

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
EASTER SUNDAY / COMMUNION April 9, 2023 – 10 am

* *The live service will be broadcasted and recorded on YouTube, check your email for the link.*

Gathering Music:

Hymn: Joy Comes with the Dawn – Voices United #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.

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

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

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

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Lighting of Christ Candle:

Acolytes: Susan and George Young

(Fern Gibbard, Gathering L/E 2019, p 41. Used with permission.)

On this Easter morning,

We shout and sing the glad news:

Jesus Christ is risen indeed!

We light the Christ candle because he is here among us.

Hallelujah! Amen.

Sung Response: Halle, Halle, Halle – Voices United #958

Halle, halle, hallelujah! (3X)

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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Welcome & Centering for Worship:

Rev. Kim Vidal

Good Morning! What a joy it is to greet you on this Easter morning in the name of Jesus Christ!

We are happy that you have joined us today. Please join us for a time of coffee and fellowship after the service in the main hall.

Communion notes...Highlight some announcements.

Today is a day where hope and joy rise: spring is here, trees and plants are budding, the days are getting longer, and hopefully, warmer weather will be with us.

As Easter people, we gather to celebrate the joy and the hope that the Risen Christ brings!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

Call to Gather: (Responsively)

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

(Richard Bott, Gathering L/E 2019, p43. Used with permission.)

Risen in joy,

we come before you God and rejoice!

Risen in hope,

we come before you God in anticipation!

Risen in love,
we come before you God with thankful hearts!
Risen for the world,
we come to give thanks!
Alleluia, Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen indeed!

Prayer of Approach: (Unison) (Richard Bott, Gathering L/E 2019, p43. Used with permission.)

**In this moment of mystery,
in this moment of hope, in this moment of life, loving God –
Open our hearts to the wonder!
Open our senses to the possibilities!
Open the tombs we've created,
and show us they are empty of what we've come to expect,
But full of the new possibilities.
Alleluia! Let it be!
Amen.**

Special Music: Christ Arose! Hallelujah! – Sleeth **Bell Canto director : Erin Berard**

Time for the Young at Heart: Rev. Lorrie

Prayer of Jesus / The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power and the glory, Forever and ever, Amen.

*** Hymn: Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah! - More Voices #121**

Refrain: Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

Hey now! The morning has come!

Hey now! Singing hallelujah!

The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

3. Jesus loved people and they said he was a king.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

He turned all the tables on everything.

Hey now, the tomb was empty. *R*

1. Jesus loved people and he made them friends
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He called to the children and the women and men.
Hey now, the tomb was empty. *R*

4. Jesus had power and they took him away.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

They nailed him on a cross and they killed him one day.

Hey now, the tomb was empty. *R*

2. Jesus healed people and he helped them be well.
Hey now the tomb was empty.
He taught about God in the stories he'd tell.
Hey now, the tomb was empty. *R*

5. Jesus loves people and he lives again!

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends.

Hey now, the tomb was empty. *R*

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Prayer for Illumination:

Reader: David Stafford

God of joy and delight, open our hearts to receive your Word anew, and give us hope as your Easter people.

The Gospel Reading: Matthew 28: 1-10 The Resurrection of Jesus

28 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. ² And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. ³ His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. ⁴ For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. ⁵ But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. ⁶ He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” ⁸ So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. ⁹ Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

May we find ourselves renewed through this story of faith. **Thanks be to God.**

Ministry of Music: Our Saviour is Alive – Besig/Price

BCUC Choir

Sermon: “Angels”

Rev. Kim

Prayers of the People: Rev. Lorrie Lowes (Ted Dodd, for DOTAC, April 2022. Used with permission.)

God of Easter,

Roll away the stone of sadness, turn our mourning into dancing.

God of Resurrection,

Race with us to the site of new life, turn our crying into mirth.

God of the Empty Tomb,

Help us to see angels who make holy inquiry, turn our grief into joy.

God of Easter, grant us hope and a sense of daylight.

In the face of the challenges of this year, so much is
Confusing... upsetting and... stressful.

God of Resurrection, grant us peace and a spirit of prayerfulness.

In this warring, virus world, a lot of us are weeping,
in grief... in fear... in anxiety.

God of the Empty Tomb, grant us reassurance and
a willingness to see the world without despair.

Despite death and misunderstanding and tears,

Easter happened... A stone was rolled away... Angels appeared.

Jesus spoke Mary's name.

God of the gospel good news,

speak each of our names, that we might know assurance and faith.

God of Easter,

roll away the stone of sadness, that we might be people of hope.

God of Resurrection,

race with us to the site of new life, that we might live in courage.

God of the Empty Tomb,

help us to see angels, that we might experience strength.

We come to you in the name of Jesus, the Risen One. Amen.

Communion Hymn: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ - Voices United #468

(Words: Fred Kaan, 1975; Music: Jamaican Folk Melody)

1. Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.
*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! (x2)*
2. Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,

love in word and in deed express.
*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! (x2)*
3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out,
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) everywhere!
*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound! (x2)*

The Sacrament of Communion

Invitation: Lorrie

This is the table of the risen Christ.

In this feast comes the root of our joy.

In this feast gleams the promise of the earth and the glory of all creation.

In this feast comes the Christ, Saviour and Friend to all.

Call to Give Thanks: Lorrie

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord or God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: Kim

Hallelujah, thanks and praise, ever-living God,

worker of wonders, maker of miracles, author of all life and giver of life eternal!

Out of chaos and fear you bring beauty and hope.

Out of despair and death you create courage and new life.

And so, with the risen Christ, who makes all things new by the power of his resurrection, we join in the song of a new day to sing your praise:

Holy, holy, holy,

Lord God of Hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of your glory!

Heaven and earth praise you, O God most high!

Remembering Jesus at Table: Lorrie

We do what Jesus did the night before he died.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said,

“Take, eat; remember me.”

Then he took the cup, and said,

“Take, drink; remember.”

Affirmation of Memory and Hope: Lorrie

By sharing this loaf and cup,

We proclaim Jesus,

Crucified and risen,
Our judge and our hope.

Prayer for Transformation: Lorrie

Holy God, pour your Spirit on us, that we may know Christ in the breaking of bread, and that, in word and deed, we may be channels of your love, peace, and justice in the world.

Breaking the bread and Filling the Cup: Kim

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life,
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry;
Whoever comes to me will never be thirsty."
The gifts of God for the people of God.

Kim: I invite everyone to come forward to partake of the bread and the cup.
We have two stations in front and one in the balcony. Once the balcony is served, the balcony servers will come down and serve those with mobility issues.
The bread will be served to you and you may take a cup from the tray.
As you are served, please eat the bread and drink the cup.
Place the empty cups in the bucket on your way back to your seats.
The choir will be served first.

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The Bread of Life... The Cup of Blessing.

Prayer After Communion: (Unison) Lorrie

**Life-giving God,
May we who share Christ's body, live his risen life;
May we who drink his cup, bring new life to others;
May we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
So that we and all your children shall be free,
And all creation will live to praise your name. Amen**

Musical Offering: Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna! – Wren/Haas arr. Hayes Choir

Invitation to Offer: Rev. Kim

I now invite you to offer your gifts of time, talents and resources as expressions of your gratitude to God's blessings and your commitment to the work. If you are not on PAR and wish to send in your offering and donations, you can drop them in the mailbox by the kitchen door of the church or mail them to BCUC. You can also send in your support through e-transfer. Thank you for your continued love and support to BCUC.

****Offertory Hymn: What Can I Do? - More Voices #191***

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

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*** Offertory Prayer: (In Unison)**

Rejoicing! Celebrating! Giving thanks!

Gracious God, hope and new life are your amazing gifts to us.

**As we offer our gifts back to you, remind us that we are Easter people
and you call us to sow seeds of love and justice in the world. Amen.**

***Hymn: We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection - Voices United #586**

1. We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
Tales of a love, that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
We'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
Within the vision of new life in Christ.

2. We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer.
Expressing love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping.
Raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
Including all in circles of our love.

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***Sending Forth:**

Rev. Kim

(Peter Chynoweth, Gathering, L/E 2020 Year A. Used with Permission)

Christ is risen!

Christ keeps on rising through us!

The drama is not concluded.

It has become our own.

As the body of Christ,

we respond as doers of the Word.

Go now knowing that God goes with you.

Amen.

***Sung Blessing: Arise, Shine – Voices United #886**

Arise, be clothed in the light. Arise, be clothed in the light.

Your light has come. Your light has come.

Hallelujah.

