

# EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP

## COMMUNITY WELCOME

- Tawow, Bienvenue, Welcome to this time of worship. While we join remotely in our individual or family places of social isolation and physical distancing, please be mindful that in this moment we are joining in a spiritual way with the entire community of St. Albert United Church who are also participating in this same worship opportunity from their homes and places of safe physical distancing.

### **- Items to gather together before beginning:**

- **Bread and beverage for communion**
- ***A Voices United* hymn book if you have one**

- As you and/or your family move through the service, I invite you to read aloud the words of the prayers, readings, etc. Even if you are alone, speaking the words aloud can help internalize and deepen the worship experience. If there are other loved ones gathered with you, I invite you to share the leader parts with all who are comfortable with and able to read.

- In addition, at points in the service below there will be links to YouTube videos of an opening, the All Ages Time, the Message and celebration of Communion. There will also be links to some music/sung hymns that unfortunately are not local but are legally accessible on the internet. I have included them because we are all aware that music is such an important aspect of worshiping. When you click on these links you may have to shut down the ads that pop up first and close the link as soon as the hymn is finished before it goes to another that may or may not be appropriate.

A SUNRISE WELCOME AND PREVIEW TO EASTER WORSHIP  
FROM MERVIN

<https://youtu.be/SJl0ouEoMpc>

*(Then listen together to [The Cree Sunrise Song](#).)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We have witnessed the sunrise over the Sturgeon River.

**All: Now we join virtually with the community of faith we know as our friends within St Albert United Church.**

One: We gather now to witness the wonder of a tomb found empty.

**All: We join together in awe of the possibility of new life rising from the anguish of death.**

One: The world of the Marys was shaken as they witnessed a stone rolled back and heard an angelic message.

**All: We come ready to be surprised again by an experience of the Risen Christ.**

One: Christ is Risen!

**All: Christ is Risen indeed!**

ANTHEM: [Jesus Christ Is Risen Today](#)

(We will listen to the Kings College Choir, however, if you would like to sing along with them the words can be found at #155 of Voices United.)

PRAYER OF APPROACH (in unison)

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**God of grace and power, we have longed and prepared for this joyous day:**

**on Ash Wednesday we humbled ourselves before you,  
on Maundy Thursday we learnt a new commandment,  
on Good Friday we cried at the foot of the cross,  
on Holy Saturday we kept vigil,  
and on this Blessed Sunday we rejoice in the risen power of  
love, hope, and new life.**

**Make this rising real in our own lives. Let us be people of love, hope,  
and new life. Let us be people of joy. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)**

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**God of grace,  
despair, pain, and fear are part of life;  
sometimes we let them guide us.  
Sometimes we let them hold us back from living your way,  
and we lose sight of your strong love.  
Help us be a brave and holy people,  
living beyond fear.  
Teach us to trust in your steadfast love. Amen.**

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (in unison)**

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**This is the good news:  
God raised Jesus from death,  
turning sorrow into joy and  
despair into hope.  
Christ is Risen.  
Christ is Risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

HYMN: [Joy Comes With the Dawn](#)

(If you would like to sing along the words can be found at #166 of Voices United.)

**MERVIN: TIME FOR ALL AGES** <https://youtu.be/zfuMyDWjw8Y>

#### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Risen Christ lives today!  
**We are witnesses to these things.**  
We sing praise to God incarnate.  
**May Christ's love burn within us!**

HYMN: [Every Morning Is Easter Morning](#)

(The Augustana Chorister & Cherub Choirs who sing this song here show how children play a most important part in sharing the Good News that Jesus is risen and alive.)

#### SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Please share the reading among those who gather physically with you.  
(The Scripture quotations contained herein are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and are used by permission. All rights reserved.)

## Acts 10: 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—Christ is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Jesus.

We are witnesses to all that Jesus did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put Jesus to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised Jesus on the third day and allowed Jesus to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with Jesus after he rose from the dead. Jesus commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about the Messiah that everyone who believes in Christ receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

## Matthew 28:1-10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 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.

The angel's appearance was like lightning, and its clothing white as snow. For fear of the angel the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. Jesus is not here; for Jesus has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where Jesus lay.

Then go quickly and tell the disciples, "Jesus has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see Jesus.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell the disciples.

Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to Jesus, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my disciples to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

SILENT REFLECTION: *Please take time to reflect on all we have heard.*

MESSAGE: <https://youtu.be/mZKWZu1NtLY>

by Rev. Mervin Gallant

## SHARING OF GIFTS

It is very important that we remember to continue to share our gifts of time, connection, prayer, talent and resources with God's people. Please, consider continuing to support agencies and associations which have relied on your financial support prior to these changing world circumstances. We recognize that during these difficult times, personal finances may be severely diminished. However, please consider contributing financially as you are able to support St. Albert United Church's ministry. Expenses continue even with the suspension of services and operations.

**Please check the church website for ways in which you can support ministry with time, talents and resources.**

([www.stalbertunited.ca](http://www.stalbertunited.ca))

HYMN: [Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ](#)

(If you would like to sing along the words can be found at #468 of Voices United.)

# AN INVITATION TO COMMUNION

<https://youtu.be/as3C5ZNWBek>

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## The Prayer Of Great Thanksgiving

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,  
you are beyond complete knowledge,  
above perfect description.  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,  
you are creative and self-giving,  
generously moving  
in all the near and distant corners of the universe.  
Nothing exists that does not find its source in you.  
Through fear-filled days and aching nights  
when the powers of death have done their worst,  
your love has never deserted us.  
Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;  
your presence never fails us,  
your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

We praise you for Jesus Christ,  
risen to life, eternal as your love.  
With the women at the tomb,  
    we raise the strain of gladness.  
Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!

The day of resurrection has come, scattering fear and gloom.  
And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place,  
and with angels and archangels,  
to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.  
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.  
Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.  
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.**

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ,  
who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers:  
loving what he loved  
living what he taught, and  
striving to be his faithful servants  
in our time and place.

In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises,  
and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did.

On the night before Jesus died,  
he took a loaf of bread,  
gave thanks, broke it, and said,  
“Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember me.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying,  
“This is the new covenant, remember me.”

We do remember.

We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching, his dying, and his rising to life again.

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,  
we call on you to transform these familiar things,  
as you continually transform the world around us.

Bless this bread and this cup,  
the wheat and the grape,  
the farmer and the harvest,  
the seed and the sower.

So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community,  
we may taste and see your goodness.

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours, God most holy,  
now and forever.

JESUS PRAYER (please recite together)

**Our Father and Mother, 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.**

### **Breaking the Bread, Pouring the Cup**

The body of Christ,

**the bread of life.**

The lifeblood of Christ,

**the cup of blessing.**

The gifts of God for the people of God,

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Sharing the Meal**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

**Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.**

**We are fed by your love;**

**we are strengthened by your life.**

**We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy.**

**We are now commissioned to:**

**feed as we have been fed,**

**forgive as we have been forgiven,**

**love as we have been loved.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: [Christ Is Alive](#)

(If you would like to sing along the words can be found at #158 of Voices United.)

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH (in unison)

**From this Easter festival,**

**we go forth to live resurrection:**

**In the name of the God who makes us,**

**in the name of the Christ who makes us free,**

**in the name of the Spirit who makes us one.**

**Christ is risen!**

**Christ is risen indeed! Halleluiah!**