

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

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 25th, 2021**

Thank you for Connecting for Worship

Today's Leadership includes

Preacher: The Rev. Tim Bowman

Presiding: The Rev. Michael Hare

The Rev. Bill Booth

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

Lighting the Christ Candle **Michael**

Christ is risen

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

Amen! Alleluia!

Call to Worship **Bill**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

One: Let us praise our God

All: who has given us life and hope by raising Jesus from the dead.

One: Let us rejoice, then, even in our distress.

All: We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

One: O God, you have claimed us as your own

All: and called us from our darkness into the light of your day.

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen.

All: The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Prayer of the Day **Michael**

One: Shepherd of all,

by laying down your life for your flock

you reveal your love for all.

Lead us from the place of death

to the place of abundant life,

so that, guided by your care for us,

we may rightly offer our lives for you and our neighbour. Amen

Hymn: VU 574 Come let us Sing of a Wonderful Love

*Come, let us sing of a wonderful love,
tender and true, tender and true,
out of the heart of the Father above,
streaming to me and to you:
wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.*

*Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell
joyfully came, joyfully came,
came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell,
sharing their sorrow and shame,
seeking the lost, seeking the lost,
saving, redeeming at measureless cost.*

*Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet;
Why do they roam? Why do they roam?
Love only waits to forgive and forget;
home, weary wanderers, home!
Wonderful love, wonderful love
dwells in the heart of the Father above.*

*Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love!
Come and abide, come and abide,
lifting my life till it rises above
envy and falsehood and pride:
seeking to be, seeking to be
lowly and humble, a learner of thee.*

Time with Children “Beloved Community” Bill

Hymn VU 477 I Come with Joy (VS 1, 4 & 5)

*I come with joy, child of God, forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.*

*The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here, alive among us here.*

*Together met, together bound by all that God has done,
we'll go with joy, to give the world
the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.*

We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms.

Invitation to Confess Bill

Friends in Christ,
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy and welcomes sinners.
Let us confess our sins confident in God's forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

**We have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbours,**

**we have not heard the cries of the needy,
we have spoiled the goodness of your creation.
Forgive us, we pray, free us for joyful obedience,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear this good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people.

ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people. Alleluia!

We Listen for the Word

Scripture: 1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

John 10:11-18

¹¹"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon Tim

Hymn: MV 161 I Have Called you by your Name

*I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called and chosen; you are mine.*

*I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name; speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.*

*I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.*

*I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.*

We Respond

Acknowledging our gifts for the work of God

We give thanks for your financial offerings made through: cash, cheques mailed or dropped off, Pre-Authorized Remittance and online donations which together with your donations of time and work are used to further God's mission through the work of the congregations gathered here. We present these gifts as a sign of thanksgiving to God from whom all blessings flow.

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

Shepherd of all, by laying down your life for your flock
you reveal your love for all.
Lead us from the place of death to the place of abundant life,
so that, guided by your care for us,
we may rightly our lives in love for you and our neighbour. Amen

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession Michael

Prayers Shared from the Chat Michael

Lord's Prayer (960 Sung)

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.

Blessing of a Prayer Shawl

Hymn 421 Lead on O Cloud of Presence

Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us, new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise where milk and honey flow.

Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering, for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people. The journey is our home.

Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy, and love is law's demand.

Blessing and Dismissal **Tim**

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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