



St. Thomas United Church
Open Hands – Open Hearts – Open Minds

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Sunday, April 16, 2017, 10:00am Theme: Yes! Easter Sunday

† indicates stand as you are able
Bold indicates participation by the people

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE: *Kari Orosz- Christ the Lord Is Risen Today with Mozart's Alleluia – arr. by Marilyn Ham*

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

God has said a resounding “Yes!” to the world!

Come, let us worship God.

WELCOME to our Livestream Worship Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY 7 LAND

GREETING ONE ANOTHER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A wicker prayer basket will be sent around. If you have a prayer, please print clearly on a prayer slip, place your prayer in the wicker basket, and pass the basket along.

INTROIT: *This Is the Day that God Has Made*

MV#122

CHRIST CANDLE & SILENCE: At the first light of dawn, the women went to the graveside and there, they found nothing. Our hearts are burning within us! Our hearts are lit with fire! *Betty Thompson*

CALL TO WORSHIP: **(Responsive)**

In this moment –

where mystic and modern meet;

in this moment –

of empty tombs and heavenly messengers;

in this moment –

of life, of death, of resurrection;

we come.

We come to wonder, we come to hope, we come to be.

But, most of all –

we come to worship God! Alleluia!

OPENING PRAYER: (*Unison*)

Loving God, we lift our hearts in praise. This very day we know that life rules over death. All your promises to your people now hold new meaning. Christ is risen from the dead and we have new life because of that. You had proclaimed “Yes!” as a challenge to the problems of the world. As we hear that bold proclamation, help us to find new ways to make it our proclamation in our day-to-day living. Amen

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Children’s Choir – Amazing Grace – Trad., arr. by Jay Althouse*

CONFIRMATION – *see insert*

✠HYMN: *Jesus Christ Is Risen Today* (vv 1,2 **VU#157**; then v. 4 **VU#155**)

READING: *Mary Magdalene Monologue based on John 20:1-18*
Reader: *Jacqueline Shaw*

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Adult Choir: Run to the Tomb*
– *by Pepper Choplin*
(*Children and Youth are invited to join their leaders at one of the entrances to the Sanctuary*)

THE MESSAGE: Resurrection!

✠HYMN: *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks*

VU#179

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *God's World Needs Leaders*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS
with our Offerings & Prayers.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *Soloist: Dennis Watson – The Holy City*
– by Weatherly and Adams

†OFFERTORY: *Grateful (chorus only)* **MV#182**

†OFFERTORY PRAYER: (*Unison*)
As the women drew near to the tomb on Easter morning, ready to give care to a loved one, may we reach out with actions of care, and justice, and compassion. And as the women left the empty tomb and shared the amazing news of resurrection, may we witness the life that is rising up within and all around us. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER: *Now the Green Blade Rises (v1)* **VU#186**

PASTORAL PRAYERS (Leader) & PRAYER OF JESUS (*Unison*)

COMMUNION – *see insert*

†COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION: (*Responsive*)

Go to proclaim to the world that Christ is risen!

We go to declare that death is not the final word!

Go to affirm that God says “Yes!” to all that is good!

We will go and be Easter people.

HYMN: *Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!* **MV#121**

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Tracy Robertson, The Adult Choir, The Children's Choir, Greg Hyatt, Jay Livesay, David Gray, Roger Anderson, Diane Paley, Myrna Malanik, Betty Thompson, Jacqueline Shaw, Erin MacLean-Berko, Dennis Watson, Mark Wagner.

Confirmation Liturgy

Introductory Words

In this worship service today, we celebrate those who choose to make a place for faith in their lives. We gather to provide them with our blessing and our best wishes as they affirm their faith. We give thanks for their thoughtful consideration of our church, its practices, and its history, and offer them our support and friendship.

Introduction of Candidates:

Over the past few weeks, two individuals in our congregation have met with me to explore and share their faith with one another. We recognize that we are not alone on our faith journeys. Our faith journeys continue to grow and expand as our call from God continues to grow and expand.

On behalf of the congregation of St. Thomas United Church, I present the following people who seek to renew the faith proclaimed in their baptism: Maureen Skillen and Robyn Ketchabaw.

Questions for Confirmands Presented for Confirmation:

Having participated in the Confirmation classes here at St. Thomas, and given thought to your own faith journey, are you ready to be confirmed into full membership in this community?

We are.

Do you believe in God who created and is creating?

We do.

Will you be open to the Spirit's nudging in your lives, and turn to the example of Jesus as a model?

We will.

Will you honour and explore the diverse faith questions that you will have as you continue on spiritual journeys?

We will.

Those presented for Confirmation: **We promise to continue our journey of faith by being open to God's Spirit alive and at work within us.**

Congregation: **We promise to stand with you and by you. We will support you, care for you, and pray for you. Together may we all be strengthened in our faith and bound together as God's people in this place.**

Presentation of Gifts

On behalf of the congregation of St. Thomas, we offer you these special prayer shawls offered to you from the prayer shawl ministry of St. Thomas. When times are good, may you enjoy them. And if days ever darken for you, remember the loving hands that prepared them, and may that memory bring you back to peace and happiness. Please also accept these bibles from the Faith Formation Committee. May they help answer some of your questions.

(Gifts are presented)

Blessing

Holy Spirit, be with us as we journey. Be with us, guide us, fill us with Holy Mystery. May we always have open minds, open hearts, and open hands. May we seek you always, and know strength, happiness, peace, and joy. Amen.

COMMUNION:

In The United Church of Canada we affirm that everyone is equally wonderfully and mysteriously made by God who sees it all as good. These are the gifts of God, for the people of God. There are no barriers or limitations, no membership requirements or dues that must be paid; there are no judgments about how you identify, whom you love, or what has happened in your past; it isn't about how you understand God or the heritage you claim – here at this table you are simply, welcome. Here, there is room for all.

Through all the seasons and changes of our lives there is one that stands above all others: this Season of Easter, in which we celebrate with unbridled joy the presence of the risen and living Christ in our midst.

With joy we gather at this sacred table to be sacred community; to be the people called by God into new and everlasting life.

We gather at this table to remember that Jesus often ate with his friends. At one extraordinary meal, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me."

Bread for the journey...may it satisfy our spiritual hunger.

Jesus also took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying: "Drink; this cup poured out for you is the promise of God. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

The cup of new life.... may it quench our spiritual thirst.

What do we remember at this table?

We remember Jesus' death and celebrate his resurrection.

We remember our own resurrection moments.

We remember that it is up to us to bring peace and justice to the earth.

We proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Bless us, O God, and what we do here, that we and these gifts,
touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to one another
and to the world. Amen

Communion

*(If you are unable to come forward, please remain seated and after
all the others have been served, you can raise your hand and we
will come to you)*

✠HYMN after Communion: *Halle, Halle, Halle (2x)*

VU#958