

**Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster
Aldergrove, Gladwin Heights, St. Andrew's
and Trinity Memorial United Churches**

**Easter Sunday
April 4th, 2021**

Thank you for Connecting for Worship

Today's Leadership includes

Preacher: The Rev. Tim Bowman

Presiding: The Rev. Bill Booth

The Rev. Tim Bowman

Musician: Donna Poncelet & Jacob Greenan

Song Leader: Deborah Handley

Technical Support: Jeremy Wright

People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Words of Welcome, Announcements from Each Congregation and
Land Acknowledgement**

Lighting the Rainbow Candles: Bill

Lighting the Christ Candle: Bill

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

(the candle is lit)

Thanks be to God!

Amen!

Sung Response: MV 122 - "This is the Day"

*This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad! (2x)*

*Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!
We will rejoice and be glad! (2x)*

*This is the day that God has made;
we will rejoice and be glad! (2x)*

*Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!
We will rejoice and be glad! (2x)*

Call to Worship: Tim

Christ has died. Our hearts are heavy.

But Christ has risen! The tomb is empty! "He is not here," they said.

What should we do? What can this mean?

"He is going ahead of you," they said.

Let us follow; let us go together and ponder what this means.

Opening Prayer: Tim

We have followed you; we are gathered here
bound together by bits and bytes and electronic signals
but united in faith.

Help us to pause, here.

Help us to rest confidently enough in you
that we can dwell in the wonder
of what this resurrection news might mean and come to mean.

Hymn: VU 158 - "Christ is Alive"

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.

Time with our Children: Bill

Hymn:

VU 352 - "I Danced in the Morning"

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I dance on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.*

***Refrain) Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he, and I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.***

*I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. **Refrain)***

*I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on a cross to die. **Refrain)***

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on. **Refrain)***

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms

Scripture Reading:

Mark 16:1-8

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Tim

Hymn: VU 168 - "The Risen Christ"

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet.
from garden tomb through darkened city street, unlocks the door of grief,
despair, and fear, and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,
breathes out his Spirit on them to abide whose faith still wavers, who dare not
believe, new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.

The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand.
the bread for those who fail to understand, reveals himself,
despite their lingering tears,
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.

May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with the oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.

Scripture Reading:

Mark 16:9-14

Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen.

Prayer of Confession: Tim

"They would not believe it."

We have not believed it, God.

We have not believed the women when they tell us what it is like to live in a female body: the cautions, the precautions, the possibility and experience of violence.

We have not believed the homeless when they tell us it's not as simple as "Get a job," that they are enmeshed in a web of mental illness, substance abuse, generational trauma and systemic indifference.

We have not believed our children when they protest that they are doing their best; we see defiance and laziness when they seek connection.

We have not believed in your justice and your possibility.

**Somehow we have learned that is easier, safer, more sensible
if we refuse to believe.**

Silent prayer

Scripture Reading:

Mark 16:15-18

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news^a to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Assurance: Tim

How do you express the inexpressible newness of Creation?

Believe in exorcism; believe in healing; believe in a stranger on the road to Emmaus or a familiar voice in a garden.

Believe in whatever way the good news is revealed to *you*, and above all, trust in a person - Jesus Christ - and trust in the one who makes all things new.

Hymn: MV 182 - "Grateful"

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all,
O God of Love. Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
thankful for your Holy Word, joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

You are more than we imagine, Ancient, Holy, Living Lord.
Even when we doubt your presence
you are faithful to your Word.

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

May our lives proclaim your justice,
may our voices sing your praise.
May our hands work in your service to the glory of your name.

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of Love.
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
thankful for your Holy Word, joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

God be with you. **Bill**

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

All our thanks, all our praise!

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!

Before all that is, You were God.
Outside all we know, You are God.
After all is finished, You will be God.
Archangels sound the trumpets,
Angels teach us their song,
Saints pull us into your presence.

And this is our song:

Sanctus: MV 203

O 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!

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! **Tim**

You beyond the galaxies,
You under the oceans,
You inside the leaves,
You pouring down rain,
You opening the flowers,
You feeding the insects,
You giving us your image,
You carrying us through the waters,
You holding us in the night,

Your smile on Sarah and Abraham,
Your hand with Moses and Miriam,
Your words through Deborah and Isaiah,
You lived as Jesus among us,
Healing, teaching, dying, rising,
Inviting us all to your feast.

In the night in which he was betrayed, **Bill**
Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, 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.

Holy God, we remember your Son,

His life with the humble,
His death among the wretched,
His resurrection for us all:
Your wisdom our guide,
Your justice our strength,
Your grace our path to rebirth.

And so we cry, Mercy:

Mercy!

And so we cry, Glory:

Glory!

And so we cry, Blessing:

Blessing!

Holy God, we beg for your Spirit. **Tim**

Enliven this bread,
Awaken this body,
Pour us out for each other.
Transfigure our minds,
Ignite your church,
Nourish the life of the earth.
Make us, while many, united,
Make us, though broken, whole,
Make us, despite death, alive.

Prayers of the People and all the World: Bill

Prayers shared from the Chat: Bill

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace,

We cry, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the church shouts, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

And so the earth pleads, Come, Holy Spirit:

Come, Holy Spirit!

DISTRIBUTION:

Whoever you are, you are welcome at the table of Christ. At this point we invite you to consume your juice/wine and bread.

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three, **Bill**

Our Life, our Mercy, our Might,
Our Table, our Food, our Server,
Our Rainbow, our Ark, our Dove,
Our Sovereign, our Water, our Wine,
Our Light, our Treasure, our Tree,
Our Way, our Truth, our Life.

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three!

Praise now, Praise tomorrow, Praise forever.

And so we sing, Amen:

Amen: MV 205 - Celebrate God's Presence, 256-258.

*Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen!*

Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God: Tim

We bring our offerings for God's work among us in many ways:
cash and cheques mailed or dropped off;
Pre-Authorized Remittance and our online donations:
our time and our work, for God's work among us.

Doxology: MV 185 - "Ev'ry Day is a Day of Thanksgiving"

*Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
God, you've been so good to me.
Ev'ry day you're blessing me.
You know that ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
I will glorify you, O My God, today!*

*Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
God, you've been so good to me.
Ev'ry day you're blessing me.
You know that ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
I will glorify you, O My God, today!*

*You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
You opened the door that I might see, you're blessing me.
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
I will glorify you, O my God, today.*

*You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
You opened the door that I might see, you're blessing me.
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
I will glorify you, O my God, today.*

Prayer of Dedication: Tim

You call, and we respond;
you give, and we use the gifts with thanksgiving.
In Jesus you gave us life; In Christ you give us life again.
**Through your Spirit this life takes root and grows;
we offer it back to you.**

Scripture Reading:

Mark 16:19-20

So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it.

Hymn: VU 420 - "Go to the World"

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!

Go to 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!

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!

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!

Blessing and Sending Forth: Bill

Great and glorious God,
you have rolled away the stone and raised Christ to life,
and now you invite us to share in the Good News.
Give us the courage to welcome the winds of change in our lives
as it sweeps the sidewalks
and brings hope to hungry families, released prisoners,
sick and sad people of all ages.

In this season of Easter,
run with us in the joy of new life
that transforms the way we see the world and one another.

For Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

—*from Worship in the City: Prayers and Songs for Urban Settings*
by Nancy Elizabeth Hardy (UCPH, 2015)

Sung Response: "Go on Your Way in Joy"

Go on your way in joy, my friends.
Go on your way in joy, my friends.
Go on your way in joy, my friends.

Let your left foot say "Glory" and your right say "Amen"

Postlude

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