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**St Andrew's By-The-Lake United Church**  
**Welcome to this time of worship here on this**  
**Easter Sunday**

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**As you sit to prepare for worship, you are invited 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 continue to remind us to honour the places where our feet stand.**

◆ an invitation to stand in body or spirit  
Congregational responses & hymn titles appear in **bold**  
type

Today we welcome families and friends as we worship and celebrate the Good News of Easter Day. The invitation is for each of us to find new meaning and courage for the Songs of our Hearts.

*Gathering in Community*

**Welcome and Greetings / Life and Work/  
Mission and Service**

**Prelude:** *Interlude*

Elizabeth Hill

## **Call to Worship:**

*The sun has risen. There is light in this new day.*

**We come into this place to celebrate.**

*As we grow into the Light we find new meaning and hope.*

**Stones of darkness, and the fears of death roll away.**

*We are an Easter people,*

**Ours is an Easter faith,**

*Our tears are freed to flow and heal, we rise in Joy to live.*

**We declare the risen Christ. We rise in Joy to live.**

◆ **Hymn:**     *Joy Comes with the Dawn...*     **VU #166**

**R Joy comes with the dawn;**

**joy comes with the morning sun;**

**joy springs from the tomb**

**and scatters the night with her song,**

**joy comes with the dawn.**

**Weeping may come;**

**weeping may come in the night,**

**when dark shadows cloud our sight.   R**

**Sorrow will turn,**

**sorrow will turn into song,**

**and God's laughter make us strong. R**

**We will rejoice,  
we will rejoice and give praise,  
to the One who brings us grace. R**

## **Morning Prayer & The Lord's Prayer**

**Eternal Spirit,**

**Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all  
that is and that shall be. Father and Mother of us  
all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hollowing of your name echo through the  
universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed  
by peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done  
by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace  
and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

## Sharing Our Faith

### **Easter Gospel:** *Matthew 28:1-10*

#### *The Resurrection of Jesus*

<sup>1</sup> After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. <sup>4</sup> For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. <sup>5</sup> But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. <sup>7</sup> Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” <sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. <sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

**Anthem:** *Sing and Rejoice*

Tom Mitchell

**Conversation Time:** *What does it mean to you to be an Easter people? What is the challenge for you in responding to this message?*

◆ **Hymn:** *Because You Live...* **VU #178**

**Because you live, O Christ,  
the garden of the world has come to flower,  
the darkness of the tomb  
is flooded with your resurrection power.**

**R The stone has rolled away  
and death cannot imprison.  
O sing this Easter Day,  
for Jesus Christ has risen,  
has risen, has risen, has risen!**

**Because you live, O Christ,  
the spirit bird of hope is freed for flying,  
our cages of despair  
no longer keep us closed and life-denying. R**

**Because you live, O Christ,  
the rainbow of your peace will span creation,  
the colours of your love  
will draw all humankind to adoration. R**

**Readings and Reflections:** read by Louise Potter

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

**Blessed be God forever.**

**Responsive Psalm 118**

(part One with refrain after each line) **VU #837**

**R Hallelujah! hallelujah!**

**Part One (1-4)**

Let Israel now say:

**“God’s love endures for ever.” R**

Let the house of Aaron say:

**“God’s love endures for ever.” R**

Let those who fear God say:

**“God’s love endures for ever.” R**

*I Have Seen the Lord:* based on John 20:1-18

**Reflection Time:** *Bearing witness*

◆ **Hymn:** *Bathe Me in Your Light...* **MV #82**

**Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;  
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with  
grace.**

**Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of  
life’s wounding,**

**showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.**

**Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;  
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.**

**May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,  
drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.**

**Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing; teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.**

**Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness.**

**Fill me with your promise of a love that knows no length.**

***Responding to G\*d's Grace***

**Mission Minute:** Fran McLean

**Presentation of Our Gifts and Offerings**

**Offertory:** *Praise God from Whom...* **VU #541**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;**

**give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

**◆ Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People:**

*Prayer Candle – today is lit with respect and in solidarity with First Nations housing projects that are thinking outside the box.*

**◆ Hymn:           *Give Thanks for Life...*           **VU #706****

**Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,  
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,  
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**Give thanks for those who made their life a light  
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through  
the night,  
who touched the truth, who burned for what is  
right,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**And for our own, our living and our dead,  
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,  
a love not changed by time or death or dread,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**



**Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain**

**lying in darkness does its life retain  
in resurrection to grow green again.**

**Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**◆ Blessing and Going Forth:**

*Sing the Song of your Heart and let the light of love  
and courage empower you to witness the Way of  
Life.*

*May God's grace enfold you. May the Risen Christ  
meet you. May the Spirit of all that is Holy fill you  
with Joy.*



***Go Now in Peace ...***

**MV #211**

**Go now in peace, guided by the light of Christ**

**So you may be nourished by the Word of Life.**

**Postlude: *Fugue in F*     Dietrich Buxtehude**

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.

Resources consulted and adapted for this service include: *Seasons of the Spirit, Easter, 2017*.