

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

**The Third Sunday of Easter / Earth Sunday
April 18th, 2021**

Thank you for Connecting for Worship

Today's Leadership includes

Preacher: The Rev. Bill Booth

Presiding: The Rev. Michael Hare

The Rev. Tim Bowman

Musician: Donna Poncelet

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: Tim

Lighting the Christ Candle: Tim

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!

This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu! We will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu! We will rejoice and be glad!

Call to Worship: Michael

Christ is risen indeed; so what?

Christ is risen indeed; what now?

Now we walk with the risen Christ;

Now we take our place in the redeemed Creation;

Now we proclaim the good news.

Opening Prayer: Michael

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists. Pour out upon us the power of your love, that we may protect life and beauty. Fill us with peace, that we may live as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor, help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth, so precious in your eyes. Bring healing to our lives, that we may protect the world and not prey on it, that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction. Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing, to be filled with awe and contemplation, to recognize that we are profoundly united with every creature as we journey towards your infinite light.

We thank you for being with us each day. Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle for justice, love and peace.

- Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*.

Hymn: VU 186 - "Now the Green Blade Rises"

*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.*

Time with our Children: Michael

Hymn: "Know that God is Good" MV 104

*Know that God is good, Know that God is good,
Know that God is good, God is good, God is good.*

*Know that God is good, Know that God is good,
Know that God is good, God is good, God is good.*

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms.

Scripture Readings:

Acts 3:1-21

1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o'clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, "Look at us." And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. Jumping up, he stood and began to walk, and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. All the people saw him walking and praising God, and they recognized him as the one who used to sit and ask for alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

11 While he clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's Portico, utterly astonished. When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant^a Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus^a has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

21 "And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus, who must remain in heaven until the time of universal restoration that God announced long ago through his holy prophets.

Luke 24:36b & 44-48

36b Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "You Had No Idea What You Were Doing" **Bill**

Hymn: MV 79 - "Spirit Open My Heart"

***C) Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.***

*God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind and tender
All my coldness and fear to your grace I now surrender. C)*

*Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my story.
In each thought, word, and deed, may my living bring you glory. C)*

*May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister, brother.
In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one another. C)*

Prayer of Confession: **Michael**

God of all the suffering Earth, forgive us for wasting the world we are given, for our failure of empathy for our animal and avian kin, for closing our eyes to human poverty and hardship, for our unwillingness to listen to voices that remember the wisdom of land, for squandering the legacy of coming generations, and for our refusal to honour your body, your world.

Silent prayer

Assurance: Michael

God turns us back to the ways of his life;

God creates in us hearts that are filled with love of the earth.

God shows us our vocations as guardians of this planet;

God gives us courage to do the work of our time.

God aligns our lives with her and with creation that we might walk humbly with God here, now and always. Amen.

- Written by Brian Day. *Gathering, Lent / Easter 2021*. Adapted, and used with permission.

Hymn: "Take, O Take Me As I Am" MV 85

*Take, O take me as I am; Summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me (X 2)*

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayers of the People and all the World: Tim

Prayers shared from the Chat: Tim

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace, we sing together the words that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer VU 960

Our Father, 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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. 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!*

*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

Holy God: 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.**

Hymn: VU 642 - "Be Thou My Vision"

*Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.*

*Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.*

*Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.*

*Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.*

*Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.*

Blessing and Sending Forth: Bill

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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