

First United Church

April 9, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday



Purpose: Building Relationships,
Living God's Transforming Love.

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- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Prelude Intonations on Hymns for the Easter Season
Brigham Phillips, Trumpet

David Lasky

Listening as we Gather

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

One: We begin our service with gratitude and respect as we remember together that this land, this planet is sacred. We are on holy ground.

All: Earth is our only home, and we are related to it as part of the web of life.

One: We lament that we have not honoured our deep relationship with the earth. The climate crisis is one result of our overconsumption and wastefulness. We commit to learning and practicing better care for the earth.

For thousands of years, Indigenous people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and their spirituality. We are gathered on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, Chonnoton, and Anishinaabe and acknowledge their stewardship of the land throughout the ages. We lament that we have not honoured their ways, nor their spirituality and we all live with the consequences.

All: We seek to live into right relationship with all Indigenous people with whom we share the land. We commit to listening to and respecting their wisdom.

One: We aspire to create a safer space for everyone. We welcome you and the gifts you bring as part of your sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, race, cultural background or abilities.

Opportunities for Ministry and Fellowship

- **Introit** Halle, Halle, Halle

VU 958

Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

Call to Worship

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed, Hallelujah!

One: We are all invited to witness to and partake in the Rising.

All: May new life rise among and within us. Thanks be to God whose love is found in the rising.

- **Opening Hymn** Jesus Christ is Risen Today VU 155
Handbell Choir & Brigham Phillips, Trumpet

Prayer of Approach

Listening For God's Word

A Story for the Young at Heart

Readings from Our Tradition

Jeremiah 31: 1-6 (Reader: Ken Mott)

One: Herein is wisdom..

All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 118 (Parts 1,2 & 3) VU 837

John 20: 1-18

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Ministry of Music: I Know That My Redeemer Lives arr. Hal Hopson
Gallery Choir

Sermon: Who are you looking for?

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Offertory Ode to Joy
Brigham Phillips, Trumpet

David Lansky

• **Communion Hymn** We Gather Here

VU 469

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: God is with us.

All: God is within us.

One: Open your hearts.

All: They are open in sacred celebration.

One: Let us give thanks.

All: It is good and right to give thanks to God.

Another: Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of life, Source of love. With your breath, you formed all that we are and all that is beyond us; the heavens tell your glory. Through fear-filled days and aching nights when the powers of death have done their worst, your love has never deserted us. Even when we turn away from you, you are with us; your presence never fails us, your gifts of hope and new life transform us. We praise you for Jesus Christ, risen to life, eternal as your love. And so, with the risen Christ, who makes all things new by the power of his resurrection, we join in the song of a new day to sing your praise:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy (note: ELLACOMBE)

MV 203

One: Let us remember together that vision of God's kingdom shown to us in Jesus at table:

All: he shared food with followers and friends, with saints and those who some called sinners, with crowds of thousands on the hillside, and a few friends in an upper room.

Another: On the night before he died, he had supper with his companions. He took a loaf of bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to them saying: "Take, eat. Do this in remembrance of me." Then he took a cup, after

giving thanks, he passed it among them, saying: "Drink this. Do this in remembrance of me."

All: Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us. In word and deed, Jesus lives among us.

One: Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ, we offer you our praise, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Sing Christ has died and Christ has risen. (note: ELLACOMBE) MV 204

One: We pray you, God of Love, send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we, and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other and to all the world.

Another: At this time, we also remember all those with whom you would have us share this feast. We pray for all who are in sorrow or pain ... all who are ill or alone... all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger ... all whom the world counts as last and least ... We pray for your church; our sisters, brothers, and siblings around the world ... for the nations as they strive for peace and justice ... for the earth, and the fragile web of life we share ... for our families and friends ...

All: Praise be to God, the source of love! Praise be to Christ, Love incarnate! Praise be to the Spirit, Love's power! Praise be to God.

All: Great Amen (note: ELLACOMBE)

MV 205

Paraphrase of the Lord's Prayer.

***Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:***

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever.

Amen.

Breaking of the Bread and Pouring the Wine

Sharing the bread and wine

Music during Communion: Long Ago and Far away MV 195
(congregation join in as you are able.)

Prayer after Communion:

All: We give you thanks that bread broken brings wholeness; that wine pored out replenishes; that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another is gift and grace. May we share this gift and grace with all whom we encounter. Amen

• **Hymn** Thine Is The Glory VU 173
Handbell Choir, Brigham Phillips, Trumpet

Sending Forth & Benediction

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: Trumpet Voluntary Jeremiah Clarke
Brigham Phillips, Trumpet