

Sunday, April 19, 2026
Digging In: Preparing, Planting, Nurturing, Weeding
Easter 3

A Liturgy for Spring by Simon Taylor

Opening Responses

The earth awakens after winter's sleep:

Awaken us to your glory, O God.

Leaves emerge from winter's shelter and stretch out to face the sun:

Awaken us to your light, O God.

Birds that hid from frost and snow now sing out from the treetops:

Awaken us to your presence, O God.

That which seemed dead has now been born anew:

Awaken us to your life, O God.

Opening Song

As We Walk Along, performed by the Trailblazers

A Song of Spring (based on Song of Songs 2)

Arise, my fair ones, and come away,

**for now the winter is past,
snow and frost is over and gone.**

The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come.

**And the song of the blackbird,
the melody of the robin is heard in our land.**

The hawthorn breaks into leaf,

**lilacs opens their purple flowers,
scenting the air with fragrance.**

Arise, my fair ones, and come away.

In the clefts of the rock,

**in the shadow of the tor,
let us see your face.**

Let us hear your voice:

**for your voice is sweet
and your face is beautiful.**

Prayer of Confession

O God of life,
you desire that our lives should blossom and be fruitful,
and sent your Son to die upon a cross
and be raised to life on the third day,
that new life might come to that which seemed dead.

For all that we have done that hinders life we ask your forgiveness, Lord:

Where the striving of creation to blossom and leaf is frustrated,
where the freedom to bring new things to birth is checked,
where creativity is hindered through oppression and injustice,
where new beginnings are prevented,
where that which is needed for growth is harmed or held back,
where beauty is scarred,
where poverty and injustice allow no hope of a bright new dawn.

For all that we have done that hinders life we ask your forgiveness, Lord:

For all that we have done to lessen the wonder of spring,
for our sin which checks the renewing of life on earth,
for negligence, carelessness and greed.

For all that we have done that hinders love we ask your forgiveness, Lord...

Silence

Lord, end our winter
and let your spring begin and grow in us.

Amen.

Song

Stay With Us Through The Night **VU182**

A Spring Psalm

The sun rises higher over moorland skies; days lengthen as night grows short:

Praise the God who gives the light.

The trees that rested through winter's cold now awake as the earth grows warm:

Praise the God who gives the life.

Buds once tight now swell and break; soft green leaves unfurl into the light:

Praise the God who gives the growth.

Seeds crack open and shoots emerge;

life that has been growing in secret now parts the soil:

Praise the God who brings new life to birth.

Banks of yellow primroses greet the morning sun;

blackthorn, white as frost, brightens the hedge:

Praise the God who gives the beauty.

The joyful melody of birds fills the dawn; nests are gathered and built:

Praise the God who gives the song.

Winter gives way to spring, just as darkness gives way to light:

**So may death give way to life as we celebrate again
the renewing of earth's green mantle.**

Scripture

Luke 24.13-35 New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.
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13 Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, 16 but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 17 And he said to them, “What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?” They stood still, looking sad. 18 Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?” 19 He asked them, “What things?” They replied, “The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. 21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. 22 Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, 23 and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. 24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.” 25 Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! 26 Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” 27 Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

28 As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. 29 But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” 33 That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. 34 They were saying, “The Lord has risen

indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” 35 Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Song

As We Walked Home At Close Of Day **VU184**

Another Voice

by Richard Wagamese from Embers

It's all about opening, really. When I open myself to the world and its possibilities-even its hurts-become whole. But when I choose to close, my life becomes fraught with struggle. Everything I do becomes about shielding myself rather than inviting good energy to fill me. Everything is energy, so I try to let the negative pass through me, rather than holding on to it.

Sing-a-long

YOU CAN'T BE A BEACON

Martin Cooper, David Briggs ©1974 Dot Music

CHORUS 1

**YOU CAN'T BE A BEACON IF YOUR LIGHT DON'T SHINE
YOU CAN'T BE A BEACON IF YOUR LIGHT DON'T SHINE
THERE'S A LITTLE LIGHT IN ALL OF US BY GOD'S DESIGN
BUT YOU CAN'T BE A BEACON IF YOUR LIGHT DON'T SHINE**

HOW CAN YOU ASK FOR TRUTH WHEN YOU DO NOT TRUTHFUL LIVE
HOW CAN YOU ASK FORGIVENESS WHEN YOU DON'T FORGIVE
I DON'T MEAN TO BRING YOU DOWN OR SPEAK TO YOU UNKIND
BUT YOU CAN'T BE A BEACON IF YOUR LIGHT DON'T SHINE

CHORUS 1

HOW CAN YOU ASK A CHILD TO BE HONEST AND TRUE
WHEN HE CAN ONLY JUDGE WHAT'S RIGHT BY WHAT HE SEES IN YOU
HOW CAN YOU OFFER VISION, YET WALK AROUND BLIND
NO, YOU CAN'T SEE A BEACON IF ITS LIGHT DON'T SHINE

CHORUS 1

MAY GOD'S LOVE SURROUND YOU WHEN YOU FIND A BRIGHTER DAY
MAY HE GRANT YOU THE PEACE YOU SEEK IN EVERY WAY
GOD'S LIGHT BURNS IN EACH LIFE, YOURS AND MINE
AND YOU CAN BE A BEACON IF YOU'LL JUST LET IT SHINE

CHORUS 2

**YOU CAN BE A BEACON IF YOU LET IT SHINE
YOU CAN BE A BEACON IF YOU LET IT SHINE
THERE'S A LITTLE LIGHT IN ALL OF US BY GOD'S DESIGN
AND YOU CAN BE A BEACON IF YOU LET IT SHINE**

REPEAT CHORUS 2

WALK WITH ME

John S. Rice © 1988 The Estate of John S. Rice

CHORUS

**WALK WITH ME
I WILL WALK WITH YOU
AND BUILD THE LAND THAT GOD HAS PLANNED
WHERE LOVE SHINES THROUGH**

WHEN MOSES HEARD THE CALL OF GOD
HE SAID, "LORD DON'T SEND ME"
BUT GOD TOLD MOSES "YOU'RE THE ONE
TO SET MY PEOPLE FREE"

CHORUS

NOW PETER WAS A MOST UNLIKELY
MAN TO LEAD THE FLOCK
BUT JESUS KNEW HIS HOLINESS
AND HE BECAME THE ROCK

CHORUS

YOUNG MARY MAGDALENE WAS SURE
HER LIFE COULD BE MUCH MORE
AND BY HER FAITH SHE DARED TO LET
GOD'S LOVE UNLOCK THE DOOR

CHORUS

AND WHEN YOU SHARE YOUR FAITH WITH ME
AND WORK FOR LIFE MADE NEW
THE WITNESS OF YOUR FAITHFULNESS
CALLS ME TO WALK WITH YOU

CHORUS x 2

ONLY A SHADOW

Carey Landry ©1971, 1973, Carey Landry and OCP

THE LOVE I HAVE FOR YOU, MY LORD
IS ONLY A SHADOW OF YOUR LOVE FOR ME
ONLY A SHADOW OF YOUR LOVE FOR ME
YOUR DEEP ABIDING LOVE

MY OWN BELIEF IN YOU, MY LORD
IS ONLY A SHADOW OF YOUR FAITH IN ME
ONLY A SHADOW OF YOUR FAITH IN ME
YOUR DEEP AND LASTING FAITH

CHORUS

**MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS
MY LIFE IS IN YOUR HANDS
MY LOVE FOR YOU WILL GROW, MY LORD
YOUR LIGHT IN ME WILL SHINE**

THE DREAM I HAVE TODAY, MY LORD
IS ONLY A SHADOW OF YOUR DREAMS FOR ME
ONLY A SHADOW OF ALL THAT WILL BE
IF I BUT FOLLOW YOU

THE JOY I FEEL TODAY, MY LORD
IS ONLY A SHADOW OF YOUR JOYS FOR ME
ONLY A SHADOW OF YOUR JOYS FOR ME
WHEN WE MEET FACE TO FACE

CHORUS

Offering Time

Mission and Service Story

Flowing Beyond the Banks

In Chipman, New Brunswick, along the Salmon River, community isn't just an idea—it's how life flows. For over 126 years, Chipman United Church has been woven into the heart of the town.

The congregation is small—mostly seniors with a handful of youth, four of whom now help lead worship—and the choir is modest. But the impact is anything but small. Each month, about sixty meals are prepared and delivered through the LIFT program, feeding children, seniors, and neighbours who can't leave home. The church hall hosts community groups and sports programs, and members pour hot chocolate at the Christmas parade. Service here isn't occasional; it's a habit.

When some members could no longer attend in person, the church brought worship online. What was expected to reach twenty people drew thousands. Prayer requests now arrive by email, and a painting of the sanctuary is being turned into cards to remind those who feel alone that they belong.

This is rural ministry: rooted, connected, and alive. Mission and Service helps sustain communities like Chipman, keeping churches at the centre of town life.

We can make a difference together. When we give to Mission and Service, we help ensure that churches like Chipman continue to feed, care for, and connect their communities.

Offering Song

What Can I Do? **MV191**

Prayers of intercession:

For all who watch and wait...

silent or spoken prayer

God of life and new beginnings:

hear our prayers.

For all who weep ...

silent or spoken prayer

God of life and new beginnings:

hear our prayers.

For all who long for light...

silent or spoken prayer

God of life and new beginnings:

hear our prayers.

For all who are full of life...

silent or spoken prayer

God of spring,

God of death and resurrection,

God of life and new beginnings:

hear our prayers

Prayer Circle

Free prayers for those who need our prayers

Alan, Angela, April, Barbara, David, Dot, Jim, Joanna, Karen, Levi, Linda, Loidi, Mark, Nancy, Rona, Ronda, Rudy, Russell, Sandy, Shannon, Shawn, Valerie

The Lord's Prayer (A Paraphrase) VU916

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be.

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In time of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Song

Called By Earth And Sky **MV135**

Closing Responses

As the sun rises higher in the sky,

so may the Lord be exalted in our lives.

As the spring flowers display their beauty,

so may the Lord be glorified in our lives.

As the fresh green leaves on the trees announce the spring,

so may the Lord be made known in our lives.

Creator God, whose faithfulness is seen in the coming and going of the seasons,

whose love is seen in the renewing of the earth,

guard and guide us, keep us and bless us now and for evermore.

Amen

Music to Send Us On Our Way

With A Little Help From My Friends by Lennon/McCartney
performed by the Trailblazers