



## Announcements

Reverend Jan

## Words of Welcome

## Theme Introduction

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

## Call to Worship

Reverend Jan

When doors were shut and the world was kept out,  
**resurrection found the disciples.**

When the church gathers,

**resurrection finds us.**

When fear grew and new questions arose,

**resurrection found the disciples.**

When faith leads us into new questions about life,

**resurrection finds us.**

When grief remained and the city was hostile,

**resurrection found the disciples.**

When Christ gathers with his followers in living worship,

**resurrection finds us.**

**Come, let us worship our life-giving God!**

## Opening Prayer

**Lord Jesus, help me to see you alive and present within my experience,**

**within my delights and successes and celebrations,**

**within my fears and disappointments and doubts,**

**within all the ordinary moments and movements of my life.**

**Help me to know you**

**as Light that no darkness can put out,**

**as Peace that no storm can steal,**

**as Joy that no sorrow can drown,**

**as Life that no death can kill,**

**as Love that no evil can defeat.**

**Lord Jesus, help me to see you and know you,  
to love you and trust you day by day.**

**Amen**

**Hymn:** O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing (lyrics for the second Sunday of Easter on the top of the next page) vu: 170

## **Seeking to Grow Spiritually**

**Prayer for Illumination**

Morgan Perigo

**Let us pray:**

God, we come to you as we are,  
with both our doubts and our faith.  
Show us your path, as we reflect on your Word.  
Be present with us,  
that we may know your truth  
and find life and joy in your ways.  
Open our hearts and inspire our minds  
through the words of scripture.  
For you are, our refuge and our hope.

Amen

**Hebrew Testament Reading**

**New Revised Standard Version**

**Psalms 16: 7-11**

I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;  
in the night also my heart instructs me.  
<sup>8</sup>I keep the Lord always before me;  
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.  
<sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;  
my body also rests secure.  
<sup>10</sup>For you do not give me up to Sheol  
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

<sup>11</sup> You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;

in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

## **Gospel Reading**

## **New Revised Standard Version**

### **John 20: 19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup> When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin<sup>[a]</sup>), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup> A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup> But these are written so that you may continue<sup>[b]</sup> to believe that Jesus is

the Messiah, [\[C\]](#) the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.**

**Herein is Wisdom.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Amen**

**Choir Anthem**      A Channel of God's Love      by B. Harlan

**Message**      What Proof Do We Need?      Reverend Jan

**Hymn**      Jesus, Stand Among Us      VU: 396

### **Responding In Care**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Doxology**      In Gratitude and Humble Trust      VU: 544

**Offering Prayer**

**God of Life, we have not seen you,  
yet we respond in faith as we make our offerings today.  
We believe that everything shall be made new again.  
Let our offerings,  
our generosity and our commitment,  
be part of the remaking of your world.  
Use us, with all our doubts and questions,  
to proclaim this simple truth to the world:  
your message of love, forgiveness and hope. Amen**

## **Pastoral Prayers**

**Lord's Prayer** (A New Zealand Aboriginal version)

**O most Compassionate Life-giver,  
may we honor and praise you;  
May we work with you to establish**

**your new order of justice peace and love;  
Give us what we need for growth,  
And help us, through forgiving others,**

**to accept forgiveness.**

**Strengthen us in the time of testing,**

**that we may resist all evil,**

**For all tenderness, strength and love are yours, now and  
forever.**

**Amen**

## **Reaching Out In Love**

**Closing Hymn**                      Forth In Your Name, O Christ    VU: 416

**Commissioning**

**Extinguishing the Christ Candle**

**Benediction**

**Three-fold Amen**

**Postlude**

**Worship Resources:** *Gathering Magazine Lent/Easter, 2026 Year A*  
(page 18,39-48); *Abingdon Worship Annual 2026* (pages 84-88);  
*Feasting On the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, Year*

*A, Volume 2 (pages 376-399); Texts For Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year A (pages 264–272). Used with Permission.*

## **EAST PLAINS UNITED CHURCH AFFIRM STATEMENT**

We celebrate the richness of our community when we have diversity in age, gender identity, racial/cultural backgrounds, economics, class, sexual orientation, and family configurations fully participating in all aspects of the life and work at East Plains United Church. We commit to continuing education to promote understanding and create a safe environment for all.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please join us in The Gathering Place after worship for refreshments served by the Flower Committee



## **Easter Appeal**



*We will be collecting food and donations which will go to the Compassion Society. Please use the new envelope for cash or cheque donations, made payable to East Plains United Church, with Compassion Society in the Memo line. Many thanks from the Wider Work Committee!*

## **Community Connections Event-this Coming Week!**

All members of the Congregation are warmly invited to join us for our Community Connections Event taking place in Peart Hall this Thursday, April 16, from 1:00–3:00 pm. Come to help us explore possible partnerships with organizations who may use our space for Community Connections. We look forward to seeing you there!



**SOLO** is celebrating it's **10th anniversary** with a Gala Concert at BPAC on Wed, Apr 22 at 7:30 pm

### **Week of Guided Prayer**

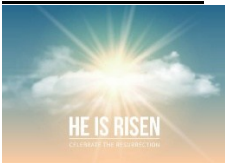
In the words of a participant, Anna Bolotnov, Islington United Church:

"I very much enjoyed the Week of Guided Prayer experience. It was my first time experiencing guided prayer, and I felt that I found something for which I had been searching for years. For me, the experience was both educational and spiritual. It was educational as it taught me prayer practices that helped me to learn how to be disciplined and focused in prayer. It was spiritual as it enlightened the soul by strengthening my connection to God.

Having a companion was also very positive and meaningful. My companion patiently helped me learn the steps of guided prayer and not drift away into Bible study along the way. My companion was thoughtful and insightful, helping me to dive deeper in terms of how the Bible verses spoke to my heart directly, and what prayer would be prompted in response. I loved the Week of Guided Prayer and I am looking forward to repeating this experience many times again!"

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### **Jan's Journal**



The Season of Easter, also sometimes referred to as Eastertide, is the fifty-day period between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday. It is a time during which Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Scripture passages selected for the Lectionary during the early weeks of Eastertide focus upon Jesus' renewal of his connection with his disciples following the crucifixion and resurrection. It is also a time of reflection on new life and renewed faith.

This Sunday, we will hear of Jesus' appearance to his disciples in the upper room, and Thomas's need for personal proof that his colleagues did actually see Jesus.

Please remember the Wider Work Team's annual **Easter Food Drive**. Please use the new donation envelopes in the pew pockets to make your cash donation and mark the line "Food Banks" or make a donation of non-perishable food items to the grocery cart in the Gathering Place. Your donations will go to the Compassion Society.

It seems as though the Community Connections Team has been planning the upcoming Community Event for a very long time! It is hard to believe that it is actually happening this week! The event, hosted by the East Plains United Church Community Connections Team and Community Development Halton, will take place on **Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> between 1 and 3 p.m.** It is important that as many members of the East Plains congregation as possible be present for this event. We all need to listen to the voices of the community, to learn what is needed in Aldershot, in order that informed decisions can be made regarding the future focus of the ministry of this congregation. It is also important that many of you are present to ask your questions. This is not just important for the members of the Official Board, the Board of Trustees, and the Chairs of the various Ministry Teams. It is important for us all.

### **Mark your Calendar**

April 19, 2026 - The Annual Congregational Meeting will take place following worship. Please plan to attend.

### **Looking ahead to May**

We will be holding a "Week of Guided Prayer" at East Plains between **May 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. The trifold display boards are in place at the Peart Hall entrance and also in the Gathering Place, thanks to Karen Maerz. You will find information pamphlets and Registration forms on the table near the display boards. You are invited to participate in "A Retreat in the Midst of Daily Life," as you pray with scripture and then meet with a trained Companion to discuss your

prayer experience. The time with your Companion will be arranged to fit your schedule. The registration cost is \$20, which will be used to cover the cost of materials. Those materials are produced by the Week of Guided Prayer Network. If anyone is unable to afford the \$20 registration fee, the church will cover the cost for you. No one will be unable to participate due to financial restraints.

If coming to the church to meet with your Companion each day is difficult due to mobility limitations, we will provide a Companion who is able to meet with you on Zoom or FaceTime, or telephone.

The Theme for the Week of Guided Prayer is "**Hope**," which seems quite pertinent at the present time!

If you have any questions about "A Week of Guided Prayer" please speak to me!!

The Affirm Team will be hosting an educational event on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026 beginning at 7 p.m.** The guest speaker will be Leanne Rancourt, a representative of PFLAG. Leanne's topic will be "Learning About 2SLGBTQIA+community, Inclusivity, and Allyship." Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Please invite family, friends, neighbours to come as well.

For the first time, the Wider Work Team is replacing the spring Rummage Sale with a Trunk Sale, which they hope will be less labour intensive! Vendors and Artisans will rent a parking spot in the west parking lot and sell their items from the trunk of their vehicle, or a table set up behind it. There is also the option for members of East Plains to fill the trunk of your vehicle with items stored in room 14, which did not sell at last year's spring sale. If you are willing to do this, you will not be asked to rent a parking spot, but to donate the proceeds from your trunk to the church. You could also sell items from

home, which you would have donated to the rummage sale! Please support this new experiment! The Trunk Sale is planned for **Saturday, May 23, 2026 from 9 am to 1 pm**. If that happens to be a day of heavy rain or thunderstorms, the Trunk Sale will be postponed to May 30<sup>th</sup>.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything you have read here, you can reach me at:  
[revjanmcc@gmail.com](mailto:revjanmcc@gmail.com) or on my cell phone: 905-630-8202.

Blessings,

Reverend Jan