



*We are an inclusive Christian community celebrating God's presence
as we work to enrich lives and transform our world.*

Ministers:	The Congregation
Lead Minister:	Rev. Cheryl-Lynn MacPherson
Congregational Care	
Minister:	Karen Shea
Director of Music Ministries:	Taylor Sullivan
Church Administrator:	Heather Miller

Sunday, April 18, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of Easter

bold face type: congregational response
VU: Voices United, MV: More Voices,

As we gather today, we acknowledge the history, spirituality, culture, and stewardship of the land of the Indigenous people of this region, most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation who are Anishinaabe Ojibwe people. We seek to live in respect, peace, and right relations with them as we live, work, and worship upon their traditional territory. We are also mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Musical Meditation:

Come, Smell the Scent of Sweet Wild Flowers
- Okinawa Folk Song

Music: We Know That Christ Is Raised (VU#448, vv. 1,2&4)

Call to Worship

God of the morning is with us as we gather with songs of praise.

Here we find respite from a busy, frenetic world.

We gather in this place finding the peace that God offers.

We are more at home within ourselves when we find our rest in Christ.

We are witnesses to God's glory, steadfast love, and faithfulness.

We see the beauty of creation and sing praises of joy!

We abide in God's love and keep God's commandments.

Today, we awaken to the call, and show up fully to love one another.

Come, let us worship.

Opening Prayer

God of light and life,

we gather as witnesses to your abundant love.

We are amazed to discover you anew through our prayers, our praise, and our offerings.

God, you encourage us amidst our daily living to become stewards of your love and grace.

We ask you to be here with us as we witness your love made real through Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Music: Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New (MV#115)

Bible Reading: Luke 24:36b-48

Jesus' mission must continue, now through the faithfulness of his followers.

Reflection: - Rev. Cheryl-Lynn MacPherson

Music: God, Give Us Peace That Lasts
(tune: "Love Unknown", VU#143)

Affirmation of Faith (from *A Song of Faith*)

We sing of a church

seeking to continue the story of Jesus

by embodying Christ's presence in the world.

We are called together by Christ

as a community of broken but hopeful believers,

loving what he loved,

living what he taught,

striving to be faithful servants of God

in our time and place.

Our ancestors in faith

bequeath to us experiences of their faithful living;
upon their lives our lives are built.

Our living of the gospel makes us a part of this communion of saints,
experiencing the fulfillment of God's reign
even as we actively anticipate a new heaven and a new earth.

The church has not always lived up to its vision.

**It requires the Spirit to reorient it,
helping it to live an emerging faith while honouring tradition,
challenging it to live by grace rather than entitlement,
for we are called to be a blessing to the earth.**

We sing of God's good news lived out,
a church with purpose:

faith nurtured and hearts comforted,
gifts shared for the good of all,
resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize,
fierce love in the face of violence,
human dignity defended,
members of a community held and inspired by God,
corrected and comforted,
instrument of the loving Spirit of Christ,
creation's mending.

We sing of God's mission.

We are each given particular gifts of the Spirit.

For the sake of the world,

God calls all followers of Jesus to Christian ministry.

In the church,

**some are called to specific ministries of leadership,
both lay and ordered;
some witness to the good news;
some uphold the art of worship;
some comfort the grieving and guide the wandering;
some build up the community of wisdom;
some stand with the oppressed and work for justice.**

**To embody God's love in the world,
the work of the church requires the ministry and
discipleship of all believers.**

Offering

Offering Prayer

We are here to offer a portion from our abundance – our time, our energy, our resources. May we begin with gratitude, giving thanks to God who is steadfast in love and faithful.
God, we give you our thanks for all that we have and all we are. May the tithes, gifts, and offerings we bring be of healing service to our hurting world. May our collective offering be an expression of love and healing through the risen Christ.

Prayers of the People

The Prayer of Jesus

(You are invited to pray in the language of your choice)

**Loving God in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins, as we forgive
those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Music: We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection (VU#586)

Sending Forth

Closing Music: Fanfare

- Lemmens

We leave this time of worship knowing that we are not alone. While we cannot be together in body, we can continue to be together in spirit. Reach out. Call a friend. Call a neighbour. Share Kindness, Justice and Hope wherever you can.

Lyrics

We Know That Christ Is Raised (VU#448, vv. 1,2&4)

We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death, he broke its fearful hold,
and our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Hallelujah!

We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn, we share with him an Easter life
as living members of a living Christ.
Hallelujah!

A new creation comes to life and grows
as Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Hallelujah!

Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New (MV#115)

Behold, behold,
I make all things new,
beginning with you
and starting from today.
Behold, behold,
I make all things new,
my promise is true,
for I am Christ the way.

God, Give Us Peace That Lasts

(tune: "Love Unknown", VU#143)

God, give us peace that lasts not through the fear of might
but through the force of love and love of life and right.
Where costly wars and weapons lure,
show us our Lord among the poor.

God, give us love that lasts, which makes of strangers, guests;
which startles hurt with hope and for the weak protests:
what hate or guiltiness embold us,
confront with Jesus and the cross.

God, give us hope that lasts through passion and through pain,
through danger, doubt, and death till life is raise again.
When dread and pessimism loom,
direct us to the empty tomb.

And all these things we ask in knowledge or your grace
which gave the earth its birth and for a human face;
and with our prayers we give our word
to serve and follow Christ our Lord.

text: J. Bell, Iona Community

We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection (VU#586)

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 dreams of hurts that can be healed;
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
including all in circles of our love.

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