

First United Church

April 23, 2023

10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter



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

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- Is a request to stand in body or in spirit

Prelude We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight

arr. James Biery

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** Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom (vs. 1) MV 10

Lighting of the Christ Candle and procession of the Word

Call to Worship

ONE: Sometimes good things are right in front of us and we don't see them.

ALL: Our fears and our prejudices blind us.

ONE: Open your eyes this day to see the goodness of the Lord.

ALL: Open our hearts, gracious God, to receive your blessings.

ONE: Hallelujah!

ALL: Hallelujah!

• **Opening Hymn** Christ is Alive

VU 158

Prayer of Approach

We need your presence on the long road, Lord.

The road between fear and hope,
the road between the place where all is lost
and the place of resurrection.

Like the disciples walking the road to Emmaus,
we are in need of your company!

Jesus, stand among us, in your risen power,
let this time of worship, be a hallowed hour.

Listening For God's Word

Readings from Our Tradition

Responsive Psalm 116: (page VU 836)

(Reader: Doug Facey)

Luke 24:13-45 Common English Bible

One: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ,

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Ministry of Music: A Celtic Prayer

Barry Peters

Sermon: Hearts on Fire

Rev. Jenn Hind-Urquhart

• **Hymn** We are Pilgrims on a Journey

VU 595

Responding to God's Word

Time of Offering

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Jesus Stand Among Us

CASWALL, arr. M. Archer

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

Call to Prayer Come and Fill Our Hearts

MV 16

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

- **Sending Hymn** As We Walked Home at Close of Day VU 184

- **Sending Forth & Benediction**

Go now as witnesses of God's eternal presence.

The risen Christ has made himself known to you

in the breaking of bread, so set your faith and hope on God,

And may God hear and respond whenever you call;

may Christ Jesus make himself known to you in all things;

and may the Holy Spirit open your eyes and set your hearts on fire with love.

**All: We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
...In the name of Christ.**

God Blesses You, God Keeps You, God's Face is Forever Shining Upon you,
and it is for this Reason the Peace of Christ is with us all. Amen.

- **Response** May the God of Peace MV 224

Recession of the Light and Word

Postlude: Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

TRURO, J. Wayne Kerr