

South Buxton and Talbot Street Pastoral Charges

Easter Sunday – April 17th, 2022

Prelude: “I Know My Redeemer Liveth” - by Christie Coatsworth

Welcome & Announcements:

Welcome to Talbot Street today as we celebrate Easter Sunday.

This upcoming Saturday April 23rd, St. Andrew’s (Chatham) “Saturdays at 7” are hosting the Ottawa Guitar Trio at 7 pm. Options are available for in-person or online. Check out the poster for details.

Thank you for your support of all our past services, which are posted on our websites – Talbotstreet.ca and Southbuxton.ca

Thank you to our production crew; music by Christie Coatsworth, readings by Annette Skillings and the slides by Tracey Major. You make all the difference. Thank you!

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Opening Hymn: VU 157 “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

- 1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Hallelujah!
all creation join to say; Hallelujah!
raise your joys and triumphs high; Hallelujah!
sing, O heavens, and earth reply: Hallelujah!
- 2 Love's redeeming work is done, Hallelujah!
fought the fight, the battle won. Hallelujah!
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er! Hallelujah!
Lo, he dwells in death no more! Hallelujah!
- 3 Lives again our glorious King: Hallelujah!
where, O death, is now your sting? Hallelujah!
Once he died, our souls to save: Hallelujah!
where your victory, O grave? Hallelujah!
- 4 Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven, Hallelujah!
praise to you by both be given! Hallelujah!
Every knee to you shall bow, Hallelujah!
risen Christ, triumphant now. Hallelujah!

Call to Worship:

Eric: There are alleluias in the air,

People: that skip a beat as they dance over tombs,

Eric: that push at stones and reveal a saviour,
People: that explode with a slow beauty in the sunrise,
Eric: that wake the birds and tear at the dawn.
People: It is God's special word: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eric: There are alleluias in the air,
People: that are filled with the voice of God,
Eric: that are spoken aloud in the chambers of parliament,
People: that break open hope for the poor,
Eric: that paint faith with the colour of rainbows.
People: It is God's special word: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eric: There are alleluias in the air,
People: that fill silence with song,
Eric: that fill fear with hope,
People: that fill injustice with compassion,
Eric: that fill worn out things with new life.
People: It is God's special word: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Eric: Let us worship amidst the alleluias.

Opening Prayer:

People: Our eyes are barely open, the sky has hardly brightened, the morning has just begun, and we see you have already done a new thing. Praise be to you, O God. Your ways are beyond our understanding, your mystery is too vast for words, yet on this day, we dare to believe that you are making us into new creations. Alleluia!

Scripture: John 20: 1 - 18 "A Wonderful Message" by Tim and Judy Jackson

Mary Magdalene had been one of Jesus' friends. She had stood and watched on that terrible day as Jesus was killed on the cross. Now Jesus was dead, and Mary felt as if she would never smile again.

Early on Sunday morning, Mary went to the place where they had put Jesus' body. By the time Mary reached the tomb, the sun was just starting to come up. The sunrise turned the sky into a jumble of orange, yellow, and purple. Mary looked at the tomb and saw at once that the stone had been rolled away and Jesus' body was gone. What a horrible shock.

Mary was very upset. She ran to call some of Jesus' disciples. They came running to the tomb as fast as they could. They, too, saw that the tomb was empty. Where was Jesus? The disciples didn't know what to do, so they went back home. Everyone was very puzzled.

But Mary didn't want to go home. Mary stayed by the tomb to see if she could find out what had happened to Jesus. Mary was feeling sad. First Jesus had died, and now Jesus' body had gone. Could things get any worse? Mary cried and cried.

Then Mary turned around and saw someone standing there. Mary was crying so hard that the tears made it difficult to see. "Why are you crying?" the figure asked. "Who are you looking for?"

Mary thought she was talking to the gardener. "Sir," Mary sobbed, "if you have taken Jesus away, please tell me where his body is."

"Mary," the figure said. As soon as Mary heard her name she knew who the figure was. It wasn't the gardener; it was Jesus!

Mary couldn't believe her eyes. Jesus had been dead, but now he was alive! Mary's tears disappeared in a flash and in their place was the biggest smile you have ever seen.

"Go and tell the other disciples what has happened," said Jesus. "Tell them that I am going to be with God."

Mary ran as fast as she could to tell the disciples. She was laughing, and jumping, and dancing with joy. Mary had a wonderful message to deliver.

“I have seen Jesus. Jesus is alive.”

Message: “Resurrection Joy”

Christ is risen! Alleluia! These are the words that we have sang out this morning. May God open our hearts to receive the risen Christ with hope in the new life offered to each one of us. Christ is risen! Alleluia!

All the gospel writers place the first news of the Resurrection in the hands of women. It is no different with John. In John’s case, Mary Magdalene is the one who witnesses the resurrection and the Risen Christ. The surprise of the resurrection prepares the disciples for more surprises. Do the disciples finally accept that, “Christ is risen”? Hard to say. They go back to the Upper Room and lock the door.

Only days before they had witnessed Lazarus being raised back to life after four days in the tomb. As followers of Jesus, they would know the many biblical stories of people who died - being restored to life. In each case, the one who died lived again, but they still faced eventual death. Thinking of the boy Elijah raised of the Zarephath widow – in first Kings. Or the son of the widow of Nain that Jesus brought back to life told in Luke 7. We also know of the several daughter stories that Jesus raised from the dead, and of course, the story of Lazarus is the most recent account. It would seem the disciples would almost expect Jesus to be alive. Maybe they got caught up in their raw emotions? Sometimes what we are feeling at that moment, we think is actually reality. If we could only process the events of the past few years with Jesus – we might very well come to a different explanation.

That where we are today. We are removed enough from the raw emotions of our friend dying on a cross, that we can come to different explanations as we weave this story into so many other biblical stories, including these stories when Jesus reminds us of his death and resurrection. For us today the Resurrection we celebrate on Easter Sunday is testimony to Jesus the Christ – who died, was raised, and will not die again.

If we go back a little bit in this morning’s story, when the two disciples reach the opened tomb, the two men in dazzling clothes ask them, “Why are you looking for the living among the dead?” This questions reminds us and them of Jesus’ teaching, when Jesus says, “Resurrection is not a matter of fear, but of joyful faith”.

Peter and the disciple “whom Jesus loved” go to the tomb after hearing Mary’s witness. They encounter the linen wrappings that had held Jesus’ body. The

transition between verses 8 and 9 is awkward if “believed” is taken as Easter faith. At best, Peter and John believe Mary’s earlier word that someone has taken Jesus. Unlike Mary, they do not linger outside the tomb; they return home. We are told, “They did not understand.”

As John tells his story, Mary Magdalene goes alone to the tomb. Small details shape John’s message. In the first 11 verses, “tomb” occurs nine times. The scene is a place of death. From verse 12 on, tomb is not mentioned. An empty tomb is replaced with the Risen Jesus. Belief in resurrection does not come from an empty tomb. Belief in resurrection comes in a restored relationship, and in Mary’s preaching: she says, “I have seen the Lord!”

Mary is the first witness to the Resurrection. Jesus tells her to go to the others with a message. The purpose of sending Mary was to bear witness to her encounter with the risen Jesus. While Mary is talking to the Risen Christ, he calls her by name. Mary knows - Christ is risen. Alleluia! Meanwhile the disciples run back to the Upper Room and lock the doors.

Jesus asks Mary, “Whom are you looking for?” Jesus asks a similar question of the first two followers on the Road to Emmaus. These are call stories. Today’s story is a call story for Mary Magdalene to be the first one to announce the news. It is a call story for John’s community and for us to witness with Mary to what and whom we see and trust.

Faithful followers of Jesus today continue to tell the good news of Easter. Mary Magdalene was first, and we are invited to continue the message. What still surprises you about Easter? Did you receive a new life surprise this Easter? Who in our community needs Easter’s promise of new life? How might we witness to them?

Jesus’ resurrection goes beyond the realm of human experience or scientific explanation. The events of that first Easter can raise questions and doubt. Yet I might ask, “What astonishing things have you experienced in your everyday life?”

We encounter many things in our everyday life that we can’t explain. Can you think of folks who have lived with cancer - so much longer than ever expected?

Are you aware of the birth of a child when conception was deemed “impossible?” I know of one who finally was released from a longstanding addiction, though it seemed like nothing was working and it would never happen. Have you like I, heard stories of those who have experienced a moment of reunion

with a loved one - long deceased? Not only are these encounters unexpected, even unexplained, but we experience a touch of mystical grace. These are mysteries beyond our knowing, unaccountable magic in the neurons and cells. Science gives to us daily, new information that shares how wonderful God's creation really is. We are unique and wonderful human beings created by God, who knew us when we were formed in our mother's womb. Resurrection is a new creation. As the United Church Creed shares with us; To proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is always with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Reflection Video Hymn: "I Danced in the Morning"

Invitation to Communion:

People: Good Friday is past, we celebrate on this side of the cross, and we speak of life from death.

Eric: Come now to the feast of life that takes all our past and redeems it with life. Come to the table for the host is waiting with the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

Invitation to Share Our Gifts:

Eric: The sharing of gifts is one way we celebrate resurrection. Let us give in love!

Offertory: VU 541 "Praise God From Whom..."

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Offertory Prayer:

People: Jesus, you break bread and we recognize you; you are the fire that burns within us. Use us and these gifts to light the world. In the Name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer:

Eric: The world is different now for, in Christ,

People: we know that your love cannot be contained –

Eric: not by death's grave,

People: not by human walls that divide and separate, not by barriers of hopelessness and despair.

Eric: For all who suffer, are ill, or in grief, we pray...

People: For all who wait to be fully included, we pray...

Eric: For the places of hopelessness within and around us, we pray...

People: The world is different now for, in Christ,

Eric: your Spirit has pushed its way through

People: and befriends the earth once again.

Eric: For the seasons of creation and the earth's pattern of death and renewal, we pray...
People: **For all the ways your presence is revealed to us through creation, we pray...**
Eric: For the delights and joy of life, we pray...
People: **The world is different now for, in Christ,**
Eric: hands that held a whip and a hammer
People: **have seen the futile victory won with violence.**
Eric: And hands once held in death's grip by nails,
People: **now offer peace to all the earth.**
Eric: For forgiveness offered and received, we pray...
People: **For tables of diplomacy and cooperation between nations, we pray...**
Eric: For peace that transcends differences, we pray Jesus Prayer...

*Our Father, Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven,
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us,
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.*

Thanksgiving Prayer:

Eric: Jesus – companion and Saviour – unfolder of alleluias, bread-breaker, life-giver, grave-dancer, wine-sharer, stone-roller, gardener, returned.
People: **Here is our thanksgiving gathering with all those who have ever gathered round this table meeting your promise in this story that pulls death from the world and redeems it with life.**
Eric: May this bread break open your wondrous story. As we share it, we give thanks for what has been done for us.
People: **May this wine spill your promise into the world. As we share it we give thanks for what you have done for us.**
Eric: Great God of resurrection bringing life from death light from shadows adventures from question, authenticity from lies we sing with all the angels:

People: **Holy, holy, holy God,
of new and transforming life,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in your name, O God: Hosanna in the highest.**

Communion Hymn: VU 466 "Eat This Bread"

Eat this bread, drink this cup;
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup;
trust in me and you will not thirst.

Remembering Jesus at the Table:

Eric: May our living be our thanksgiving, retelling the story in every moment of the night; Jesus took bread (*bread is broken*) and shared it,

People: **Jesus took wine** (*wine is poured*) **and offered it, saying, “eat, drink, all of you.”**

Eric: In our thanksgiving may we live as the Body of Christ within the new covenant sealed for all for the forgiveness of sins.

People: **We remember Jesus the Christ always.**

Eric: The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

As we partake the bread together:

Eric: The body of Christ,

People: **the bread of life.**

As we partake the drink together:

Eric: The lifeblood of Christ,

People: **the cup of blessing.**

Prayer After Communion:

People: **We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world united in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: VU 586 “We Shall Go Out...”

- 1 We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.
- 2 We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
including all in circles of our love.

Blessing:

Eric: Christ is risen.

People: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Eric: Go and live as the Body of Christ resurrected by love and empowered by the Spirit to continue God's work in this world, now and forever more.

Postlude: "The Easter Song" – Christie Coatsworth

Prayers: - Please include these people in your prayers this week.

We have offered prayer for these people each Sunday morning just before the Zoom Service. It was suggested to share these names with the total group – as "In the Spirit We Are One".

Cancer:	Tom	
	Louise	Louise' Granddaughter - Blake
	Betty	Ingrid
	Alison	Brenda
	Nancy	Lisa
	Sarah	Larry
	Brian	Jack
	Zoe	Becky
	Barry/ Marsha	Francine
	Melissa	Karen
	Jenny	Michelle
	Heather	Ross
	Gary	Margaret
	Gus (Sick kids)	Dolly
	Chris	Ukraine – Allied and Canadian Forces
	Michelle	Glenna
	Ann	Barry
	Franko	