



**April 26, 2020
Third Sunday of Easter**

*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

Lighting the Christ Candle

Gathering In Song MV 8 "And on This Path"

And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!

So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!
The gates are open wide!

Birthdays, Celebrations, and Life and Work of the Congregation – see last page ...

Call to Worship

When we allow fear to paralyze us:

You are with us, whispering messages of hope in our ears.

When we are stricken with despair:

You open our minds to your truth.

When we know not which way to turn, or what to do next:

You send us out, to make your dominion a reality in the world.

***Hymn VU 164 "The Day of Resurrection"**

- 1 The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness, the passover of God!
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.
- 2 Our hearts be free of evil, that we may see aright
the Christ in rays eternal of resurrection light,
and, listening to the accents, may hear so calm and plain
Christ's own 'All hail!' and, hearing, may raise
the victor strain.
- 3 Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the round world keep high triumph, and all that
is therein;
let all things seen and unseen their notes
of gladness blend,
for Christ indeed is risen, our Joy that has no end.

Opening Prayer *(unison)*

Son of God, Son of Man, your hands healed the sick, fed the hungry and raised the dead; your feet, tired and dusty, carried you to those who could not come to you; yet all we see are the scars made by the nails used to crucify you. We are afraid that we too will be hurt and carry scars if we follow in your footsteps, and so we leave worship on Sundays and go back to our old lives on Mondays. Lift the veils covering our minds, open the shutters closing in our hearts, replace our timidity with boldness, that we may go out and share with the world the great love that you have for all people; that we may go out and serve the sick, the hungry, the broken, the ostracized; that we may go out and proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. Amen.

We Are Blessed By God

Prayer Requests and Thanksgivings

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

& The Lord's Prayer *(spoken)*

Merciful and loving God, we come into your presence today hoping in some way to experience for ourselves the truth of your resurrection. Gather up our lingering fears and confusion, meet our doubts with compassion and understanding. Open our eyes to your love and grace surrounding us. Open our ears to hear you calling us to new challenges. Open our imaginations to new possibilities. Accept our thanksgiving as we acknowledge some of the blessings we are aware of...health care workers, retail workers, truck drivers, farmers, food processing workers, shelf stockers, Come anew to all who have been unable to believe....

come anew to all who have known you but turned away from you....

come anew to all the peoples of this world, who are one family, especially we think of the people of Mongolia, and the 'stans' – Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

Come with compassion to those who mourn, especially the friends and family of.....

....and the people of Nova Scotia.

Come with healing and comfort to those who are ill or dying, awaiting medical treatment or recovering from medical intervention, especially ...

Come with renewed faith and renewed hope for those who are struggling with unwelcome change, especially we think of

Help us, all of us, to experience you standing in our midst, saying, "Peace be with you." May our broken world and our broken lives be transformed in your image. We offer woundedness and turn to you for healing and newness of life, for you, O God, are our strength, our hope, and our salvation. Amen.

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.

Minute for Mission

Access to Clean Water

Water is sacred—a gift of the Creator and a source of life. Clean water is a cornerstone of public health and a fundamental human right. In 2015, United Nations member states established 17 goals essential to sustainable development. The sixth goal is the availability of clean water for all.

Access to safe drinking water is one of today's most pressing environmental issues. Large numbers of people have no access to water and lack adequate sanitation to keep water sources clean. According to UN statistics, millions of people die every year from diseases associated with inadequate water supply, sanitation, and hygiene. More than two billion people are currently living with the risk of reduced access to freshwater resources. By 2050, at least one in four people is likely to be affected by a chronic shortage of fresh water.

The United Church of Canada, as a member of the World Council of Churches, joined with other churches in the Ecumenical Water Network, a Mission & Service partner. The EWN brings churches together in faith-based advocacy for the preservation, responsible management, and the equitable distribution of water for all. On-the-ground Mission & Service partners like People's Action Forum in Zambia and the Moravian Church in Nicaragua play important roles in establishing community access to water—from digging boreholes to providing training on pump maintenance and protection of the water supply.

Your gifts to Mission & Service help bring the provision of clean water to all people closer to reality.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Invitation to Invest in God's Mission

During these difficult times we continue to meet screen to screen; to work against social isolation as best we can while maintaining physical distancing; to study; to worship and pray; and to reach out beyond the bounds of our congregation. Your offerings make it possible for us to continue to be witnesses for God, to demonstrate God's love by caring and sharing and challenging that which diminishes life. May our offerings today witness our commitment to be faithful witnesses for God.

Psalm 116

Thanksgiving for Recovery from Illness

**¹ I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.**

² Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

**³ The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.**

⁴ Then I called on the name of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray, save my life!"

**⁵ Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.**

⁶ The LORD protects the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.

**⁷ Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.**

⁸ For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.

⁹ I walk before the LORD

in the land of the living.

¹⁰ I kept my faith, even when I said,
“I am greatly afflicted”;

**¹¹ I said in my consternation,
“Everyone is a liar.”**

¹² What shall I return to the LORD
for all his bounty to me?

**¹³ I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD,**

¹⁴ I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.

**¹⁵ Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his faithful ones.**

¹⁶ O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your serving girl.
You have loosed my bonds.

**¹⁷ I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice
and call on the name of the LORD.**

¹⁸ I will pay my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,

**¹⁹ in the courts of the house of the LORD,
in your midst, O Jerusalem.**

Praise the LORD!

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” ¹⁹ He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. ²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he

vanished from their sight. ³²They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" ³³That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*For those of you who are interested, the other readings for this week are **Acts 2:14a, 36-41** and **1 Peter 1:17-23**. You can look them up on www.biblegateway.com and search for the passage.....in any translation you prefer (ie. King James - KJV, NRSV, etc.)*

***Hymn VU 184** "As We Walked Home at Close of Day" *to tune*

- 1 As we walked home at close of day,
a stranger joined us on our way.
He heard us speak of one who'd gone,
and when we stopped, he carried on.
- 2 'Why wander further without light?
Please stay with us this troubled night.
We've shared the truth of how we feel
and now would like to share a meal.'
- 3 We sat to eat our simple spread,
then watched the stranger take the bread;
and, as he said the blessing prayer,
we knew that someone else was there.
- 4 No stranger he; it was our eyes
which failed to see, in stranger's guise,
the Lord who, risen from the dead,
met us when ready to be fed.
- 5 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
As Mary and our sisters said,
the Lord is risen from the dead!

Meditation: "Tipping Point"

We Go Forth, Serving God

***Hymn VU 169** "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing"

- 1 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our King!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 2 The Lord of life is risen today!
Bring flowers of song, bedeck the way;
let every tongue rejoice and say:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

- 3 Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!

***Commissioning and Benediction**

Like the woman who ran to share the Good News of the empty tomb,
let us go forth with joy.

Like the travellers walking on the Emmaus Road,
let us go forth with opened hearts and opened eyes.

Like the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit, **let us go forth with peace.**

Like Thomas, filled with doubt, **let us go forth in faith.**

Like fishers pulling heavy nets, **let us go forth with abundant life.**

And may the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit go with us all. **Amen.**

***Sung Response: VU 884 "You Shall Go Out with Joy"**

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands
(clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.

Announcements.....

Study Group: 'The Lord's Prayer' meets Tuesdays at 7 pm. If you'd like to join,
please contact Rev. Mark at revcmarkperry@gmail.com

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

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