

Easter 3C
COCU33C

5th May 2019

*The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church.
Hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting*

THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

ORGAN PRELUDE

The people stand for the entrance of the Bible

CALL TO WORSHIP

Open our lips O Lord:

and we shall declare your praise. O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father,

And to the Son,

And to the Holy Spirit:

As it was in the beginning,

Is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Let us praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

WELCOME AND GREETING

Christ is risen! **He is risen indeed!**

The Easter season is a time for celebrating our restored relationship to God, our reconciliation to our neighbours, our renewed responsibility to steward God's creation. Thinking of the resurrection makes it easy to reflect on my images of God's eternal world – a world in which the language is love and the culture centres on mutuality and generosity. A place where there is no more crying or oppression or pain, a place where justice will come for the poor and the sick will be healed, a place where God's creation is restored and there is abundance and prosperity for all. Let us turn our lives again to the things of God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of God's Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Those who wish to do so may share a sign of peace with those immediately around them using words such as 'God's Peace be with you / and also with you'. Please respect those who wish to use this time for quiet contemplation.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

O Living God of past and future,
we praise you for this present moment.
Fill us with your joy and empower us with your Holy Spirit,
that our strength may be renewed
to sing a new song of your glory
in a world which longs for your justice and peace.
All this we ask in the name of Jesus,
in whom we become your new creation.

(Source: Susan A. Blain and Scott Ressman, United Church of Christ)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, we confess that at times our doubts and fears override our hope and faith. Forgive us when we lose sight of the joy of your love and instead fall into despair and gloom. Lift up our spirits, Lord, and help us to remember the promise of new life here and now, not just the hope of resurrection for the future. We give thanks for Jesus the Christ, who continues to offer us new life, who continues to turn us around and upside down, who continues to break down the walls of death in our own life. Forgive us, restore us and renew us. *A time of silence as we reflect on these words for ourselves*

KYRIE

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

This is the good news we have declared: God leads us out of the shadows to walk in the light of Christ. Receive the forgiveness of God. **Amen.**

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

The children leave for activities in the Lounge

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Come to us, O God, as we read and hear the Scriptures. Reveal your presence to us as we make ourselves present to you. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Revelation 5: 11-14

In this is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 30

1 I will magnify thee, O Lord, for thou hast set me up
not made my foes to triumph over me.
2 Lord my God, I cried unto thee; thou hast healed me.
3, Lord, hast brought my soul out of hell
hast kept my life from them that go down to the pit.
4 praises unto the Lord, O ye saints of his
give thanks unto him for a remembrance of his holiness.
5 For his wrath endureth but the twinkling of an eye, and in his pleasure is life
may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.
6 in my prosperity I said, I shall never be removed
, Lord, of thy goodness hast made my hill so strong.
7 didst turn thy face from me I was troubled.
8 cried I unto thee, O Lord gat me to my Lord right humbly.

9What profit is there in my bloodI go down to the pit?
10the dust give thanks unto thee shall it declare thy truth?
11, O Lord, and have mercy upon meLord, be thou my helper.
12hast turned my heaviness into joy
hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness.
13shall every good man sing of thy praise without ceasing
my God, I will give thanks unto thee for ever.

Please stand and sing the concluding Gloria

**Glory be to the Father, and / to the / Son:
and / to the / Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and / ever / shall be
world without / end. / A / men**

SECOND READING Acts 9: 1-6

The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the gospel

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to John.
Glory to you, Lord

GOSPEL READING John 21: 1-19

The gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ

HYMN

WITNESS

THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

HYMN

*During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received.
Remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We recognise that the greatest gift is the gift of love.
May our offerings distribute this love to the world:
the small world we inhabit with the suffering people we know;
the larger world where the power of love is sorely needed. **Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

God, we are your Easter people living in the hope of resurrection. Yet, we live in a world that is increasingly more difficult to live in. We need hope, and we need to share that hope with others.
Come, Risen One ... **hear our prayer.**
We pray for the world.....*A silence is kept*
Come, Risen One ... **hear our prayer**
We pray for humankind.....*A silence is kept*
Come, Risen One....**hear our prayer**

We pray for ourselves..... *A silence is kept*
Come, Risen One ... **hear our prayer**

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*printed inside cover of hymn book*)

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION

At this table all are welcome. All share in the bread and the cup. By the power of God's Holy Spirit these gifts shall be for us the life of Christ.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The joy of the living Christ be with you all

And also with you.

Let us lift up our hearts

We lift them to God

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for you alone are worthy to receive all power and riches and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise. You created the heavens and the earth. In mercy and love you saved a people from the pit of slavery, and commissioned them to bring your name before all the world. Jesus lived your compassion to the full and called us to follow him. When he was killed by those who would murder your Way, you raised him to life again and enthroned him as the centre of heaven's worship. He meets us in our uncertainty, redeeming even our failures and betrayals, offering forgiveness and removing the scales from our eyes, so that we might recognise you in everything, and express our love in worship and service. We praise you with all creation in the eternal hymn:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

THE NARRATIVE OF THE INSTITUTION

We remember the words from our tradition: On the night that Jesus was betrayed while sharing a meal with his friends he took bread, after giving thanks he broke it and gave it to them saying: Take eat this is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. After supper he took the cup and again giving thanks he gave it to his friends saying: This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you and for all people for the remission of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Lord we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may fall upon us and upon these symbols of the life of Christ - the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Grant that all who share this bread and this cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ to the praise of your holy name.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

The cup we take is a sharing in the life of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

AGNUS DEI

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please come forward in double file down the centre aisle to receive the elements, and return by the side aisle. If you are unable to come forward for communion,

please indicate to the ushers who will arrange for communion to be brought to you. There is wine in the chalice and grape juice in the glasses. Please place empty glasses in the baskets.

COMMUNION MOTET

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Through Jesus we have been fed, just as he humbly fed his disciples long ago. Like John and Peter and the other disciples at that daybreak breakfast, may we trust all that Christ offers us and follow the Way of Jesus. **Amen**

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

HYMN

WORDS OF MISSION AND BENEDICTION

May God, who comes to us in the things of this world,
bless your eyes and be in your seeing.

May Christ, who looks upon you with deepest love,
bless your eyes and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit, who perceives what is and what may yet be,
bless your eyes and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three bless your eyes and cause you to see.

(Source: *In the Sanctuary of Women*, Jan L. Richardson)

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **In the name of Christ. Amen**

*You are invited to be seated for the playing of the organ postlude,
or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen.*

POSTLUDE

Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church

Presiding Minister

Rev Sandy Boyce

Scripture Reader

Organist and Choir Director

Peter Kelsall

The Choir of Pilgrim Church

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***Please join us for tea or coffee and fellowship in the Lounge
after the service.***