

# First United Church

---

April 16, 2023

10:30 a.m.

**Second Sunday of Easter**



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

16 William Street West,  
Waterloo ON N2L 1J3

Office: 519-745-8487 x 201

Email: [office@firstunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@firstunitedchurch.ca)

Web Site: [www.firstunitedchurch.ca](http://www.firstunitedchurch.ca)

Chair of the Board: [firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com](mailto:firstunitedboardchair@gmail.com)

- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

**Handbell Prelude:** Procession on ST THEODULPH & ELLACOMBE

Michael Helman

## *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**                      This is the Day That God Has Made  
(Refrain, vs. 1, Refrain)

VU 175

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word**

**Call to Worship** (Acts 2, Psalm 16)

One: Our hearts are glad!

**All: Our souls rejoice!**

One: For you do not abandon me.

**All: Presence has been restored.**

One: I have been shown the path of life

**All: In you there is Refuge**

One: You are our God; Blessed is your name!

**All: Let us Worship you this Day!**

- **Opening Hymn** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

VU 232

**Prayer of Approach**

Stand among us once again, risen Christ, we pray  
and bless us with your greeting: "Peace be with you."

Stand among us once again, Exalted One  
and breathe upon us your promised Spirit.

Stand among us once again, You Whom Death has touched  
and give us new birth into your living hope. Amen.

**Ministry of Music:** God is Always With Me  
I Can do All Things  
Family Choir; Isaac Morland, piano

B. Mayo & L. Bailey  
M. Burrows

## *Listening For God's Word*

**Readings from Our Tradition**

**Responsive Psalm 16** VU page 738 (Reader: Rick Chambers)

**John 20: 19-29 (CEB)**

**One:** This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

**All: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Ministry of Music:** Hymn of Promise (In the Bulb, there is a Flower)  
Handbell Choir *N. Sleeth/arr. M. L. Thompson*

**Sermon:** Doubt as a Spiritual Practice

- **Hymn** Why Must Doubt Be Such A Bad Thing.  
*"Copyright 2019 Stephen M. Fearing | www.stephenmfearing.com"*

## *Responding to God's Word*

### Time of Offering

**Offertory** Let Us Rejoice! Cynthia Dobrinski

- **Dedication of Offering** What Can I Do? MV 191

### Offering Dedication

God of great mercy, accept our offerings, given out of what is more precious than gold— our faith in you, giver of hope and life.

And through these gifts, reveal the risen Christ in acts of mercy, love, and joy. Amen.

**Call to Prayer** May Peace Be with You MV 168

### Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

- **Sending Hymn** Crown Him with Many Crowns VU 211

- **Sending Forth & Benediction**

In great mercy, God has given us a new birth into a living hope, for it is the risen Christ who stands in our midst and says, "Peace be with you!"

**All: We go forth to walk the path of new life and living hope.**

**And may the peace of the risen Christ be with us!**

One: God Blesses you, and keeps you. God's face shines upon you, and it is for this reason that the Peace of Christ is with us all. AMEN

- **Response** (After Benediction) May the God of Peace MV 224

### Recession of the Light and Word

**Postlude:** Hymn to Joy *arr. James Mansfield*