

Order of Worship for April 4, 2021 – Easter Sunday

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

WE APPROACH OUR GRACIOUS GOD

PRELUDE

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY

The land where we live and work is ours to use for a moment in time. This land has been home to many before us and will be home to many after us. Here in Grande Prairie we live and work on land shared under Treaty #8. It is the homeland of the Beaver and the Cree. Now we live together as treaty peoples.

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

Orange What makes today so special? I feel excited about something!

Purple There is Great News! Do you remember Jesus? The man who was crucified on Friday?

Green Well some of his friends went to his tomb this morning, and it was EMPTY!!!

Yellow I remember he said it would happen! Jesus is Risen! ALLELUIA!

Pink Christ is Risen Indeed! Let us all celebrate!

BLOW YOUR HORN!

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

As the first rays of dawn spread across the sky, shining in the empty tomb, revealing the wonder of resurrection, **so may the glory of resurrection shine in our hearts, souls and faces, revealing hope and promise to the world around us.**

Let us centre ourselves for worship....

OPENING PRAYER

God of New Life, we gather to hear again the amazing news.

A story of hope over despair, light over dark, life over death.

God who shakes the ground on which we stand, we gather to ask ourselves what it means.

With fear we ponder the news that the world has been changed, yet we hear Your voice saying “Do not be afraid”.

God of Easter, in this time together,

fill us with hope,

remind us of the promise of life,

fill us with the songs of Good News.

And then when our worship concludes,

may we be ready to shake the ground with words of hope,

may we be able to see the Risen Christ standing in front of us, calling us by name,

may we be bold enough to sing and shout our praises to the world.

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Hallelujah! Amen.

Gathering Hymn VU 175 This is the Day that God Has Made (1L)

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

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 25:6-9

John 20:1-18

GIFT OF MUSIC: Sweet the Morning (1L)

Words and music – Pat Mayberry ,Arrangement – David Kai

SERMON *Why Are You Weeping?*

Hymn VU 166 Joy Comes with the Dawn (1L)

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

THE OFFERING

Mission Minute *Work Brings New Life: Jesse's Story Part 2*

<https://united-church.ca/stories/work-brings-new-life-jesses-story-part-2>

The Invitation:

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)

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Easter Celebration of Communion

Invitation

The Resurrection has begun! The Day of Celebration is here!

Alleluia!

We gather at the table to share in the Banquet of Life!

Here we meet all who share with us the hope for a brighter future!

All who wish to follow The Way of Life are welcome to eat and drink at God's table.

Let us eat together.

Thanksgiving

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen Indeed!

We should give thanks!

Thanks and praise to the One who brings life!

Gracious God, we raise voices hoarse from shouting alleluias,

we sing praises for the wonder of an empty tomb,

we give thanks for the gifts of life, of life that breaks the bonds of death.

We sing songs of praise for the world you have given us, for the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies.

As the spring deepens and the earth thaws, as green breaks through the brown of winter,

we sing songs of hope for new life springing from dead soil, for the promise held in every seed that is sown.

As people of faith we remember all those who have gone before.

People like Moses and Miriam, leading their people to freedom; like Sarah and Abraham, seeking a new life in a strange land; like Peter and Mary, proclaiming an empty tomb and life beyond the cross.

We remember these and many others, named and unnamed, who have embraced Your life, Your hope, and moved into a new age.

And we trust that in remembering and retelling their stories, we too can take the leap into New Life.

Deep among all those memories we remember the life of a Special One.

Jesus, Child of Mary.

Born of a woman, he grew to adulthood among people who struggled daily for life.

Baptized by John, he embraced the life to which You called him.

He taught and preached a vision of a world where all divisions were broken down, where all had what they needed for abundant life, where the Reign of God was as real on earth as in heaven.

And though the powerful in his world fought back, he stood strong.

When offered a chance to take the easy way he overcame his own fear and instead prayed "yet Thy will be done".

Even though they put him to death you raised him to life, vindicating his vision and bringing hope and healing to the world.

As inheritors of that hope we join together in the cries that welcomed him into Jerusalem, the cries of hope for the world:

Hosanna! Hosanna! Holy One!

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Remembering

As we gather at this table we remember a story told mere days ago

and yet also an age ago

We remember that Jesus gathered with his closest friends in an Upper Room to share the feast of liberation

And while sharing the ancient story of freedom, he called them to remember the promised freedom of God's Kingdom.

We remember that at that table he took the bread, gave thanks for it, blessed it, broke it and passed it among them saying:

This is my body, broken by and for the world. Whenever you eat it remember me.

Then later he took the cup of wine, blessed it and passed it among them saying:

This is the cup of the New Covenant, sealed in my blood. Whenever you drink it remember me, and look toward the fulfilment of God's Kingdom.

And so we break the bread and pour the cup and we remember with hope.

On this Easter Day we share in the Banquet of Freedom to celebrate Life Victorious!

Transforming

God of Life, in the beginning your Spirit hovered over the water,

calling forth life, creating and inspiring.

Send Your Spirit upon we who gather to share this meal, infuse this bread and this juice with the Spirit's power,

As we eat and drink may we feel the power of Life Triumphant pulse in our veins, the fire of hope blaze in our hearts, and the joy of the Empty tomb dance in our souls.

Christ who died is now alive!

Alleluia! Amen.

And so, as children of a loving Parent, we pray together the words that Jesus, the Risen Christ, taught his friends
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Breaking and Pouring

Here at this table we break the Bread of Life
On this Day of Celebration we pour the Cup of Promise
These are Gifts from God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Come and eat, for all is now ready.

Closing

We have eaten, we have drunk, we have embraced the beginning of the new age.

Grant, O God, that we who have gathered together on this Day of Resurrection, will move on as people of hope, people of life, people of the Kingdom.

May the meal we have shared today revive us in body and soul and energize us as we go out to share the Good News. Christ is Risen! Death is Defeated! Life Wins! Alleluia and Amen!

Hymn VU 158 Christ Is Alive (CCLI)

COMMISSIONING:

This is the day that God has made!

We will rejoice and be glad!

We have heard the wonderful news!

Christ is Risen!

We go to plant the seeds of resurrection hope!

Seeds that will spring from dark ground, seeds that bring colour and vibrancy and life!

In the name of the God who makes us,
in the name of the Christ who makes us free,
in the name of the Spirit who makes us one.

We go in God's love and promise always.

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed! Hallelujah!

SUNG BENEDICTION:

Let Our Earth be Peaceful (1L)

by Shirley Erena Murray; music Ron Klusmeier

POSTLUDE