

Prayer after Communion

God of Good Friday and God of Easter Sunday, as again we take on our lips the joyous and explosive greeting, 'Christ is risen', may we take into our hearts, the beautiful but challenging truth that our faith in you does not cut us off from the world, but immerses us in it.

God of Good Friday, give us your peace, God of Easter Sunday, go with us now. For Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Amen.

WORDS OF MISSION AND BLESSING

You carry a great and wonderful secret, one that shapes your life and the essence of who you are. You are a people who know that deathliness is not an end. There is yet more life.

May God surround you with everlasting love.
May Christ Jesus raise new life in you.
And may the Holy Spirit anoint you with power to do good.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

A COVID-safe sign of peace is exchanged.

**Please help us to comply with the COVID-SAFE Regulations by wiping the areas you have touched on the pews, after the service.
Thank you for your assistance.**



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Pilgrim
Uniting Church

8.00am
Morning Eucharist

Sunday, 4th April 2021

Easter Day
COCU31B

*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.*

WELCOME and GREETING

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ has risen.

Waiting for us to take notice.

Christ has risen.

Waiting for us to respond.

Christ has risen.

Christ has risen indeed!

HYMN Tis 370 Christ the Lord is risen today

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|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | Christ the Lord is risen today:
Hallelujah!
Let the whole creation say:
Hallelujah!
Raise your joys and triumphs high:
Hallelujah!
Sing now, heaven, and earth reply:
Hallelujah! | 3 | Lives again our glorious king;
where, O death, is now your sting?
Once he died our souls to save;
where your victory, O grave? |
| 2 | Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won;
vain the stone, the watch, the seal:
Christ has burst the gates of hell. | 4 | Soar we now where Christ has led,
following our exalted Head;
made like him, like him we rise:
ours the cross, the grave, the skies. |

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BIBLE READING: Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Loving God, your presence is all around us:
the air in which we move and our every breath.
Nothing separates us from you.
Nothing we do or do not do, say or do not say,
believe or disbelieve.
Nothing in the wide world separates us from you:
not even deathliness.
Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed! Amen!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Friends, had we been there that first Easter morning, it is likely that many of us would have been with the disciples - hiding out in fear, locked behind doors, alone with our thoughts in the upper room. I wish I could say that I would have gone with the women, that I would have been brave and determined. I wish I could say that I would have held onto my faith. But the truth is, we'll never know.
What I do know is that Jesus came back for all of us - not the few who had maintained faith or the few who stayed with him until the end. He came back for the broken and the afraid, for the cowardly and the greedy. For the women in the garden, and for the disciples hiding in the upper room. He came back for those who betrayed him and those who worshipped him. He came back for you and for me. So join me in the prayer of confession, knowing that no matter where we are on the spectrum of faith, Jesus lived, loved, and returned for us. Let us pray.

Today we hear that deathliness is defeated and a new world has begun. We do not know how to respond. We do not know how to trust that new life is ours. Therefore we confess that we have not risen into this new day sure that we are renewed, sure that each day is a new world opened to us through love. We have not lived the great joy of our forgiven and renewed hearts and minds. We have not danced for joy in the morning nor sat speechless with gratitude in the evenings. We have missed the earth-shaking, earth-sustaining, earth-renewing burst of love that comes to us in the story of resurrection.
Lord have mercy. **Lord have mercy.**

A time of silence is kept

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear this: Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!
Loves conquers fear. Day banishes night. Laughter defies despair.
And all the earth sings for joy. Christ is risen and we are free!
Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Thanks and praise to you awesome God who takes death and looks it square in the eye saying, 'I'm not finished yet!'. Blessed are you, O God, who breaks open wide the tomb of our world, calls life out of death, and leads all creation into life eternal. Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. Again & again you meet us where we are. Again & again, you show us the path of life.
And again & again we remember the story of Jesus, your Son, who in the night he was betrayed, took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.
And again, we remember that after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore, his calling, his healing, his dying and rising, again & again, we share this holy meal, and experience your salvation. This morning, with the whole realm of nature around us, with earth, sea, sky, and bush, with creatures great and small, with angels and archangels, with all the saints before us, with brothers and sisters, east and west, north and south, we speak the words of unending praise:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of truth and light,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

Come now, Spirit of Jesus, brood over this bread and this wine and us.
May they be for us your body and blood,
vibrant with life, healing, renewing and making us whole.
And burst forth in us with your life-giving power
that we might recognize your presence in each and every person
who breaks bread and shares wine round this table.
Because you are one with us, O Christ,
make us one with you as we pray the prayer you taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the Kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

The sharing of Holy Communion

HYMN TIS 380 Yours be the glory, risen, conquering Son

1
Yours be the glory, risen,
conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death
you've won;
angels in bright raiment rolled the
stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes,
where your body lay.

Yours be the glory, risen,
conquering Son,
endless is the victory over death
you've won.

2
See, 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 is living, death has lost
its sting.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, in the offering of our gifts and of our lives,
we remember the love and hope that is ours to share.
May these gifts be as new life to any in need. **Amen**

HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

Through light and the word, through bread and wine, we recall Christ's
death and resurrection,
we share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and with invincible hope
we renew our faith in Christ's presence at this table and in our lives.
Come, for all are welcome.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

Let us lift up our hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise,

3
No more we doubt you, glorious
Prince of life;
life is naught without you: aid us in
our strife;
make us more than conquerors
through your deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to
your home above.

BIBLE READING: Mark 16: 1-8

REFLECTION

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

Loving Jesus, because we believe that you know every part of our life, we
have confidence to come to you with our prayers both for ourselves and
others. We pray for those whose lives are so tough that they cannot
imagine a God who would understand their struggles. We bring them
before you in silence. *A silence is kept*

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

We pray for those who have been given a God who is linked tightly with
prosperity, or people who have been taught that their troubles are
connected with their sin or lack of faith, people who no longer dare to
approach you because they fear your judgment. We bring them before
you in silence.

A silence is kept

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Where there is loneliness and anxiety today,
we pray that you will be present as friend and comforter
and give us faithfulness in joining you there.

Where there is hunger and poverty in our world,
inspire in us a new justice which matches your love.

Where there is fear and violence or warfare,
move us towards reconciliation and gentleness.

Where there is illness and pain,

may we see more clearly those who suffer and hold them close.

Where there is rejection and hate, or abuse and harassment,
we pray that you will be found among those who are on the edge of life,
and that we will know where we must be
if we are to love others as you have loved us.

We bring them before you in silence.

A silence is kept

Lord in your mercy: **hear our prayer**

Gather our own lack of faith, Lord Jesus.

Gather our doubts and confusion in the face of human realities,
and break open the truth before us

in ways which lift our lives and hearts this day.

Lift up among us those who live out your prophetic life

with courage and truth, O God,

that all the world may see and believe that you are with us.

This we pray, all in the name of Jesus Christ,

our living Lord and Saviour.

Amen.