

Order of Worship for April 18, 2021 -- 3rd Sunday of Easter

Watch the livestream at 10:00 am here <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-aWw0Tc165vh6Epdr-XBxw>

WE APPROACH OUR GRACIOUS GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Whether gathered in a room full of friends or alone in our own homes God is with us.

God calls us to open our hearts and souls to God's presence.

Gathered in the name of the Risen Christ we pause to worship.

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

(you are invited to use the chat box on YouTube to share words of Peace with each other)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

In this Season of new growth, new life, new hope,

We light a candle to remind us of the Light which could not be put out, the light that shines from the Empty Tomb.

Let us centre ourselves for worship....

OPENING PRAYER

Source of Life, we gather in this virtual space for worship,

hoping that here we will meet the Risen Christ.

Source of Hope, we open ourselves in worship,

trusting that the Jesus will show up, speaking words of hope in the face of our fear and doubts, bringing us peace.

God of New Life, in this time of worship,

empower us to go back into the wider world to share the Good News of Resurrection,

to proclaim the promise of forgiveness,

to encourage others with the peace of Christ.

We pray in the name of the Risen Christ, who encourages us to pray saying...

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn MV 30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker(1L)

WE SHARE AS GOD'S CHILDREN THE BIBLE'S STORY IN WORD AND IN SONG:

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART *Earth Day*

PRAYER OF DOUBT AND BELIEF

God of life that conquers death, in this Easter season,

we are challenged to see life where we expect to see death. It seems to good to be true.

God we believe, help our unbelief.

God of surprises, we hear wondrous stories and have trouble believing they could be true.

**Like the first disciples we are startled, scared by things we don't quite understand
God we believe, help our unbelief.**

God of wisdom, you give us an intellect and ask us to use it,
asking questions, challenging what we are told, seeking for answers

God we believe, help our unbelief.

Holy God who is Holy Mystery, you ask us to be open to the mysterious and mystical,
**help us embrace the mystery that is part of our lives, help us see that we do not have to understand
everything, help us remember that there are ways of knowing that go beyond the scientific and logical.
God we believe, help our unbelief. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Luke 24:36b-48

A MOMENT OF REFLECTION

(trusting that God is at work in our midst we allow the words we have heard to settle and stir in our souls)

SERMON *Proof?*

Hymn VU 185 You Tell Me That the Lord is Risen (1L)

WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD AND PREPARE FOR MINISTRY IN THE WORLD

THE OFFERING

Mission Minute *Building a World Where Everyone Belongs: Lynda's Story*

<https://youtu.be/pq9vJdrUt-8>

The Invitation:

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn VU 703 In the Bulb There is a Flower (1L)

COMMISSIONING:

We have paused our lives for a time of worship.

**As we go into the rest of our day and the rest of our week, we carry our doubts and our faith,
our questions and our answers, our wariness and our trust,
and we use all of them to try and determine how God would have us live and love.**

In all of it, God: Parent, Risen Christ, and Holy Spirit, is with us.

Thanks be to God. Amen

SUNG BENEDICTION: Let Our Earth Be Peaceful (1L)

POSTLUDE