

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for
creativity, discovery and growth*



Sunday, April 7, 2024 ~ 10:00 a.m.

Minister
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St. Paul's United Church, Perth
Sunday April 7, 2024
The 2nd Sunday of Easter Season



✠ *invites us to rise in body or spirit*

God Calls Us Together

Lighting the Christ, Affirm and Prayer Candles

One: We light the Christ candle as a sign that Christ's Spirit alights us all:

All: **this day, this moment, and every moment.**

One: We light the Affirm candle to remind us to be a place of belonging and acceptance,

All: **to learn and grow together in love that protects and celebrates and uplifts.**

One: The Prayer candle reminds us to hold one another in prayer:

All: **to raise prayers of thanks and concern for one another, and any in need.**

Gathering Song: "There Is Room for All" MV 62

**There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing:
 there is room for all sheltered in God's love.**

And I rejoice and sing,

"My Refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."

**There is room for all,
 there is room for all.**

All Our Relations: "Akwe Nia'Tetewá:neren"

All God's Children (Affirming Statement)

Life of the Community

Organ Prelude: "O Perfect Love" - Barnby, arr. by Speed

The Greeting for Easter Season

One: Christ is Risen!

All: **Christ is Risen indeed!**

Hallelujah!

✠ Hymn: "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!" VU 169

- 1 **Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
 Now is the triumph of our King!
 To all the world glad news we bring:
 Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**
- 2 **The Lord of life is risen today!**

**Bring flowers of song, bedeck the way;
let every tongue rejoice and say:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

- 3 Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**
- 4 Your name we bless, O risen Lord,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

Gathering Prayer (all):

Gracious God, who is praised in each “Hallelujah”: we thank you for your grace that brings us together. Bless our worship, as we offer you our hearts and thank you for all your good gifts. May we serve you and delight to do your will, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Children & Youth Time and The Prayer of Jesus (VU 959 – Sung)

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.**

Children proceed to the Gathering Room.

We Listen for God’s Word

From the Gospels: St. John 20: 19 – 31 (MSG, alt) *Barb Guthrie*

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Judeans, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.” Then he showed them his hands and side.

²⁰⁻²¹ The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his greeting: “Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.”

²²⁻²³ Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. “Receive the Holy Spirit,” he said. “If you forgive someone’s sins, they’re gone for good. If you don’t forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?”

²⁴⁻²⁵ But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We saw the Master.”

But he said, “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t be persuaded.”

²⁶ Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.”

²⁷ Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unsteadfast. Be steadfast.”

²⁸ Thomas said, “My Master! My God!”

²⁹ Jesus said, “So, you are persuaded because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who are persuaded without seeing.”

³⁰⁻³¹ Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will be steadfast that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of faith, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

One: For the wisdom that guides us, the word that inspires us
and the truth that enlightens us.

All: We praise you, O God.

☩ Hymn: “You Tell Me That the Lord Is Risen” VU 185

- 1 **You tell me that the Lord is risen,
that you have seen his face.
Then tell me why you crouch in fear
and hide within this place.
You say that he spoke words of peace
and stood just as before.
But ‘til I touch his very flesh
I will not trust your joy.**
- 2 **You claim a resurrection here,
that God has broken death.**

No easy words like these will soothe
 the pain that tears my breath.
 How well do I recall his face,
 compassion, strength in fear.
 How deep my grief that he should die.
 Spare me your words of cheer.

- 3 “Now peace be with you. Come my friend,
 my wounded body see.
 Let the rich courage of your doubt
 bring you to fresh belief.
 Fear not to wonder at the Word,
 to search the depths of grace.
 Reach out and touch, here is my hand.
 Receive the gift of faith.”
- 4 “How blest are they, how fortunate
 who know without the sight.
 But Thomas, you are favoured too,
 for searching yields its light.”
 So may each pilgrim in the Way,
 each road to Christ be blest,
 ‘til lips declare, “My Lord and God”,
 Christ’s body one at last.

Sermon:

“The Flip-side of Easter Joy”

Rev. McLean

We Respond to God

Senior Choir: “Simply, Alleluia” - *Fettke*

Community Prayers

Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Hymn

TUNE: OLD HUNDREDTH VU # 541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
 In heaven and on earth below;
 One God, Three Persons we adore,
 And sing our praise for evermore.**

Prayer of Dedication (*all*)

**Loving God, with hearts filled with joy, we offer you gifts of thanks,
 honour, praise, and love. Sanctify the gifts we offer by envelope,
 through PAR, and in many other ways, and use them to fulfill your
 gracious purpose to share the love of Jesus near and far. Amen.**

God Sends Us to Be the Church in the World

✠ Hymn: “By Gracious Powers”

Tune: O PERFECT LOVE (VU 491)

Words by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in prison 1944, trans. by Fred Pratt Green, 1972

*Bonhoeffer was sentenced to death on April 8, 1945,
and executed by the SS on April 9, 1945*

- 1 **By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered
and confidently waiting, come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning,
and never fails to greet us each new day.**

- 2 **Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.**

- 3 **And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter sorrow, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling,
out of so good and so beloved a hand.**

- 4 **Yet when again in this same world you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.**

✠ The Blessing for Easter Season

✠ Sung Blessing: “When You Go From this Place”

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**When you go from this place be true.
May the blessing of life find you.
May the winds of the Spirit guide you,
'cross the ocean of all your days.
May the seeds of your love - your life
a-dorn the Way.
A-dorn the Way.
A-dorn the Way.**

Organ Postlude: Chorale Prelude on “VULPIUS”

(Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing) - Vulpius, arrangement by Healey Willan