

CHALMERS UNITED CHURCH



10:30 AM EASTER III

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023

REV. IAN R. MACKAY

"EASTER COMES: ALONG THE WAY"

COVID PRECAUTIONS

1. Self-screening guidelines: If you have Covid symptoms or are isolating due to close contact, you should not attend in person. Services are also live-streamed.
2. Masking is encouraged but no longer mandatory.
Many will still choose to remain masked for their own or for others' safety. We welcome this choice and urge everyone to respect individuals' choices - each according to their own personal situation.
3. Social distancing still continues in the sanctuary and MacCallum Hall.

Bold Text *indicates the parts that everyone reads together.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

CHORALE PRELUDE

All Glory Be to God on High - F.W. Zachow

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land. In acknowledging this land, the traditional home of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee, we seek to rebuild right relations with First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land with respect and gratitude for its bounty.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: Light comes and shines through the darkness.
Christ risen and real is alive and lightens our way.
In the glory of God's perpetual light, let us be as Christ's light to each other.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: **Leader:** God has called us together in this time of worship. God is listening to our thoughts and to our speaking.

All: **God inclines an ear to us and hears us. God knows us better than we know ourselves.**

One: Let us open our hearts to the One who gives us life. Let us set our faith and hope in God.

All: **In one another's presence, we renew our vows. Together we offer our thanksgiving.**

One: God's promises to us are ancient and ever new. God is with us here and on all the roads we travel.

All: **Together we lift our voices in songs of praise. Together we recognize we are precious in God's sight.**

CENTERING PRAYER

Wondrous God, present with us when we do not know it, valuing us when we do not care for ourselves; open our eyes to recognize you here amongst us. May we sense your presence next to us. May we hear your voice. May we know your touch. May we see you in one another and in the beauty all around us. May your presence emerge deep within us, transforming our thoughts and deeds into ever larger and fuller living. Amen.

HYMN VU 406 *See the Morning Sun Ascending*

1 See the morning sun ascending,
radiant in the eastern sky;
hear the angel voices blending
in their praise to God on high!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to God on high!

2 So may we, in lowly station,
join the choristers above;
singing with the whole creation,
praising you for your great love.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to God on high!

3 For your loving-kindness ever
shed upon our earthly way;
or your mercy, ceasing never,
for your blessing day by day:
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Glory be to God on high!

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A WORLD ENGAGED WITH GOD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy and loving God, beyond our knowing, yet revealed so personally in Jesus Christ, help us to embrace the abundant life you offer to us. May we follow the way of Christ, trusting in your abiding care for each one of us until all join in praising you with mutual good will and joy. Amen.

ANTHEM

A Gaelic Blessing - John Rutter

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world to you.

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READINGS

Responsive Psalm 116 *I Love You God*

pg. 836 Psalter

Refrain (R):

**How can I repay you, God,
For all the goodness you show to me?**

I love you, God, because you heard my voice
when I made supplication,
**because you turned your ear to me,
when I called upon your name.**

The cords of death entangled me,
and the pangs of the Grave laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.

then I called upon the name of God:
"O God, I pray, save my life." **R**

How can I repay you, God,
for all the good things your have done for me?
**I will take up the cup of salvation,
and call upon the name of God.
I will pay my vows in the presence of all God's people. R**

Precious in the sight of God is the death of the saints.

O God, I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your maidservant.
You have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,
and will call upon the name of God.

I will pay my vows to God in the presence of all God's people,
**in the courts of the house God, in your midst,
O Jerusalem. R**

Luke 24: 13 - 35

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN VU 184 *As We Walked Home at Close of Day*

1 As we walked home at close of day,
a stranger joined us on our way.
He heard us speak of one who'd gone,
and when we stopped, he carried on.

2 "Why wander further without light?
Please stay with us this troubled night.
We've shared the truth of how we feel
and now would like to share a meal."

3 We sat to eat our simple spread,
then watched the stranger take the bread;
and, as he said the blessing prayer,
we knew that someone else was there.

4 No stranger he; it was our eyes
which failed to see, in stranger's guise,
the Lord who, risen from the dead,
met us when ready to be fed.

5 Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
As Mary and our sisters said,
the Lord is risen from the dead!

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SERMON

Rev. Ian R. Mackay

Easter Comes: Along the Way

COMMITTING TO THE FUTURE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE OFFERING

DEDICATION OF THE OFFERING

tune: Forest Green #518

Invoke the name of God today: impartial Judge, our hope.
God sees our actions, hears us pray, and gives us strength to cope
With fears and dangers that beset our journey on life's road.
May we invest, without regret, the trust that Jesus showed.
At table with the risen Christ, we do not recognize
The One who, for us, sacrificed now living in disguise.
In friends and neighbours, far and near, who share this planet earth
Hearts burn once more, as Christ appears, proclaiming each one's
worth.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Thank you, God, for the privilege of joining with Christ in the
proclamation of your love for all people. May the ministries we
support serve to unite people across all differences, building up
the body of Christ and reaching out to the world with healing
energy. Bless these gifts and all who give in any way to make
your love known. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN VU 420 *Go to the World*

- 1 Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptising as the sign of our rebirth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
- 2 Go the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
- 3 Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
- 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you 'til the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

HYMN VU 179 *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks* v.4

Refrain: Hallelujah, Hallelujah. Give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.

- 4 Come let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. **R**

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POSTLUDE

Processional - C. David Cameron

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Rev. Ian Mackay has been an ordained Minister of the United Church for 50 years having served pastorates in northern Manitoba (Flin Flon), south-western Ontario (London and Chatham), eastern Ontario (Edith Rankin Memorial, 1983-1993) and Montreal (St. Lambert, 1994-2010). In their retirement years, he and his wife Jane live near Verona where they regularly attend and offer services to Trinity United Church. They have 3 sons and 3 grandchildren. Two of the families live on the west coast, in the Seattle area and in New Westminster, and their youngest son lives in Halifax. This, alone can keep them active, travelling to both sides of the country! They also enjoy cycling, but only for much shorter distances and close to home!

Reader	Margo Craft
Co-Liturgist	Linda Steinberg
Organist	Juliet Milsome
Hymn Singers	Members of Chalmers Choir
Media Techs	Brigitta Holzschuh, Aidan McClung
Refreshments	Heather Faris, Margot Craft
Counters	Murray Anderson, Jan Trites



After the service,
you are invited to share refreshments and conversation.

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