

**Quispamsis United Church**  
March 31, 2024 - Easter Sunday  
*Liturgical Colour: White*  
*Presider: Rev Ian Manson*  
*Director of Music: Stephen Alexander*  
*Reader: Sue King*

**Centering Reflection:** *"God loves each of us as if there was only one of us."*

- St. Augustine

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## **GATHERING TOGETHER**

### **Gathering Chord**

*As we gather to worship we take time to greet and chat with members of our church family. These reconnections are an important reminder that we share a common bond as followers of Christ.*

*A "Gathering Chord " serves to alert us that worship is about to begin, that we leave the hustle and bustle of our daily lives and come together as one body to worship God together.*

### **Introit:**

Hey Now ! Singing Hallelujah!  
**Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!**  
Hey now! The morning has come!  
**Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!**  
**The tomb was empty at the rising sun.**

MV 121 (X2)

### **Opening Music... An Invitation to Prayer and Candle Lighting**

Trumpet Tune on "Lyra Davidica" – David Lasky

### **Welcome and Lighting of the Christ Candle**

### **Lighting of Affirm Candle & Acknowledgment of Territories**

### **Memoriams**

### **Celebrations**

## **Call to Worship (Responsive)**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed!**

Let us rejoice that the powers of sin and death could not hold him.

**Let us give thanks that God's love overcomes the forces of darkness.**

Let us celebrate the fact that Christ is free!

**Let us rejoice that God is working to set us free too. Let us worship God!**

## **Prayer of Approach (Unison)**

**God of resurrection,**

**you have rolled the stone away**

**and the tomb of our world has been opened wide.**

**Be with us as we celebrate your liberating love today.**

**Touch our hearts with your grace and wisdom,**

**and release your resurrection power anew**

**into every corner of your lives and world.**

**In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **Opening Hymn:**

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!**

**sinner 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!**

**Time for All Ages**

**Prayer of Illumination (Unison)**

**Almighty God, through your only Son you overcame death  
and opened to us the light of eternity.**

**Enlighten our minds and kindle our hearts with the presence of your Spirit,  
that we may hear your words of comfort and challenge  
in the reading of the scriptures,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**Reading:** Mark 16: 1-11

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. But 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.

And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterwards Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation.

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Sung Response to Scripture**

**Glory to God in the Highest  
Glory to God in the highest and  
peace to God's people on earth.  
Glory to God in the highest and**

**MV 124 (2X)**

**The Gift of Music: Blest Be The Day**

**Message**

**“The Triumph of Love”**

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**Gift of Music:** That Easter Day

**Life and Work of the Church**

**Sharing of Gifts and Talents**

**Offertory Dedication Hymn:**

**Doxology**

**VU 440 vs 5**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
In heaven above and earth below;  
One God, three persons we adore-  
Be praises given for evermore.**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**God of Resurrecting Grace, we offer our gifts with grateful hearts, celebrating the power of your love over sin and death. Bless these gifts so that they may spread the hope and joy we feel this day to those in need of kindness, love and grace. Amen.**

**Communion Hymn**

**Now the Green Blade Rises**

**VU 186**

**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.**

## **Sacrament of Holy Communion**

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen Indeed!**

Holy One, on this joyful Easter day...

So it is that, on this Easter morning, we worship you and bless your name.

**Holy, holy, holy God.**

**God of power and might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the one that comes**

**in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We give thanks for your resurrection promise that there are new possibilities for us and our weary world...

As we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

This morning, we offer prayers for those who do not enjoy the grace of this table...

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus the Christ, who taught us when we pray to say together:

## **Lord's Prayer**

## **Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

**Post-Communion Prayer (Unison)**

For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted,  
we give you thanks, O God.

Now send us out in courage and peace,  
to care for one another and all creation.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**SENDING FORTH**

**Closing Hymn:**

Thine Is the Glory

VU 173

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.**

*Refrain:*

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

**Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for the Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting. R**

**No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. R**

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing**

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours

MV 171 (Refrain 2X)

**Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.  
Here on this earth, yours is the work,  
To serve with the joy of compassion.**

**Closing Music:**

Toccata for Easter – arr. Craig A. Penfield