

NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

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April 4th 2021 11 am

EASTER SUNDAY: Celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus!

Welcome and thank you for joining in our worship this sacred morning! We hope you feel at home in our midst. Let us pause to remember that in this region we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples—predominantly the lands of the Mi'kmaq, Wolastoqiyik and Passamaquoddy. May we live with respect on this land, and live in friendship with its people. Grace and alleluia to you all!

T H E G A T H E R I N G **CALL TO WORSHIP (From entrance)**

Leader: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen indeed!

Leader: Alleluia!

People: Alleluia and Amen!!

THE GATHERING & WELCOME & RETURN OF THE LIGHT

HYMN #155 VU Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day; hallelujah!
who did once upon the cross; hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss; hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing; hallelujah!
unto Christ our heavenly king; hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave; hallelujah!
sinner to redeem and save: hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured; hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!

**now above the sky he's King; hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing: hallelujah!**

**Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost, hallelujah!**

OPENING PRAYER ENDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

**On this day of joy, O God, on this day of Resurrection and new life,
we gather as your Easter people. Fill us with your Spirit, with your
life, with your hope, and with your love. This we pray in the name
of the Risen Christ saying:**

**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,

For ever and ever. Amen.

T H E R E S P O N S E

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN #166 VU Joy Comes With The Dawn

Joy comes with the dawn;

joy comes with the morning sun;

joy springs from the tomb

and scatters the night with her song,

joy comes with the dawn.

**Weeping may come;
weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight. R**

**Sorrow will turn,
sorrow will turn into song,
and God's laughter make us strong. R**

**We will rejoice,
we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace. R**

T H E W O R D O F G O D

***THE GOSPEL LESSON: John 20: 1-18**

SERMON: *God in Muddy Boots And Other Love Lessons*

MUSIC: *Geodes* Carrie Newcomer

T H E S A C R A M E N T O F H O L Y C O M M U N I O N

T H E I N V I T A T I O N

COMMUNION HYMN #460 VU All Who Hunger

**1. All who hunger, gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wandering.
Here, in truth, we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

**2. All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here, in joy, we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered**

**in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.**

**3. All who hunger, sing together;
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here, in peace, we have been led.
Blest are those who from this table
live their lives in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good**

A NEW CREED

**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.**

THE PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, God of the ages; and God of *this* particular time and place.

God of the empty tomb and the fullness of life.

God of community gathered close, and community scattered.

Pour out your Spirit upon us, O God, as we eat and drink and remember, for this is how we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

The tomb is empty: he is not there!

For Christ is risen,

Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

Here at the table we are gathered and held in your love.

For this is the Table of Jesus- who lived a life of radical hospitality. He shows us still, even in the midst of pandemic, that life is a holy gift, and meant to be shared. And so, in these days of continued distancing and isolation, we tell one another the story, so we remember what it is to gather together at table:

It was on the same night in which Jesus would be betrayed. And he gathered with his beloved friends in an Upper Room. And there he took the bread, and he blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying: Take, eat, **this is my body**, given for you.

The body that knows what it is to long for embrace, though needing to refrain.

The body that knows what it is like to be afraid.

that knows what it is like to be loved out of its fear.

This is the body that knows life in all its sorrow and joy, its emptiness and fullness.

This is the body of Christ, given for us all.

+++++ **The Bread is Shared** +++++++

And after supper Jesus took the cup of good wine, and he gave it to his friends saying: This is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for the forgiveness of all. As oft as you do this, this do in remembrance of me.

This is the cup of his life...

The cup that Jesus lifted and shared;

And the cup he had to drink alone;

The cup that was poured out on the streets and hillsides and on fourth watch of the night.

Poured out like fragrant oil, and tears and scattered palms,

Poured out for the faithful and the feckless, for you and for me.

This is the cup of his life poured out for us all in love.

Taste and see that God is good.

+++++++**The Cup Is Shared**+++++++

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison):

We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness; that wine poured out replenishes; that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another – even when we gather electronically – is both gift and grace. Alleluia and Amen!

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BLESSING #223 MV We Will Go With God, Alleluia!

We will go with God! Alleluia! We will go with God!

We will go with God! Alleluia! We will go with God!

On this day of great joy, we will go with God!

On this day of great joy, we will go with God!