
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



April 12, 2020 – Easter

Welcome!

Welcome to worship!

We hope it will be a quiet space for you as you prepare to spend time with God amid life's busyness and storms.

We honour each other's desire for peace as we gather.

We're glad you're here!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

VU: Voices United

MV: More Voices

* Please rise in body and/or Spirit as you are able.

We would like to acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract, traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples.

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Prelude

Opening Hymn Christ the Lord is Risen Today VU 157

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!

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!

Call to Worship *adapted from a prayer by Thom Schuman*

One: Where shattered hearts are made whole,
where wounded souls are healed,
where life is stronger than death:

All: there, the stone has been rolled away.

One: Where the lonely become our friends,
where a stranger is welcomed home,
where hope is stronger than despair,

All: there, we find Jesus walking.

One: Where closed doors cannot stop community,
where the anxious find serenity,
where love is stronger than death:

All: there, Jesus is opening our eyes.

One: The stone has been rolled away!
Jesus is our companion on the journey!
Our eyes are opened to the needs of others!

**All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!
Alleluia! Christ is with us!**

Opening Prayer *adapted from a prayer by Christine Jerrett*

One: We repeat our Easter shouts of surprise and joy
again and again, for news of your victory
over powers of worries, and fears, and evil, and death
is news so startling, so amazing
so different from the news
that bombards us day by day.

Beyond our comprehension
you startle us again and again with resurrection Life,
bringing grace and hope and joy.

You, in your risen power are shaping all our days,
and so we praise you,
source of new life. Amen

Lord's Prayer (sung)

VU 959

**All: *Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.***

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil
for the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Story Time

Hymn This Easter Celebration

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Email: carolynshymns@gmail.com New Hymns: www.carolynshymns.com/

This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.

We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.

We're distant from our neighbors — from worship leaders, too.

No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.

No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.

O God of love and promise, where's joy this Easter Day?

*With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place
we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.*

*Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room
but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.*

*Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see —
who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.*

In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:

Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.

Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!

Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.

*We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be
a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.*

*In homes and in the places of help and healing, too,
we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Minute for Mission – Easter Mystery in Extraordinary Times
(KAIROS Canada)

Readings from the Scriptures (NRSV) John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Anthem **Hallelujah Chorus and
I Know That My Redeemer Liveth**

(Handel)

Reflection **#Easterisnotcancelled**

Hymn **In Christ Alone**

*In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

*In Christ alone! - who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.*

*There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ*

*No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from his hand
Till he returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND LOVE

Invitation to Offering

(Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Offertory

* Offering Response * **Hallelujah**

*"A crown of thorns placed on his head
He knew that he would soon be dead
He said did you forget me, Father did you?
They nailed him to a wooden cross
Soon all the world would feel the loss
Of Christ the King before his hallelujah*

Hallelujah...

*He hung his head and prepared to die
Then lifted His face up to the sky
Said I am coming home now Father to you
A reed which held his final sip
Was gently lifted to his lips
He drank his last and gave his soul to glory*

Hallelujah...

*The soldier who had used his sword
To pierce the body of our Lord
Said truly this is Jesus Christ our Savior
He looked with fear upon his sword
Then turned to face his Christ and Lord
Fell to his knees crying hallelujah*

Hallelujah...

*Took from his head the thorny crown
And wrapped him in a linen gown
And laid him down to rest inside the tomb
The holes in his hands, his feet and side
Now in our hearts we know he died
To save us from ourselves oh hallelujah*

Hallelujah...

*Three days went by again they came
To move the stone to bless the slain
With oil and spice anointing hallelujah
But as they went to move the stone
They saw that they were not alone
But Jesus Christ has risen Hallelujah
Hallelujah...*

***Dedication of the Offering**

Sharing the Sacrament of Holy Communion

One: Anything can be the elements of communion this Easter Sunday. Go to your kitchen, and if you find a cookie, cracker, piece of bread, whatever you have is sacred. The same is true for that which we drink, be it your morning tea or juice or wine or water, it becomes the cup of blessing at this time. This Sunday your table at home is also Christ's table.

Welcome to tables that are spread out
across our community,
some of you will be sitting the family's antique table,
some of you may be sitting in your comfy chair with your lap
as your table.

Know that wherever you are this Sunday,
you are at Christ's table.

For Christ is in your heart, and your house.

God, sustainer of us all,
in our moments of deep fears, we praise and thank you,
that through the creating spirit of this earth,
and through your word,
we are welcomed at this table in prayer,
praise and thanksgiving.

For the goodness of the earth, the space of creation,
in the glory of redemptive powers,
we praise your unending dancing spirit.

Invite us now, the call of your prophets,
enlighten us, with the knowledge of your disciples,

and bring us unto the place of understanding
with all in our community.

As we see that which is unseen,
as we remind ourselves of our faithful journey,
in this time of thanksgiving and praise. Amen

Prayer of Consecration (from 'Celebrate God's Presence')

On the last night he spent with his friends,
Jesus took an age-old tradition of his people
and transformed it into something new.
He took bread, staple food of his land,
blessed and broke it, and gave it to those around him saying,
"Take, eat, this is my body, broken for you.
Whenever you do this, remember me."
After supper he took a cup of wine,
common drink of his people,
and gave it to them, saying,
"Drink this, all of you, this is the new covenant in my blood.
Each time you do this, remember me."
By remembering Jesus in this way now,
we claim our common heritage
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.
Send, O covenant God, your Holy Spirit
upon us and what we do here,
that we and these gifts, empowered by your Spirit,
may become signs of shalom
to one another and to all peoples of the earth.
Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours everywhere, now and forever. Amen.

Sharing of the Elements

I invite you now to pick up the bread of belonging, may we
as community share in this feast, together.

I invite you now to pick up the cup of blessing, may we as
community share in this feast, together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of great wisdom and love,

You know that Christ's enduring love is not limited by walls,
you have taught us that we may be in community even when
we cannot touch flesh to flesh.

God of infinite time and space,

Let us not be bound by the understandings
that we have put in place in our lives,
instead may we remind ourselves
that your great creation is how we must
commune on a daily basis.

May we build right relationships with all our relations,
even in the midst of the pandemic we are facing,
may the bread of belonging sustain us,
may the cup of blessing nourish us,
and may we work to find refuge in the healing spirit that
moves amongst us. Amen.

WE GO OUT TO LOVE AND SERVE OTHERS

* **Closing Hymn** **Thine is the Glory** VU 173

*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.*

Refrain *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. Refrain*

*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. Refrain*

Commissioning *adapted from a prayer by Dr. Cliff Elliott*

One: Go forth into the world with a daring and tender love,
go in peace – the world is waiting.
The world needs a message of life,
now more than ever.
And whatever you do, do it for love,
and in the spirit of Jesus – who is your Christ! Amen.

One: Jesus Christ is Risen!

All: **He is Risen indeed!**

*** Choral Benediction**

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid

God will go with you each hour of every day

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe

Reach out to others so all the world can see

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith and in love.

("Go Now in Peace" Written by Besig & Price ©1988)

*Please remain seated in silence as we conclude
our service with the postlude.*

Postlude