

**Dorchester United Church
Third Sunday of Easter-Earth Sunday
April 19, 2026
Worship Leader: Dawn S. Jones UE LLWL**

We Gather In God's Presence

Prelude: The Church's One Foundation Aurelia.
Words by Samuel John Stone
Music by Samuel Wesley.

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation

Land Acknowledgement: Welcome to this third Sunday of our Easter celebration - Earth Sunday opportunity to worship. Everyone is invited to participate as they feel comfortable or led by the Spirit during our time together. We are grateful for the privilege to gather in this time and space. We pause to acknowledge our relationship to the physical places that we have gathered in and our relationship with the people who gather here and online with us.ⁱ

"It is important that we take a moment to think about the land we are located on. While we are the current stewards of this land, it was not always so. We recognize that for thousands of years before the London Township Treaty, Treaty 6, of 1796, there were already peoples here who were stewards of the land. The Anishnabewaki, the Attawandaronk, the Mississauga, and others. And before there were people, the land was. As Christians of European heritage and Indigenous peoples alike, we acknowledge that the land which sustains us all, the land on which we live and move and have our being, belongs to God our Creator."

Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: Jesus Christ, the Light of the world.

All: Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.ⁱⁱ

Gathering Chorus: MV 12 "Come Touch our Hearts" v 2&3

Words and Music by Gordon Light 2002, arr. Andrew Donaldson

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
Your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
Create a space for spirit to grow in us,
Let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.
Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason
And set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
Help us to open doors of understanding,
To welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Call to Worshipⁱⁱⁱ

One: Easter people,
we gather mired in news reports,
social media, and reels burdened with
information, worry, and stress.

**All: Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus,
we carry the weight of being overwhelmed and anxious,**

wondering who and what we can believe.

One: Even when we do not recognize the Risen One alongside us,

All: **Christ continues to travel with us on the road.**

One: Knowing the burdens we carry, he opens the Scriptures and breaks the bread.

All: **Our hearts burn within us as he speaks,
bringing us clarity and hope once again.**

One: Come, let us worship the one who makes himself known.

All: **We gather to hear his word and know his presence among us.**

One: May the good news of the Resurrection
astound us today as we come to worship God! **Amen.**

Passing the Peace of Christ (ASL): God's blessings are all around us, in all the families of the earth. Trusting that, turn now to one another and offer these words and signs:

Peace be with you. And, also, with you.

Praise Hymn VU 374 "Come and Find the Quiet Centre"

Words: Shirley Erena Murray, alt. 1989.

Music: attrib. Benjamin Franklin White, 1844; harm. Ronald A. Nelson, 1978.

Words copyright 1992 Hope Publishing Company, Harmony copyright 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress

Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see
All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,

God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,

Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun;

Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain;

Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:

There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,

In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of Wonder and of unexpected delight –

as we celebrate Christ's risen presence in Creation

we pray that you would open to us the scripture's message.

Talk to us as we journey along life's way,

meet us as we fellowship with one another,

and move in us that we may claim all your promises as our own.

Open our eyes and quicken our hearts, we ask it in Jesus' name. Amen

Call to Live With Respect

We, humans, are but one strand in a web of life, and only one being among many relations.

The land and waters are not resources to be exhausted. Serious disruption and harm has

been caused by colonization and extractivism in the material and the spiritual. We, as

followers of Christ, seek balance, the repairing of relations and to live with respect in

Creation today and for seven generations. And we call on all people to do likewise, for the

sake of Mother Earth.^{iv}

Anthem (to be sent after choir practice this evening)

A New Creed VU 918

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

We Open Ourselves to Receive God's Blessings

Prayer for illumination^v

Lord, open the Scriptures to us as you opened them on the road. Let our hearts burn with your truth. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 124 (VU pg 848)

If God had not been at our side,

now let Israel say:

If God had not been at our side

When mortals rose up against us,

Then they would have swallowed us alive,

When their fury was roused against us.

Then the flood would have swept us away,

And the torrent would have covered us.

Then the raging waters

Would have gone right over our heads.

R- Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth.

But praised be God:

Who has not given us as a prey to their teeth.

We have escaped like a bird

From a hunter's snare;

The snare is broken and we are free. R

R- Our help comes from God the maker of heaven and earth.

Scripture: Luke 24:13-47

13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; 16 but they were kept from recognizing him.

17 He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. 18 One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. 20 The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; 21 but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. 22 In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning 23 but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. 24 Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

25 He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

28 As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. 29 But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. 32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

33 They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together 34 and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." 35 Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? 39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have."

40 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. 41 And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?"

42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate it in their presence.

44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

45 Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46 He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ, a blessing for our understanding. Christ is Risen.

All: **He is risen indeed!**

*The other lectionary readings for this week are: Acts 2:14a, 36–4, Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 (VU p. 836)
1 Peter 1:17–23, Luke 24:13–35*

Sermon: “Take A Hike”

Hymn VU 182 “Stay with Us through the Night”

Words: Walter Farquharson, 1988,

Music: Ron Klusmeier, 1989;

Words copyright: 1986 Walter Farquharson. Music copyright: 1986 Ron Klusmeier

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.

Prayer of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

O God, we pray that we may never forsake the means of grace that you have granted to us -- keep us true to the way of prayer - to the reading of scripture - and to the practice of gathering in your name and of welcoming both friends and strangers into our homes and our hearts. We pray that as Christ appeared on the road to Emmaus - so he might appear to us - and through us to others -- as we share the joys and concerns we have, as we hear and speak your word, as we break bread and pray together. Lord, hear our prayer....

Lord, today we pray for those in our church and our community who are troubled and upset as were the disciples on the first Easter Day. We hold before you those who experiencing the grief of losing that which is important to them - that which has helped shape their lives - be it a job, a home, a way of life, or a loved one. Grant that they may encounter the Risen Christ and know that the future is safe in his hands.... Lord, hear our prayer...

Lord, we pray for those who reach out in our church and our community to minister to others your healing presence. We pray for those who listen -- for those who counsel - for those who share your word -- for all those who break bread with us and give you thanks. Bless them in their love that they may ever more fully experience the love that they share. Lord, hear our prayer....

Lord, we remember your Creation. All the life within it. We hold the fragility of it and grieve and hope. We pray for the caretakers – that your children will come to understand how to be good stewards of the gift you’ve given and be empowered to act. Help us see you and your sustaining love in all faces of your Creation. Lord, hear our prayer....

We ask all these things - and we give you our deepest and most profound thanks for being with us and listening to us and granting us peace - through Jesus Christ, our Risen Saviour - he who taught us to call upon you praying...

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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

We Respond To God's Grace

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

As we travel or rest, labour in the gardens or fields, spend time with strangers and friends, study or share a meal, may we always remember that God is with us and we have been blessed with so much. I invite you to share of those blessings now through gifts to this community and, through Mission and Service, our combined gifts to the world. We shall now joyfully and thankfully gift our tithes and offerings.

Offertory Hymn: VU 538 "For the Gift of Creation"

Words: Steve Garnaas-Holmes 1991. Music: Steve Garnaas-Holmes 1991; copyright 1991 Abingdon Press.

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

Prayer of Dedication^{vi}

Astounding God of the road and the table,
you walk with us even when we don't recognize you.
You speak, and our hearts burn within us.
You break the bread, and our eyes are opened.
Today, we bring these offerings as signs of our gratitude and hope.
May our giving reflect the joy of being found,
the wonder of Resurrection, and the call to share good news.
Use these gifts to kindle faith, feed the hungry,
and proclaim your presence in every Emmaus moment.
We give because we've seen you—alive, loving, and leading us still.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn VU 436 "Abide With Me" v 1, 3, 4

Words: Henry Francis Lyte, 1847 alt., Music: William Henry Monk, 1861.

Abide with me fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide;

When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
 I need your presence every passing hour;
 What but your grace can foil the tempter's power?
 Who like your self my guide and stay can be?
 Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
I have no fear with you at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting? Where grave your victory?
I triumph still, if you abide with me.

Commissioning and Benediction ^{vii}

People of the Road, rejoice, for the risen Christ is with you.
He has walked with you, opened the Word to you, and made himself known.
Bring God's love and peace to all whom you meet.
And as you go on your way, may God go with you.
May God go before you to show you the way.
May God go beside you to befriend you,
Above you to watch over,
Behind you to encourage you,
And within you to give you peace.
In the name of the Father Son and Spirit...Go in peace, now and forever. AMEN.

Sung Response: VU 962

by Miriam Terese Winter. Words: & Music © 1987 Medical Mission Sisters

May the blessing of God go before you.
May her grace and peace abound.
May her Spirit live within you.
May her love wrap you 'round.
May her blessing remain with you always.
May you walk on holy ground.
All: Hallelujah.

Postlude: Rigaudon By Andre Campra 1600-1744

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Creation Connection What projects, ministries, and events in your community that show care for creation cause your heart to burn within you?^{viii}

Spark Take a mid-week wander through the community to take pictures of places where God is at work. How are they are examples of God journeying with us in community? Like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, if we search with hearts of faith, our spirits will be opened to experience the resurrected Jesus at work in our community.^{ix}

Stewardship Seconds: April 19

With peace rooted in our own spirits, we can bloom and share ourselves with others.

Lectionary Readings:

April 19, Third Sunday of Easter – Earth Sunday

Acts 2:14a, 36–4, 1Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 (VU p. 836), 1 Peter 1:17–23, Luke 24:13–35

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ⁱⁱ Psalm 119:105 NIV

ⁱⁱⁱ Adapted from works by Jason Elder and Dr. Lisa Hancock

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^v Written by Jason Elder

^{vi} (Luke 24:13-35) <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/stories-that-matter/week-2-third-sunday-of-easter-year-a/week-2-third-sunday-of-easter-year-a-offeratory-prayer>

^{vii} Written by Jason Elder

^{viii} Written by Scott MacAuley and Judy McKelvey while at Sparling U.C., Winnipeg, Man. First published in the Gathering Lent-Easter 2014 issue. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2026, page 19. Used with permission.

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