

THIRD AVENUE UNITED CHURCH

Ministry: All of us together
Staff: Lavine Tilsley, Philip Bray & Crystal Stenerson
Ordered Minister: The Rev. Donna Wilson
Organist and Choir Director: Michelle Aalders
Scripture Readers: Gladys Somerville
Guest Artist: Barrie Redford, Trumpet



April 12, 2009 ORDER OF SERVICE 10:30 AM

EASTER SUNDAY

PRELUDE: Golden Harps are Sounding – Frances Havergal
(Arr. Stephen Bulla)

*We believe in the risen Jesus,
The cross bearer, the tomb raider,
The hell-harrower, the death defier;
Embracing resurrection as the first-born from death
We believe in life.*

*We believe in the Easter Spirit
The life-giver, the breath bringer,
The body lover, the church birther,
Enabling communion with Jesus the Living One.
We believe in life.*

Alternative Worship: Resources from and for the Emerging Church.
Tonny Baker and Doug Gay 2003 Baker Books

RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP:

One: The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you!
Response: And also with you.

INTROIT: He Is Risen - Price/Besig

The timing of Easter

today
the gulp of the grave
and the gnawing of the ground

chokes and hushes
as the sun hears the silence
at the emptiness of the stone bed
its eye glazes gold
before the rising life
beyond death
comes the new breath of God in Christ
alleluia as the lips and legs of joy
singing the height of morning
running the breadth of day
and living the length of the cascading
ever evening
that begins today

- Harvey S. Mozolak

Child Brings Christ Candle In

Child: Accept this Easter Candle.

One: This is the Candle of Christ. It holds a flame undimmed,
A pillar of fire that glows to the honor of God.
(For it is fed by the melting wax,
which the mother bee brought forth
to make this precious candle.)
Let it mingle with the lights of heaven
and continue bravely burning
to dispel the darkness of Good Friday Night.
May the Morning Star which never sets
find this flame still burning:
Christ, that Morning Star,
who came back from the dead ,
and shed his peaceful light on all humanity,
your Son, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All: Compassionate God, today we celebrate your gift of grace
in Jesus Christ – new life, new joy, new opportunities,
new light to re-energize us and encourage us as we
commit ourselves to live out your mission on earth.
Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: **Welcome Happy Morning**

VU161

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: After the tragic torture of Good Friday,
why are we all here?

**All: Lilies spread their fragrant promise
among us all,
wiping away our tears for our Lord.**

One: How can our tears dry so quickly?
For what reason?

**All: This morning angels laugh
as death is kicked out of Christ's tomb.**

One: Jesus is risen? Jesus lives once more?

**All: Yes. YES!
Jesus does cartwheels through the graveyard,
splashing through the puddles of our tears,
entering our hearts forever!
Hallelujah!**

One: Hallelujah, indeed
Let us pray together:

**All: You have transformed our sorrow into
rejoicing, O God,
for Jesus is risen and we are freed.
In Jesus' tender whispering of our names
in invitation,
we come to worship you.
Hear our praise and adoration and awe
as our embrace of your free gift of liberation.
Amen.**

Gord Dunbar, Moorefield-Rothsay P.C, Moorefield, One.
L/E/P 2009. Page 36. Used with permission.

EASTER PRAYER

One: God, it has happened:
the alleluias are restored,
the whole of creation has found voice,
and proclaims in every molecule:
death has no power!

All: May we celebrate today.

It has happened that
tombstones and graveyards have become places of
life,
and the whole rhythm of faith
explodes into this day,
with a power that conquers death.

All: May we dance to the beat.

One: It has happened that
mystery and mourning women
find each other in the dawn,
and nothing is as it seems;
your greatest joke on death is played out,

All: May we laugh with the angels.

One: It has happened that
Good Friday has met Easter Day
and life has won.
In this resurrection morning your people praise you,
celebrating with all that is alive,
and proclaim to the world:
death is no more!
Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed.
Amen.**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN: **Butterfly Morning**

CHILDREN'S PRAYER:

The sadness of Good Friday is over. You gave life to Jesus'
sadness and sorrow and have turned it into joy and hope.
Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed. Amen.

HYMN: **Alleluia, Give Thanks**

VU 179

MEMBERSHIP

Transfer of Membership

- Gladys, Patrick, Crystal Somerville and
Sherry Somerville (Gunderson)

Received by Affirmation of Faith

- Alexander Wayne Somerville

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*in unison*)

Risen Lord, we are often blind to your presence with us on the road of life. Sometimes we are looking back in regret for what might have been, but is not. Sometimes we are looking ahead fearful of what yet might be. It is hard for us to live in the now and with eyes open to perceive the Spirit at work. Forgive us. Open our eyes to love expressed in many ways. Open our ears to hear your good news. And open our hearts to respond with thankfulness and praise. Amen.

Dianne Astle, Chemainus U.C and Cedard U.C., Vancouver Island, B.C.
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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

One: Nothing could keep Jesus down;
Not the faintheartedness of the disciples,
Not the judgment of the powerful,
Not the cruelest death in the ancient world.
He rose above the worst people,
the most dark, the most deadly situations.
He rose, he is risen!
And there is nothing that will keep us in
the dark of sinfulness.
In the strength of the Risen Christ,
we will rise to new life!

**All: Pardon and peace are God's gifts to us.
Renewed, we give thanks to God. Amen.**

(David Sparks, Knox U.C., Thunder Bay, Ont.)
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ANTHEM Jesus is Risen - Jon Paige

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD FROM GOD

SCRIPTURE:

New Testament: Acts 10: 34 - 43

Gospel: Mark 16: 1 - 8

SERMON "A Fresh Start!"

HYMN: **The Strife Is O'er**

VU159

OFFERTORY: I Know That My Redeemer Liveth
Arr. (from "Messiah") by James Curnow

DEDICATION: **Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow VU 541**
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

One: . . . Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

All: And in your love, answer.

CLOSING HYMN: **Jesus Christ is Risen Today** **VU155**

COMMISSIONING

One: In the power of God's raising, we go out.

All: In the power of Christ's living, we go out.

One: In the power of Spirit's calling, we go out.

**All: Easter people we are,
and ours is an Easter God.**

One: Life-giving,

All: Hope-restoring.

One: Purpose-claiming,

All: we go out.

BLESSING

CLOSING AMEN: **Danish** **VU967**

POSTLUDE: Easter Glory – Lowry/Wesley
Arr. by James Curnow