
St. Andrew's By-The-Lake United Church

April 8, 2018 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

As you sit to prepare for worship, you are invited to take a moment to acknowledge the land on which our church stands and the spirit of those First Peoples who named this area Katarokwi – the meeting place on the flat rocks.

We also acknowledge the enduring presence of First Peoples who remind us to honour the places where our feet stand.

◆ the congregation is invited to stand, as you are able.

Congregational responses and hymn titles appear in **bold** type

Gathering in Community

We Gather to Worship

Welcome and Greetings / Life and Work/ Mission and Service

Prelude: Interlude on *Bunessan* Charles Callahan

Call to Worship: It is difficult for people who are scared to stand up for what they believe, to speak openly about their convictions. It is difficult for those who have suffered much or have seen much evil and distress to accept that things can change for the better, and that even our misery and wounds can help lighten the burden of others. All this becomes possible and believable when we meet the Risen Christ. Christ bears the scars of the wounds of the crucifixion as we bear the scars of our wounds. In all of this we are comforted and sent into the world with a message of peace and hope. Let us worship God together then in peace and hope.

The Christ Candle is lit in reverent silence.

◆ **Hymn:** *When Morning Gilds the Skies* VU #339

Morning Prayers:

We come before you, Holy God, with the greetings of the risen Christ ringing in our ears! You have done great things for us, though we barely understand them. You have done great things for us, though we sparely share their riches. You have done great things for us, though we rarely live in their full glory.

Today in this ongoing Easter season, may the Spirit of Christ surprise us again with all his deathless truth and grace, and raise us up from the mediocre worship into which we sometimes slide. In his name we pray. Amen!

Christ has not risen to condemn us, but that we might be set free from evil. Let us pray.

Most holy God, our ways are not like your ways, our thoughts are not as your thoughts, and our deeds do not reflect your deeds.

We are your children who need uplifting, the timid who need encouraging, the clumsy who need correcting, the proud who need humbling, the rebellious who need recapturing, the lost who need much saving, and sometime we are the faithful who need your smile of approval.

Gracious God, may the risen Christ assert a holy presence in our midst, unhindered by the walls of this church, or by the half-closed doors of our minds.

May Christ assert a presence and reclaim us all from everything that corrupts, degrades, and alienates us from your joy and salvation.

May Christ give us an Easter Life, breathing your forgiveness and renewal into every corner of our being. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen!

Words of Assurance: We read in the letter of Peter: “Although you have not seen Jesus, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” (1 Peter 1: 8, 9)

The good news therefore is this: in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.
Thanks be to God!

Sharing Our Faith

Anthem: *Now the green blade rises* arr. Alan Bullard

Introduction to the Day: Thomas is not so much a doubter as he is a realist. He’s practical. He doesn’t rush into something that he can’t fully commit to. I kind of admire him, when I stop and think about it. But his “coming to faith” is, in the end, not so much a matter of adding up the facts as it is encountering Christ face-to-face. Are there any ways that we, who will never “see” Jesus like Thomas did, still have an opportunity to encounter Christ for ourselves?

◆ **Hymn:** *Thine Is the Glory* VU #173

God's Word Read and Proclaimed

Readings and Reflections: read by Alan Taggart

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives. **Blessed be God forever.**

Acts 4:32-35

Responsive Psalm 133: *Behold, How Pleasant* VU #856
John 20:19-31

Reflection Time:

◆ Hymn: *This Joyful Eastertide* VU #177

Responding to God's Word

Presentation of Our Gifts and Offerings

◆ **Offertory Prayer & Sung Response:** MV #187

We give our thanks to God, we give our thanks to God,
we give our thanks to God... who gives us everything.

◆ **Prayer of Dedication**

Pastoral Prayers

and The Lord's Prayer (please see inside back cover)

◆ Hymn: *Morning Has Broken* VU #409

Benediction: I saw a stranger today.
I put food for him in the eating-place
And drink in the drinking-place
And music in the listening-place.
In the Holy name of the Trinity
He blessed myself and my family.
And the lark said in her warble
Often, often, often
Goes Christ in the stranger's guise.
O, oft and oft and oft,
Goes Christ in the stranger's guise.

◆ **Blessing & Going Forth:** ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪
Peace Be with You MV #215

**Peace be with you, peace forever, peace be with you, my friends.
Till we meet again, may God be with you. Peace, peace, peace.**

Postlude: *Prelude in C* J.S. Bach

The original idea of Christianity as a faithful way of life has begun to displace the enforced system of creeds that has defined the church for fifteen hundred years. As we gather to worship you are invited to seek the more-than-literal meaning of the stories and teachings that shape our lives together.

We thank Terry Deline for leading us in worship this Sunday.

St. Andrew's By-The-Lake United Church



Statement of Purpose:

St. Andrew's By-The-Lake United Church strives to be...

a friendly, welcoming and inclusive church family which offers:

- spiritual leadership, concern and support for people in the community and the wider world,
- personal growth for all ages, through worship and educational opportunities that strengthen faith in God through Christ, and
- an informal setting, accessible and inviting to all.