
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



April 9, 2023 – Easter Sunrise Service
Worship Leader: Rev. Chris Fickling

Welcome to worship!
We're glad you're here!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S HOPE

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

Opening Reading

written by Ann Siddall

We are not eye-witnesses to an event,
as were Mary and the disciples;
we have not journeyed through a dangerous city
to seek answers or consolation;
we have not seen angels
gathering at the rim of this day,
or wept in the garden this morning
because we could not find him.

But we are here to attest to a story that has not lost
its power during twenty centuries
of change and conflict.

We are here because those before us
carried this story as if it were precious gold;
cherished it as if it were
the key to a hidden wisdom.

The women bore the story first for us,
and though all doubted, they persisted.

Friends, family in Christ, take your places here today
in celebration and in awe.

What you are about to hear again,
has the capacity to change the world.
Your very presence attests to the rising up of life
from the tomb of despair,
and to the uncontrollable power of God.

It is Easter morning again: and we have the
responsibility to share this gospel of life.

Opening Hymn Christ the Lord is Risen Today

**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!**

**2 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!**

Scripture

Luke 24:1-12

¹⁻³ At the crack of dawn on Sunday, the women came to the tomb carrying the burial spices they had prepared. They found the entrance stone rolled back from the tomb, so they walked in. But once inside, they couldn't find the body of Jesus. ⁴⁻⁸ They were puzzled, wondering what to make of this. Then, out of nowhere it seemed, two men, light cascading over them, stood there. The women were awestruck and bowed down in worship. The men said, "Why are you looking for the Living One in a cemetery? He is not here, but raised up. Remember how he told you when you were still back in Galilee that he had to be handed over to sinners, be killed on a cross, and in three days rise up?" Then they remembered Jesus' words. ⁹⁻¹¹ They left the tomb and broke the news of all this to the Eleven and the rest. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them kept telling these things to the apostles, but the apostles didn't believe a word of it, thought they were making it all up. ¹² But Peter jumped to his feet and ran to the tomb. He stooped to look in and saw a few grave clothes, that's all. Peter walked away puzzled, shaking his head.

An Affirmation of Faith

One: Risen Christ, when darkness overwhelms us

All: may your dawn beckon.

One: When fear stops us in our tracks

All: may your touch release us.

One: When grief torments us

All: may your peace enfold us.

One: When memories haunt us

All: may your presence heal us.

One: When justice fails us

All: may your anger ignite us.

One: When apathy stagnates us

All: may your challenge renew us.

One: When courage leaves us

All: may your spirit inspire us.

One: When despair grips us

All: may your hope restore us.

One: And when death threatens us

All: may resurrection bloom into new life again.

Again, and again, and again.

Hymn

Morning Has Broken

***Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.***

***Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!***

***Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.***

***Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.***

***Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!***

***Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!***

Flowering the Cross

The flowering of the cross has been traced back to the 6th century. It is an especially striking and beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from Jesus's death on Good Friday. Traditionally before the Easter Sunday service, the cross is covered with real flowers and the top draped in white. The entire cross is covered with flowers and is placed prominently at the front of the church to symbolize the new life in our risen Lord to all the worshippers present on Easter Sunday morning. The contrast between the starkly bare cross that worshippers have seen and the living flower cross of Easter Sunday dramatically and visually represents the new life that we are celebrating after witnessing the very instrument of death and endings transformed by Christ's rising.

Where in your life, do you need new life to bloom?

Sharing Communion

from A Song of Faith, UCC 2006.

The Risen Christ lives today,
present to us and the source of our hope.
In response to who Jesus was
and to all he did and taught,
to his life, death, and resurrection,
and to his continuing presence with us through the
Spirit, we celebrate him as the Word made flesh,
the one in whom God and humanity are perfectly
joined, the transformation of our lives,
the Christ.

In grateful response to God's abundant love,
we bear in mind our integral connection
to the earth and one another;

we participate in God's work of healing and mending creation.

To point to the presence of the holy in the world, the church receives, consecrates, and shares visible signs of the grace of God.

In company with the churches of the Reformed and Methodist traditions, we celebrate two sacraments as gifts of Christ: baptism and holy communion.

In these sacraments the ordinary things of life—water, bread, wine—point beyond themselves to God and God's love, teaching us to be alert to the sacred in the midst of life.

Breaking the Bread and Sharing the Cup

Blessing

written by Christine Jerett

One: This is the day that you have made
O God, where life fills in the places of death,
where love heals broken hearts
where you are felt as easily as sun on skin.
We thank you, you have filled this moment
with signs of your presence;
your Spirit's breath permeates every moment;
your grace fills each experience;
your promises move within us,
pulling us toward hope.

Receive our thanks.

Receive our praise, through Christ our Lord
for in his love we know your deep love
your faithfulness, your grace.

Receive our joy, for he is Risen.

All: He is risen indeed!

Closing Hymn This is the Day

***This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made, that our God has made;
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,
and be glad in it, and be glad in it.***


***This is the day that our God has made,
we will rejoice and be glad in it.***

***This is the day, this is the day
that our God has made.***

***You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name, we will praise your name;
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,
for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.***

***You are our God, we will praise your name,
we will give thanks for your faithfulness.***

***You are our God, you are our God,
we will praise your name.***



**HE IS
RISEN
INDEED!**

***In memory of Family and Friends,
flowers have been placed in the sanctuary by:***

Barb Adams
Ena Arnot
Jim & Teresa Carse
Linda Dawson
Bill & Dianne Dyck
Nancy Ebel & Family
Maize Evers
Dorothy Hibbard
Terry & Sandra Jardine
Beverly Houston
Joan Kaehler
Joan McNeil
Norma Mosgrove
Cindy Munteer
Cecil & Jan Omand
Lynda Perkes
Des & Debbie Rice
Doug & Alison Riddell
Evelyn Shantz
Donna & Ralph Szilock
Maria Taylor
Neil Taylor
Bernice Uebele
Don & Anne Willcox
Carol Wilson
Ted Youngs & Family



FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

- Apr. 11 **Exec. Board Meeting** Rainbow Room 7 pm
- Apr. 13 **Choir**– Rainbow Room 7:30 pm
- Apr. 16 **Earth Day Service** 10:30 am
- Apr. 21 **Confirmation** 5-6:30 pm Rainbow Room
- Apr. 23 **69th Anniversary Service**
Stay for **Gather, Gab & Mingle** after the Service
- Apr. 24 **UCW Meeting**: Long Sunday School Room at 7 pm
- Apr. 26 **Faith Study** “Esther” 1pm or 7pm, Parlour
- May 6 **SJR Garage Sale** – see details on bulletin board

Check the bulletin boards and visit www.sjruc.ca for upcoming events.