

Sunday, April 12, 2026  
Digging In: Preparing, Planting, Nurturing, Weeding  
Easter 2

Opening Responses

Loosely based on Psalm 16 by Rev. Darryl Macdonald

You protect me, O God,  
**for in you I take refuge.**

I proclaim the sacred presence within me.

**Those who do not recognize their sacredness are doomed to sorrow.**

Sacredness guides and instructs me.

**Sacredness finds a home in me.**

My heart is filled with gladness, and my soul rejoices;

**my body also rests secure.**

God shows me the path of life.

**In God's presence there is fullness of joy;  
an abundance of pleasures forevermore.**

**Song**

Christ Is Alive **VU158**

A Time of Centring

Take this moment to centre yourself deeply in the love of God  
and prepare yourself for an encounter with the Holy.

Begin with your breath.

Feel the air pass your nostrils and glide down your throat to fill your lungs.

Drop you diaphragm and let your belly and back expand.

Notice the rhythm of your breathing, and the spaces between you breath.

The air you breathe is sacred for it is the breath of God.

Your body is sacred for it manifests the Holy One in substance and form.

Be aware of your body and how you are sitting.

Let your hands fall open and your feet feel grounded.

Ask of God what you need at this moment and give space for the response.

Take some time to reflect on your relationship with God, the world, your sacred centre.

Honour your connection to God's creation.

Offer something of yourself.

Be open to receiving God's gift to you this day.

Now, return to your body.

Imagine there is a light the softly glows from your heart, through your limbs and head,  
and radiates out into the world, connecting with people, animals, fish and birds,  
with water, soil and even rock, and give thanks to God for the experience of life.

**Song**

My Faith Looks Up To Thee **VU663**

## Scripture

John 20.19-31 New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition.  
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19 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." 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." 22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 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."

26 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." 27 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." 28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" 29 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."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

## Another Voice

*by Richard Wagamese from Embers*

Life is a series of passageways we choose largely on faith and a healthy dose of hope. We hope that the hallway of our choosing leads us to magic: the inexplicable, the sudden, the uncontained. Not so that we can capture it, hold it, make it our own-but just so that we can feel it, even for an instant. Feel it and know the truth that the universe itself is magic. Hope that by our believing, our blind trust, our inherent innocence, someday, sometime, somewhere, that magic will become us, even fleetingly, and we touch the face of God.

## Song

You Tell Me That The Lord Is Risen **VU185**

## Reflection

Digging In

## Offering Time

In Tobermory, Ontario, the town pulses with the seasons. Summer brings busy roads, kayaks on the harbour, and lively streets. Winter brings quiet and long stretches of stillness. Through it all, Tobermory United Church remains a steady, welcoming presence at the northern edge of the Bruce Peninsula.

The building is more than a church. It hosts drumming circles, Tai Chi, bridge games, and poetry gatherings. Worship is shared with St. Thomas the Apostle Mission. Outside, the annual thrift shop turns donations into care, offering affordable items to the community and giving freely to those in need. Hospitality here is intentional, welcoming 2S and LGBTQ+ people with courage and care. Even the building reflects this spirit, with cedar-lined walls and clear windows framing the surrounding forest.

Through Mission and Service, Tobermory United Church is connected to a wider movement of faith, creativity, and resilience.

We can keep this welcome strong. When we give to Mission and Service, we help ensure that churches like Tobermory stay open, connected, and full of care for everyone. Give today and be part of sustaining this vital community.

### Offering Song

In You There Is A Refuge **MV84**

Prayer of Intercession

by *Christian Maclean* from Holy Ground

God of place and of history

We pray for the broken and torn fabric of the earth as it yearns for healing.

**Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishers  
and sat in village kitchens,  
walk with us now.**

We hold before you those who have the privilege and responsibility of working on the land and those who struggle to make a living.

**Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishers  
and sat in village kitchens,  
walk with us now.**

We hold before you those whose relationship with the earth is ruptured; through conflict, poverty, stunted opportunities, and environmental degradation.

**Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishers  
and sat in village kitchens,  
walk with us now.**

We hold before you rural communities  
where people feel isolated, marginalised and powerless  
in the face of distant economic and political forces;  
and we remember especially those who have lost all hope.

**Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishers  
and sat in village kitchens,  
walk with us now.**

We hold before you those whose policies affect the land, the earth and all of our lives;  
and we pray that those in positions of power, in particular the leaders of wealthy nations, will  
have the courage and vision to make hard decisions.

**Jesus, who walked with farmers and fishers  
and sat in village kitchens,  
walk with us now.**

Prayer Circle

*Free prayers for those who need our prayers*

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

God of the sheltering wings, hear these prayers today and fill us with your Spirit.  
That we may live in peace with the earth and with each other.  
That your Kingdom may come.

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

God, Help Us To Treasure **MV147**

Closing Responses

*by Rev. Darryl Macdonald*

The soils cry out: "I am sacred!"

**God calls us to listen and get our hands in the dirt.**

The plants cry out: "I am sacred!"

**God asks us to get along with our companions in life.**

The planet cries out: "I am sacred!"

**God encourages us to do the same.**

Music to Send Us On Our Way

My Lighthouse *by Gareth Gilkeson, Chris Llewellyn*  
performed by the Band