a night, the morning brings new joy.

I will extoll you, O God, for you have lifted me up;

you have not let my enemies triumph over me.

O God, my God, I cried to you for help,

and you restored my health.

You brought me back from the dead,

you saved my life as I was going down to the Grave.

Let all your servants sing praises to you,

and give thanks to your holy name.

Your anger is but for a moment,

but your kindness is life eternal.

Though tears flow for a night, the morning brings new joy.

In my prosperity I said,

"I shall never be shaken;

your favour, O God,

has made me as firm as any strong mountain."

You turned your face away from me,

and I was greatly dismayed.

I called to you; I made my appeal:

"What profit is there in my death,

in my going down to the Grave?

Will the dust give you praise?

Will it proclaim your faithfulness?

Hear, O God, and be gracious to me;

O God, be my helper."

Though tears flow for a night, the morning brings new joy.

You turned my mourning into dancing;

you stripped off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

so that my heart will sing your praise without ceasing.

O God, my God, I will give thanks to you forever.

Though tears flow for a night, the morning brings new joy.

Scripture: John 21:1-19 Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples / Jesus and Peter

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment, for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

The other readings for this week are: Acts 9:1-6, (7-20); Revelation 5:11-14

Meditation: “The Far Side”

Hymn VU 597 “Simon, Simon, a Fisherman”

Words: vs. 1, 2 Robert K.N. McLean, 1964, alt; vs. 3-5 David McKane, 1995.

Music: Robert K.N. McLean, 1964; arr. Catherine Ambrose, 1996.

Words (vs. 1-3) and Music © 1964 United Church Publishing House. Words (vs. 4, 5) © 1995 David McKane.

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We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

We don't give to God begrudgingly, but gladly, because we love God, and that means that we love who God loves – everyone; the just and the unjust alike. Our tithes and offerings will be received

Offertory Hymn MV 50 “Alleluia” Words: traditional liturgical text. Music: Norah Duncan IV.

Music © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. OneLicense.net A620168

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

God of blessings and challenges, through these offerings and the offering of our time and energy, we, like you, stand with those in need. Send your Holy Spirit on these gifts and on us that positive change would come to this world that yearns for peace and wholeness. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

Risen and saving Lord, Mary's mistaken gardener,
call out our names in compassion that we might recognize you in our neighbours around the world,
including the people of Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and
Uzbekistan.

Risen and saving Lord, appearing unknown to the disciples on the road to Emmaus,
set our hearts on fire with love for you and for one another, for justice and righteousness.

Risen and saving Lord, granting assurance of healing and forgiveness to distraught followers, bring us
together in peace and harmony. We especially ask you to be with those who mourn the death of a loved
one: the family and friends of Penny Jones and Gary Fluttert; and all who are ill or dying: Jack, Ken and
their loves ones and caregivers. and those known only in the silence of our hearts....

Risen and saving Lord, caring for your disciples in a meal on the shore of the sea,
make yourself known to us in all acts of hospitality and sharing.

Risen and saving Lord, lifting hands of blessing on all humankind,
grant that our prayers and praise may be gathered into yours on behalf of the whole world.

Jesus, be present in the midst of your disciples, we 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass 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.**

Hymn VU 567 "Will You Come and Follow Me" Words: The Iona Community, 1987.

Music: Scottish traditional, arr. The Iona Community, 1987.

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Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
 Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
 Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
 Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
 Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
 and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name?
 Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
 Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around,
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
 Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
 In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show.
 Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Benediction

May the One who created the heavens and the earth;
 The One who came to challenge and to heal;
 The One who keeps us and sustains us
 Bless us with courage and perseverance
 to live the Gospel every day, in word, thought, and deed.

Amen.

Response: *to the tune VU 81 (DIX).* Words: Unknown.

Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838; adapt. William H. Monk, 1861. Music in the Public Domain

We will meet the risen Christ
 as we live in love each day
 so to God we give all praise
 every day is Easter Day!
 Alleluia! Death has died.
 Christ arisen! Christ alive!

Postlude: “Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious” Words: Thomas Kelly. Music: William Owen.
 BRYN CALFARIA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Board Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, May 18 to finalize our Living Faith Story from results tabulated from our recent Congregational Meeting, and to recommend it to the Congregation.

A Congregational Meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, May 25 to approve our Living Faith Story; to decide, based on our profiles (Living Faith, Demographic, and Financial Viability), on our future direction; and, if appropriate, to select members to serve on a Search Team. (search team training is scheduled for June 10 – online)

Rev. Mark will be on vacation Monday, May 5 to Monday, May 12 inclusive. In his absence, for pastoral emergencies please contact Rev. Karlene Kimber at (519) 282-3056.

Thorndale United Church Annual Strawberry and Ham Supper on Tuesday, May 20 at the Lions Community Centre, 4:30-7:00 p.m. Adults: \$25; 6-14: \$10; under 6: Free. Tickets are available until May 11 from Bob or Darlene Graham at 519-461-0463.

Lectionary Readings for next week: May 11, Fourth of Easter
Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 18, Fifth of Easter
Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35