

Welcome to the worship service of
St. Andrew's United Church, Chalk River, Ontario
on this **EASTER SUNDAY**

April 4, 2021

Kindly enter this time centering on God, prepared to meet God.

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

MUSICAL PRELUDE/

SCRIPTURAL GREETING/WELCOME

Jesus said, "I am the living One.

I was dead, and now I am alive for evermore."

Revelation 1:18

We gather this morning in silence, ...

WELCOMING SONG: "Joy Comes with the Dawn" VU 166 verse 3

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: Ephesians 5:14

CALL TO WORSHIP: Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

They may have been afraid but we are not. You heard the call to be here today.

We heard the call and we shout HALLELUIAH! Christ is risen indeed!

Join me in singing:

OPENING HYMN: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" VU 157

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

CENTERING PRAYER: God of grace and power, we have longed for this joyous day: on Ash Wednesday we humbled ourselves before you, on Good Friday we cried at the foot of the cross, on Holy Saturday we grieved, but on this day, this Blessed Sunday we rejoice in the risen power of love, hope, and new life. Make Jesus' rising real in our own lives. Let us be people of love, hope, and new life. Let us be people of joy, in Jesus' name. Amen.

POINT TO PONDER: What power does your faith bring to you?

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

OFFERTORY PRAYER: You, O God, are the Easter One. You are the holy source of resurrection. You are the dancing spirit of life. We offer our gifts of time, talent and treasure in gratitude for hope returned, for the mystery of your grace, and for the promise of resurrection. May these gifts be used with wisdom, and with justice in the church and throughout the world. Amen

COMMUNION HYMN: "Come Gather Here" VU 469

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord
Hosanna we say.**

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ, ...Jesus gathered his friends in an upper room.

**There, at a table, he took bread, thanked you as we thanked you, broke bread, and gave it to his friends saying,
"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this remember me."**

Then, Jesus took a jug and poured the fruit of the vine into a cup and, after giving thanks, passed it to his friends saying,
"Drink. This cup that is poured out for you is the promise of God's love, made in my blood."

And so it is that we proclaim in word and witness the mystery of faith:

A New Creed VU 918

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone.**

Thanks be to God

Remembering his death and celebrating his resurrection ... We gather these and all our prayers thankful that we can turn to you as a Mother watching over us,

The voice of God speaks:

**"Listen, all you who thirst, come to the waters,
and you that have no money, come buy and eat!
The gifts of God for the people of God. Together in Spirit we eat and drink for all things are now ready.**

(a time of silence as the elements are consumed)

Preparation for Prayer: VU 400

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER:

CLOSING HYMN: "Thine is the Glory" VU 173

BLESSING

As the sun melts the snow and ice in spring,
as leaves and blossoms burst forth on dry branches—
so God's warmth heals and transforms
the deadness and brokenness within us.

From this Easter festival,
we go forth to live resurrection:
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.

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!
We do not go alone!**