

# St. Paul's United Church

April 12th, 2020 Easter Sunday

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.

Mission Statement: To glorify God through Worship, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and serving others in Christ's name.

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*I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

-Psalm 118:21-24

## THE PEOPLE GATHER

**Prelude**                      **Crown him with many Crowns**                      **Payne**

### **Greeting (Responsive):**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Do you see? The light that was extinguished burns brightly yet again. Where there was death, there is now life. We gather in that light, we gather in that hope.**

### **Introit:                      Easter Celebration**

**This Easter celebration is not like ones we've known.**

**We pray in isolation, we sing the hymns alone.**

**We're distant from our neighbors— from worship leaders, too.**

**No flowers grace the chancel to set a festive mood.**

**No gathered choirs are singing; no banners lead the way.**

**O God of love and promise, where's joy this Easter Day?**

**With sanctuaries empty, may homes become the place we ponder resurrection and celebrate your grace.**

**Our joy won't come from worship that's in a crowded room but from the news of women who saw the empty tomb.**

**Our joy comes from disciples who ran with haste to see— who heard that Christ is risen, and then, by grace, believed.**

**In all the grief and suffering, may we remember well:**

**Christ suffered crucifixion and faced the powers of hell.**

**Each Easter bears the promise: Christ rose that glorious day!**

**Now nothing in creation can keep your love away.**

**We thank you that on Easter, your church is blessed to be a scattered, faithful body that's doing ministry.**

**In homes and in the places of help and healing, too, we live the Easter message by gladly serving you.**

## **Welcome & Announcements**

### **Call to Worship (Responsive):**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

This day God calls us to be a people of the resurrection!

**To move from the darkened hill to the light-filled open tomb,**

To take our place among all who have celebrated Christ's resurrection through the centuries.

**To live by the power of Christ raised from the dead.**

Christ is alive, hope is alive, joy is alive, love is alive, we are alive, the church is alive...

**Alleluia! Amen!**

### **Hymn:**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

VU 155

**Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!  
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!  
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!  
suffer to redeem our loss, hallelujah!**

**Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!  
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!  
sinners to redeem and save, hallelujah!**

**But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!  
our salvation have procured, hallelujah!  
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!  
where the angels ever sing, hallelujah!**

**Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!  
praise eternal as God's love, hallelujah!  
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!  
praise the Son and Holy Ghost, hallelujah!**

**Prayer of the Day:**

God of mystery and powerful love, we have come today to celebrate the Good News of Easter. We have come to be filled by the joy of Christ alive and faith renewed. We long for resurrection ourselves, to be touched by the light that the darkness has never been able to overcome. Yet we are aware that this joyful faith doesn't come easy every Easter. When we face loss in our own lives, when the darkness seems so thick that we fear we might be lost, when stress and anxiety weigh us down, and the stone in front of the tomb seems too heavy to roll away be with us and hold us like you did the disciples on Holy Saturday and open our eyes to your resurrection power at work in the darkness of the early morning, even before the son broke forth. Let us enter into the mystery and power of Christ's resurrection this day. Amen.

**Illumination Verse:** Hallelujah, Hallelujah VU 179 (vs. 2)  
**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ.**  
**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give praise to God's Name.**

**Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
 Jesus has died and is risen.**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ.**  
**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give praise to God's Name.**

**Today's Scripture: Mark 16:1-8**

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message: When we don't understand**

**Hymn: RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**  
 Don't be afraid MV 90 (X3)  
**Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,  
 my love is stronger than your fear.**  
**Don't be afraid, my love is stronger,  
 and I have promised, promised to be always near.**

**Moment for Community:**

**Invitation to the Offering:**

**Offertory**

**Thine is the glory**

**Hayes**

**Dedication Verse:**

**I'm gonna give, give, give of myself for Jesus, for Jesus.  
 I'm gonna give, give, give of myself to serve the risen one!  
 For whatever life might throw my way  
 I'll serve you each and everyday!  
 With all I am and all I'll ever be!**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison):**

**You, O God, are the Easter One.  
 You are the holy source of resurrection  
 you are the dancing spirit of life.  
 We offer these gifts in gratitude;  
 for hope returned,  
 for the mystery of your grace  
 and for the promise of resurrection.  
 May these gifts be used to proclaim your love through  
 your church.  
 In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray.  
 Amen.**

**Invitation to the table:**

**Communion Liturgy**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**it is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Hallelujah, thanks and praise, ever-living God, worker of wonders, maker of miracles, author of all life and giver of life eternal! out of chaos and fear you bring beauty and hope. out of despair and death you create courage and new life. you have stood with you people through all time strengthening and sustaining them during difficult journeys. So with all who have known your touch and in the power of the resurrection we join our voices this day to the song of praise that echoes throughout time

**Sung response: Holy, Holy, Holy MV 203**

**O holy, holy, holy God,  
 O God of time and space.  
 All earth and sea and sky above  
 bear witness to your grace.  
 Hosanna in the highest heav'n,  
 creation sings your praise.  
 And blessed is the One who comes  
 and bears your name always!**

On the night before he died,  
Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you,  
he broke it, and gave it to those who sat with him, saying:  
“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

In the same way he took the cup, saying:  
“This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,  
shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.  
Whenever you drink it,  
do this in remembrance of me.”

**Eternal god, we are united in this covenant of faith,  
as we break bread and share the cup,  
giving thanks for your love in Jesus, the Christ.  
Your table is so large that the whole world can find a  
seat with you, today we spread your table with these  
gifts, fruits of your earth and of our labour,  
by which we remember Christ and taste your mercy and  
grace. We present to you these gifts and our very selves  
to you. Grant that our lives may ring forth in praise and  
thanksgiving proclaiming the mystery of our faith:**

Sung Response:                      Acclamation                      MV 204  
**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!  
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again**

Send your Holy Spirit, O God, on us and what we do,  
that as we break bread and drink wine,  
we may be united with Christ, he in us and we in him,  
that we who are many may be one in him.

**Make us strong in faith and love that we may be your  
body alive with light, life, love in the world.**

Loving God, we also remember before you today,  
those who are not with us today, Our frontline workers in the fight  
against Covid-19, all who are sick and ill and recovering in this  
time, We pray for those known to us who are facing death, and  
those who are grieving a loss. Our hearts go out to all of us who  
are separated from loved ones who we desire to be with,  
and all who are struggling with isolation, loneliness and depression  
and anxiety. Speak in the hearts of your people in need this  
day, giving your peace and strength. Help us, holy one, to be your  
resurrected people and love as Christ loved. this we pray.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all Glory is yours, God most Holy.  
Now and Forever.

**Sung Response:**                      Great Amen                      MV 205  
**Amen, amen, O Holy One!  
Hosanna and Amen!  
Amen, amen, O Holy One!  
Hosanna and Amen!**

We gather these and all our prayers together with the prayer  
Jesus taught us.  
Lord’s prayer.

**breaking the bread and pouring the cup..**

The body of Christ broken for you (break bread)  
**Thanks be to God for the bread of life.**

The blood of Christ poured out for you (pour the cup)  
**Thanks be to God for the cup of blessing.**

These are the gifts of God, for the people of God  
together let us feast for all things are now ready.

**Feasting together**  
Take the bread -- the bread of life.  
Take the cup -- the cup of blessing or love

**Post communion prayer**  
Eternal and gracious One,  
though we live in a world of need,  
**here we have tasted your goodness  
and hungered for a world more just.**  
Though afflicted by brokenness and division,  
**here we have heard your call  
to be a people of healing community.**

Though daily we touch our limits,  
**here we have received  
the fullness of your grace.**

We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness;  
that wine poured out replenishes;  
that time spent with the Risen Christ and each other is a gift of  
grace.

**Amen.**

## SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn:

Thine Is The Glory

VU 173

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.**

**[Refrain:]**

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son,  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

**Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!  
lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting. [Refrain]**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. [Refrain]**

**Commissioning (Responsive):**

Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen indeed!**

We go now to live into the grace that fills this day

**We go to share the hope that we find at the empty tomb**

For Christ has Risen!

**He has Risen indeed!**

**Benediction**

**Choral Closing:** We shall go out with hope in resurrection VU 586 (vs 1)

**We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life who sets us free.**

**Postlude Crown him with many Crowns**

**Westenkeuler**

