

**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH**

April 12, 2020

**EASTER SUNDAY**

*Welcome to all. May this time of worship touch our hearts and minds and offer hope and promise for the days to come*

**PRELUDES:** "Saraband for the Morning of Easter"

Herbert Howells

Meditation on "Easter Hymn"

Camil van Hulse

**WELCOME**

**LIFE and ACTION of the COMMUNITY OF FAITH**

**HYMN: VU157<sup>1</sup>**

Christ the Lord is risen today, Hallelujah!  
all creation join to say; Hallelujah!  
raise your joys and triumphs high; Hallelujah!  
sing, O heavens, and earth reply: Hallelujah!

Love's redeeming work is done, Hallelujah!  
fought the fight, the battle won. Hallelujah!  
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er! Hallelujah!  
Lo, he dwells in death no more! Hallelujah!

Lives again our glorious King: Hallelujah!  
where, O death, is now your sting? Hallelujah!  
Once he died, our souls to save: Hallelujah!  
where your victory, O grave? Hallelujah!

Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven, Hallelujah!  
praise to you by both be given! Hallelujah!  
Every knee to you shall bow, Hallelujah!  
risen Christ, triumphant now. Hallelujah!

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION<sup>2</sup>:** *(In unison)*

Loving and powerful God, Creator of all life,  
we give thanks that by the exercise of your love  
you have transformed the world.

You have shown a boundless grace  
and an unlimited capacity to forgive.

You have released us from bondage to our sins  
and entombment in our deepest fears.

You have opened the way  
for establishing justice and peace.

You have declared your absolute unwillingness  
to abandon us, no matter what we do to put you off.

You have encouraged us  
to dare the boldest of hopes.

You have, through Christ's resurrection,  
redeemed and renewed us

Transform our gratitude into discipleship  
and our beliefs into heart-felt participation  
in your unfolding kin-dom of peace and well being for all.  
We pray with joy, in the name of the risen Christ. Amen

RESPONSE OF PRAISE:<sup>3</sup> VU958

Hal-le, hal-le, hal-le lu---jah! (3X)

Hal-le-lujah! Hal-le-lu-jah! (Repeat)

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING:** Jeremiah 31: 1-14

**GOSPEL READING:** John 20: 1-18

## **HYMN: VU186<sup>4</sup>**

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
thinking that he would never wake again,  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
your touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.

**REFLECTION:** “Roll the Stone Away”

**SOLO:** “Christ Still Rises” Benjamin Brody, David Bjorlin

## **PASTORAL PRAYER LORD’S PRAYER VU916**

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 hallowing 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

## **HYMN: VU158<sup>5</sup>**

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war,  
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth,  
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth,  
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

## **BENEDICTION**

### **SUNG BLESSING: VU586<sup>6</sup>**

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
tales of a love that will not let us go.

**We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;  
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
within the vision of new life in Christ.**

**POSTLUDE: "Alleluia" from Five Liturgical Inventions**

Victor Togni

Leading in worship today are Rev. Joanna MacQuarrie; Robert Grandy, Minister of Music; Chris Freeman, Worship Leader; Laurel Robinson Lachance, Soloist and Dave Freeman, Soloist and Technical Production.

**Credits:**

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

"Hope is hearing the melody of the future.  
Faith is to dance to it."

Rubem Alves quoted in Paynter (ed), *Lent & Easter Readings from Iona*, 2002, Wild Goose.

**TODAY'S ORGAN MUSIC**

**ORGAN MUSIC:** British composer and organist Herbert Howells (1892–1983) wrote his "Saraband for the Morning of Easter" in 1940 after recovering from a severe illness. It is written in the form of a stylized Baroque dance in the typical slow triple metre. Dense chords give this work power and majesty – an ecstatic vision of that first Easter morn. Then you'll hear "Meditation on 'Easter Hymn'", by the Belgian-born American organist and composer Camil van Hulse (1897-1988). His Meditation hints at this familiar Easter tune throughout the entire work. Both of these composers lived long productive lives. Unfortunately this cannot be said of the composer of today's Postlude. Victor Togni (1935-1965) was organist at St. Basil's Church in Toronto and in 1963 he became organist at St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto. In 1965 on his way to give a recital in Montreal, his car was hit by a transport truck and Victor was killed. His only organ work is his "Five Liturgical Inventions" from which this "Alleluia" is taken. Originally this was an improvisation, luckily recorded and later written out for

future organists to play and listeners to enjoy. There are outbursts of resurrection joy at the beginning and at the end, enveloping a serene middle section based on an ancient plainsong tune.

**SOLO:** "Christ Still Rises" is a new hymn/solo by Benjamin Brody, Professor of Music at Whitworth University in Spokane Washington. With a poignant and contemporary text by David Bjorlin, a Professor and Pastor in Chicago, they have created a heart-felt song for today's time of global pandemic and virtual worship.

*Christ still rises when fear grips our city, when death takes no pity, when much is unknown. Christ still rises when friends are divided, when joy feels misguided, when we are alone. Christ still rises when churches are shuttered, when praises are muttered, when prayers go unsaid. Christ still rises when peace has all faded, when we are most jaded, when faith turns to dread, when faith turns to dread.*

*Christ still rises when we give to neighbors, when we share our labors, when strangers belong. Christ still rises when we come together, when love is our tether, when hope is our song. Christ still rises when grieving is ended, when bodies are mended, when beauty heals pain. Christ still rises when fear has retreated, when death is defeated and joy will remain, and joy will remain.*

**OFFERING**

Your donations are appreciated and used carefully to further Christ's work in the world. In these weeks, when gatherings are not possible, please make donations to Trinity UC and to the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada by using Canada Helps, a Canadian not-for-profit organization. Just go to Trinity's web page <http://trinitypeterborough.com> and click on the "Donate Now" button located at the upper right hand side of the page. Please allocate to General, M & S or Capital. Canada Helps will issue you a tax receipt in Trinity's name. Cheques may also be placed in the secure mailbox located beside our main door under the covered portico.

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*During Covid-19 the church office is closed. However the Minister and office staff are working from home and may still be reached at the above list.*