

ORCHARD VALLEY UNITED CHURCH
130 Cornwallis Ave., New Minas, NS B4N 3M7

Order of Worship
Sunday, April 21, 2019, 7:00 am

Easter Sunrise Sunday

Music as We Gather

Welcome & News of the Community

One: The Peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you!

Gathering Words:

One: God,

All: source of all life, has burst open the tomb with laughter!

One: Resurrection,

All: silent as dawn, has set loose random explosions of hallelujahs!

One: Jesus,

All: crucified one, has given breath to his first resurrected word, a word filled with love, "Mary!"

One: Mary,

All: valueless woman, is the first to proclaim, before any religion catches on, "Jesus is risen!"

One: May we not hesitate with the hallelujahs!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Music:

“Jesus Christ is Risen Today”

VU #155

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

Opening Prayer:

One: Resurrecting God, we have come to see the stone rolled
away. We come in hope that no matter who we are,

**All: no matter where life has taken us,
no matter what choices we have made,
no matter what sins we have committed,
we will find Christ in this place.**

One: The empty tomb assures us that nothing we can do is
beyond your power to recreate. Be with us as we celebrate
the beauty of new life, we ask in the name of our Savior,
Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying...

The Lord's Prayer

Dramatic Reading: *(Based on John 20:1-18)*

Mary:

My skin crept as I stood at the tomb. That gaping hole daring me to go in, yet haunting me with fear. And I cried great tears of pain. The last few days had crushed me, but this was the final scene of a terrible nightmare and it tore my soul from me. I couldn't help it. The tears fell with slow motion in great splatters on the ground. But in the dying gloom two dull, watery shapes moved and, as if they had asked why I was weeping, I cried out, "Where have they taken him?"

At that moment, I could feel someone behind me. Ah, the gardener! "Where have you put him, sir?" I asked.

His shape moved from in front of the rising sun and, as the light hit his face, his lips moved and the sound of his voice cradled my name. At that moment I knew, with every goose-bump crawling over my flesh, that it was him. And I called out "Rabbouni!" and wept like a child.

Light candle

Music: "Joy Comes with the Dawn"

VU #166

Refrain:

*Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.*

Weeping may come;
weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight. **R**

Sorrow will turn,
sorrow will turn into song,
and God's laughter make us strong. **R**

Refrain:

*Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.*

We will rejoice,
we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace. **R**

Simon Peter:

All I saw were linen wrappings; folded, grey and dull in the half-lit tomb. I had run to the tomb with the other disciple, and I was panting. He was standing outside the tomb but I ran right in and, with gulps of sour air and the noise of my heart thumping in my ears, I stared at the cloth. Is this all there was? What trick have we been fooled by?

And still further into the tomb where Jesus' head must have lain, the cloth that covered his face was lying, rolled up. It was mocking us, having some sort of last laugh. And we turned around and came out of the tomb.

The other disciple was shaking me, holding my elbow, the risen sun reflecting in his face, basking in its new-found warmth. I saw that this was no trick. No, this was resurrection. The word echoed in my confused head as I walked all the way home again.

Light candle

The other disciple:

Mary's words shocked me. What else could possibly happen after a Passover like this one? But yet, what this woman said made everything worse and I wanted to prove her wrong. I glanced at Simon Peter and we both thought the same thought and we ran like we had never done before.

A new energy in my limbs made sure I was first but I couldn't go in. I hesitated at the tomb's entrance. Peter caught up and shot past me. And I swallowed hard and went in to join him. I could hear my heart. I could smell the staleness. I could see the grave-clothes. I turned to Peter and saw the look of utter devastation in his face. But maybe....just possibly...could it be? It must be...

And I grabbed Peter and didn't know whether to laugh or cry. "It must be true," I kept saying, "It must be true!"

Light candle

Music: "This is the Day that God Has Made"

VU #175

Refrain:

*This is the day that God has made!
Rejoice! Rejoice, and be exceeding glad!
This is the day that God has made!
Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!*

Christ has conquered death at last,
left the tomb that held him fast!
Gone the sorrow, gone the night,
dawns the morning clear and bright! **R**

Jesus lives who once was dead,
lives forever, as he said!
Risen now our Saviour, King;
songs of gladness let us sing! **R**

Invitation to Communion:

Do not be afraid!

What was sealed is now open; once bound, now free;
once breathless, now breathing; once silenced, now laughing;
once broken, now whole; once dead, now living.

You are invited to the place of God's promise, now unfolded,
in bread, in wine, in community, this morning.

Do not be afraid!

Come taste resurrection, share eternity, and be touched
by the hand of the risen Christ.

Communion Prayers:

One: When we do not understand,

All: we gather by this table.

One: When mystery stretches ever wider,

All: we break bread.

One: When the wonder is more than our souls can hold,

All: we share the cup.

One: In resurrection, there is no other place to gather, other than
where heaven and earth tangle, where your hand twists with
laughter in the dawn.

**All: Take this bread, risen Saviour, and fill it with the story
of empty tombs.**

One: Take this wine, living Christ, and let it echo with the whisper
of resurrection.

**All: Take this table, risen Saviour, and let it be the place
where grave clothes are folded.**

One: Take this community, God of life, and infuse it with a fresh
spirit, unsealed, unbound, untied,

**All: to dance with the dawn, and cry with the news, that
today, this day, broken bread, and shared wine, taste of
resurrection.**

One: When we do not understand,
All: we gather by this table.

One: When mystery stretches ever wider,
All: we break bread.

One: When the wonder is more than our souls can hold,
All: we share the cup.

One: Holy, holy, holy God, breathing, living, resurrected Saviour,
peace-making, truth-giving, world-changing Spirit,
hear us as we break bread together,
in the eternal echo of new life.

All: Amen.

Holy Communion

Prayer & Blessing:

One: Gracious God, this has been no ordinary meal. It has been one in which we have been fed and nourished with the life of Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord. May we go from here, refreshed and eager, to share that life with others. In Jesus' name, we pray.

All: Amen.

Music: "Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks" VU #179

Refrain:

*Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Give praise to God's name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
firstborn of all creation. **R**

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and is risen. **R**

We have been crucified with Christ,
now we shall live for ever. **R**

Refrain:

*Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Give praise to God's name.*

Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour. **R**

One: Go in peace to love and serve our living Lord.

All: We go in the power of Christ's resurrection! Alleluia!

One: May God, the creator of all life,
Jesus Christ, the source of eternal life,
and the Holy Spirit, the power in each and every life,
bless you, this day and every day.

All: Hallelujah and Amen.