
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 Katorokwi – 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**

**When morning gilds the skies,
my heart awakening cries:**

may Jesus Christ be praised!

**When evening shadows fall,
this rings my curfew call:**

may Jesus Christ be praised!

**To God, the Word on high,
the hosts of angels cry:**

may Jesus Christ be praised!

**Let mortals, too, upraise
their voice in hymns of praise:**

may Jesus Christ be praised!

**Let all of humankind
in this their concord find:**

may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let all the earth around

**ring joyous with the sound:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Be this, while life is mine,
my canticle divine:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

**Be this th'eternal song,
through all the ages long:
may Jesus Christ be praised!**

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

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.
R Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.**

**Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph
sing,**

**for the Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting.
R**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors, through thy
deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.
R**

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

The Believers Share Their Possessions

³² Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the

apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Responsive Psalm 133

Behold, How Pleasant

VU #856

R Behold how pleasant, how good it is!

Behold how pleasant, how good it is!

**How pleasant and harmonious
when God's people are together:
fragrant as precious oil
when running fresh on Aaron's beard. R**

**How pleasant and harmonious
when God's people are together:
refreshing as the dew
that falls on Zion's holy hill. R**

**How pleasant and harmonious
when God's people are together:
there is where God bestows
the blessing, life for evermore. R**

John 20:19-31

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came

and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Jesus and Thomas

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.”

²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

The Purpose of This Book

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reflection Time:

◆ **Hymn:** *This Joyful Eastertide* **VU #177**

**This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the crucified,
hath sprung to life this morrow:
R Had Christ, that once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain:
but now hath Christ arisen.
arisen, arisen, arisen.**

**My flesh in hope shall rest,
and for a season slumber,
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number. R**

**Death's flood hath lost his chill,
since Jesus crossed the river:
lover of souls, from ill**

my passing soul deliver. R

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

**Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.**

Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

**Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.**

**Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.**

**Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!**

**Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!**

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.