



**April 12, 2020  
Easter Sunday**

*A family of faith ministering together  
in the name of Jesus Christ*

**Ministers: Each of us Assisted by Rev. Mark Perry**

**Organist: Kathy Limon**

### **We Gather In God's Presence**

#### **Gathering In Song VU 175 "This Is The Day That God Has Made"**

**R** This is the day that God has made!  
Rejoice! Rejoice, and be exceeding glad!  
This is the day that God has made!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!

**1** Christ has conquered death at last,  
left the tomb that held him fast!  
Gone the sorrow, gone the night,  
dawns the morning clear and bright! **R**

**2** Jesus lives who once was dead,  
lives forever, as he said!  
Risen now our Saviour, King;  
songs of gladness let us sing! **R**

#### **Call to Worship**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

This day God calls us to be people of the resurrection!  
Let us take our place in the procession of all who have celebrated  
Christ's resurrection throughout the centuries.

**Amen! Alleluia!**

**Let us live out the power of Christ raised from the dead.**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Let us worship the Lord our God!

**Amen**

#### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

**\*Hymn VU 157 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"**

#### **Opening Prayer** *(unison)*

Lord most Holy, it was love that kept you on the cross, and it was love that raised you from the dead. When you rolled away the stone, you revealed the death of death and the birth of everlasting life. Yet even on this festival day, even in the midst of our celebration, we pray for forgiveness: we have been slow to live as children of the resurrection, slow to live by faith, slow to forgive others, slow to love. Free us from our tombs, that we too may live again; live as your children; living lives of faithfulness, love, justice, peace, and joy. In the name of the one who died, and is alive forevermore. Amen.

## **We Are Blessed By God**

### **Psalm: 118:1-2, 14-24**

#### A Song of Victory

<sup>1</sup> O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever!

<sup>2</sup> **Let Israel say,  
“His steadfast love endures forever.”**

<sup>14</sup> The LORD is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> **There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:  
“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;**

<sup>16</sup> the right hand of the LORD is exalted;  
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly.”

<sup>17</sup> **I shall not die, but I shall live,  
and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> The LORD has punished me severely,  
but he did not give me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> **Open to me the gates of righteousness,  
that I may enter through them  
and give thanks to the LORD.**

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the LORD;  
the righteous shall enter through it.

<sup>21</sup> **I thank you that you have answered me  
and have become my salvation.**

<sup>22</sup> The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.

<sup>23</sup> **This is the LORD’s doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

<sup>24</sup> This is the day that the LORD has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

### **Gospel Lesson: Matthew 28:1-10**

#### The Resurrection of Jesus

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup>His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup>For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup>But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup>Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup>So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup>Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup>Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

**Youtube Video:** The Roedean School Virtual Choir - Hallelujah

**Meditation:** “Solitary or Communal?”

**Hymn: VU 158** “Christ Is Alive”

- 1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
- 2 Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.
- 3 In every insult, rift, and war,  
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.
- 4 Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
- 5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

People of the first day, lift up your hearts!

The God of early mornings be with you, **and also with you.**

**We lift them to the One who makes every day Easter.**

People of Easter joy, give thanks to the One who is your salvation.

**We offer our hallelujahs to the God of steadfast love.**

We lift our praise to you, Gardener of Creation. On the first day, your Light split the shadows of chaos, and all goodness flowed forth. Gently and tenderly, you gathered up the dust of the earth and shaped us into your image. But the day came when we chose to run away from you, preferring our petty schemes to your dreams for us. You sang to us through the prophets, hoping we would join you in the heavenly chorus. But we kept silent, believing our wisdom was far superior to your love. And when we dug our heels in through blind stubbornness, refusing to follow you, you became one of us that you might lead us back to you. Therefore we join our glad songs of Easter with those in every time and in every place, who sing to you their praise: **Rejoice, heavenly powers!**

**Sing, choirs of angels! Jesus Christ, our Lord, is risen!**

You alone are holy, Steadfast God, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. God's true Light, he wandered the shadows of hell to bring us out; God's own Beloved, he endured our sin, to heal us forever; God's own Glory, he went into the grave, that we might enter the gates of righteousness. As we remember you raising him from the dead and giving us life, we proclaim our faith:

**Sin is conquered; death is defeated; Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Here at this Table we are nourished by your steadfast love, God. As you pour out your Spirit upon the bread and the cup, fill us with the grace of Jesus. As we have been raised to new life, may we reach out to those who have fallen; as we have been healed, may we care for those who are ill (especially we think of Ron Dickie, Bob Nunn, .... And their loved ones and caregivers, and those known only in the silence of our own hearts.....); as we have been fed, may we fill the hunger of the world; as we have been comforted, may we comfort those who mourn (especially we think the friends and family of ); as we have seen the empty tomb, may we bear witness to the presence of the Risen Lord in our lives. Then, when we are united with all the saints, may we gather around your Table, one people, lifting our voices in praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. We continue praying, saying the words that Jesus taught us,

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 sins,  
as we forgive those who sin 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.

### **Prayer after Communion** (*unison*)

Gracious God, may your gifts of love transform and enliven us that we may live lives of thanksgiving. May your presence among us provoke such longing for your realm, that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows your justice, your peace, and your love. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

### **Minute for Mission**



A client receives medical treatment at Our Place, Victoria, BC.

*Credit:  
Our Place*

A Mission & Service–supported community centre serving Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable, Our Place is bracing for COVID-19 to strike. Grant McKenzie, the Communications Director at Our Place, predicts that more support from paramedics will be needed in the near future if the virus spreads.

“This population is especially vulnerable to being hit extremely hard by COVID-19 because so many of them already have underlying health issues. When you struggle every day, wondering where you’re going to sleep at night and where your next meal is coming from, you only access health services when it’s life or death,” says McKenzie. “By protecting the underserved community, we protect everybody in the community. It’s so very easy for our delicate health system to become overrun—and if COVID-19 runs amok in this population, we’ll hit the tipping point that much harder.”

For over 50 years, Our Place has served Greater Victoria’s most vulnerable people: working poor, impoverished elderly, mentally and physically challenged, addicted, and homeless. Even though Our Place has had to close its drop-in space, computer lab, and courtyard area in order to comply with provincial health guidelines, it continues to help those who rely on their services.

“There is a lot of fear around what happens when this virus makes its way to the people we serve. But our dedicated staff isn’t about to abandon them. We know that there is going to be so much help that our family members need, especially when it comes to nutrition, hygiene, and a place to live. While we have had to close access to the building, we are still serving up to 1,400 meals a day, handing out 1,200 bottles of water, and offering paramedic services. We are working hard,” says McKenzie.

Your gifts through Mission & Service mean that people who are especially vulnerable can access life-saving services through organizations like Our Place. Thank you!

### **Our Offering in Support of God’s Mission**

Truly I say to you, God has done marvelous things. God created the heavens and the earth. God created life, in all its myriad forms. God has reached out, and continues to reach out to us, seeking to be in relationship with us. God has blessed us in word, and at God’s table. And so it is, with joy and gratitude in our hearts, we respond to God with offerings of our own. What we offer most, is our commitment and support for the work of Christ’s mission in this world.

May all that we offer bring light to those in the shadows, laughter to all who mourn, and hope to those longing for new life. Amen.

### **We Go Forth, Serving God**

#### **\*Hymn VU 173 “Thine Is the Glory”**

- 1 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.  
Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
- 2 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. **R**
- 3 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. **R**

#### **\*Commissioning and Benediction**

Go forth and live in the power of the resurrection

**In the name of the God who makes us,  
In the name of the Christ who makes us free,  
And in the name of the Spirit who makes us one.**

Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed.**

**\*Sung Response: "Go Now In Peace"**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know He 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 supporting us with love.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

**Announcements.....**

Next Sunday, April 19, the second Sunday of Easter, is Holy Humour Sunday.

Those wishing to send your offering to Berniece, here is her address

Union United Church  
c/o Berniece Lidster  
46810 Martyn Line  
Sparta, ON N0L 2H0

If you prefer to donate your offering electronically, there is a "donate now" button on our website at:  
[www.unionunitedchurch.ca](http://www.unionunitedchurch.ca)

Just complete the form and submit. You may choose "now" or "monthly".

**Fundscrip Fund raiser.**

Heather has reported that she should be receiving a cheque from Fundscrip for \$250 for the first quarter. That is great news and this means that we are right where Berniece budgeted. Unfortunately, Fundscrip is now on hold because of social distancing and self-isolation.