

Sunday 20 April 2025
Questions on the Way - Easter
Why do you look for the living among the dead?

Musical Celebration

Christ Arose *performed by Dr. Wayne Johnson*

Choral Introit

Christ Arose *performed by The Band*

Call to Worship

by David Coleman From Eggs and Ashes by Ruth Burgess & Chris Polhill

Christos Anesti

Alithos Anesti!

Christ is Risen

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Risen in quiet and mysterious darkness before the chorus of the dawn.

Alleluia, Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed!

Risen with glory and grace in reserve, and authority beyond measure.

Alleluia, Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed!

Risen to prove that violence is no solution;
to offer us peace and life in all its fullness.

Alleluia, Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed!

For God has taken on the sin of the world.

The last laugh is God's laugh;

for freedom come from beyond the cross,
for peace comes beyond the violence,
for friendship comes beyond the betrayal.

For life comes beyond the crushing of life.

The first laugh and the last laugh are God's.

And God has made laughter for us.

Alleluia, Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed!

Song

The Strife Is O'er **VU159**

Centring & Lighting the Christ Candle

by Rev. Darryl Macdonald

This is a time to connect with the energy of resurrection;
to feel new life emerging from deep within you.

Close your eyes, breathe deeply and come into the darkness of the tomb.

Take notice of your body, of your feelings, and of your energy.

Allow yourself to relax and your mind to flow.

Now, imagine that you are filled with soft warm light.
Allow that light glow with your breath
and to dance with God through the cells of your body.
Feel your feet at one with the earth.
Merge with the sacredness of the land; the soils, the rivers, the oceans, and winds.
Greet the sacredness of the beings of the land; the people, the plants, the animals,
the fish, the birds and the insects.
Give thanks for our first nations peoples and their connection to the land.
Give thanks for the immigrants and refugees that have found welcome on Native land.
Rejoice in the work of reconciliation, friendship and collaboration
to honour and care for all life.
Now bring your attention back to yourself.
Notice that the stone has been rolled back and you are free to emerge into God's light.
Open your eyes to the sacred presence life eternal.

The Candle is Lit

Song Tree Of Life, And Awesome Mystery **VU121 vv.1-3 & General**

Scripture 1 Corinthians 15.19-26 *New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.*
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19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.
20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. 21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; 22 for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Luke 24.1-12 *New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.*
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But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in, they did not find the body. 4 While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5 The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. 6 Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' 8 Then they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Song

Morning Has Broken **VU409**

Reflection On The Readings

Offering Time

Offertory

Our Savior Is Alive *performed by The Band*

Invitation

Isaiah 25.6-9 *New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.*

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On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

It will be said on that day,

“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

Song

I Come With Joy **VU477**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Resurrecting God, we come to your table for you have invited us,
as you have invited all the saints.

The sacred story tells us that table fellowship was an essential part of Jesus’ ministry,
and he sat at many tables with different people.

It all started when he was placed in a feeding trough when he was born
and was visited by shepherds and magi.

He later attended a wedding where he made the best wine out of water
and told his mother to be in the moment.

He sat at Peter’s table where Peter’s mother-in-law made sure that all were well fed
after Jesus gave her another lease on life.

He invited himself to the table of Zacchaeus
where he praised the tax collector’s generosity.

He dined with a Pharisee where a woman broke open
an expensive bottle of perfume and anointed Jesus,
who then told us to remember her love poured out.
He held a picnic and thousands were filled to the brim,
showing us that the earth is filled with the Creator's abundance.
He hosted a final meal in an upstairs room
where he shared bread and wine and asked us to remember him.
Welcoming Host, you spread a table before us; the Great Feast of Heaven,
where the invitation is open to all, with no conditions
except that we sit at table as we are able.

We see you as the host and the guest, the familiar and the stranger.

You bless us with your presence, your awakening of love.

As hosts with Christ,

we bless and break our bread.

As guests with Christ,

we pour and share our wine.

As welcomed strangers, united in Christ's life, death,
and embodied liberation, we hear these sacred, simple words:

Jesus shared bread and said: take and eat to remember me.

Jesus poured wine and said: take and drink to remember me.

Living Ground of all being, we remember.

Breathe your Spirit into us, the bread, the wine, and into the very fabric of creation.

Restore and heal all that is wounded,

be present in the stillness of the waiting,

shine your light on our prejudice and fear,

release in us the signs of hope and love.

The Lord's Prayer

VU960

Breaking And Pouring

We gently break this bread of sacred life;

our breaking down becomes our breaking through.

We freely pour this wine of embodied love;

our pouring out becomes our 'flowing with'.

As we eat this living bread and drink the new wine of resurrection,

we celebrate the abundance of the Great Feast of Heaven spread out for all.

Communion

God, with divine tenderness, you remake us;

by transforming pain, you heal us - your passionate energy is our sacred centre.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Prayer After Communion

Jesus, after you were crucified, and the disciples went back to fishing,
you appeared on the shore of Galilee and served them fish on a campfire.

**Resurrected Jesus, continue to dine with us
and feed us with the food we need:
hope and wisdom, healing and awareness, love and trust.**

Song

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today **VU155**

Blessing

Easter Responses from Iona From Eggs and Ashes by Ruth Burgess & Chris Polhill

Lord of life, you walk this journey with us and through us;

lead us Lord, lead on.

Journeying within, and wrestling with the world,

lead us Lord, lead on.

Lead us to risk, to grow, and to tread the path you have opened for us;

lead us Lord, lead on.

And let us rejoice that every place is your place;

in the name of Christ, the risen one. AMEN

Music to Send Us On Our Way

All Glory, Laud, and Honour *performed by Dr. Wayne Johnson*