



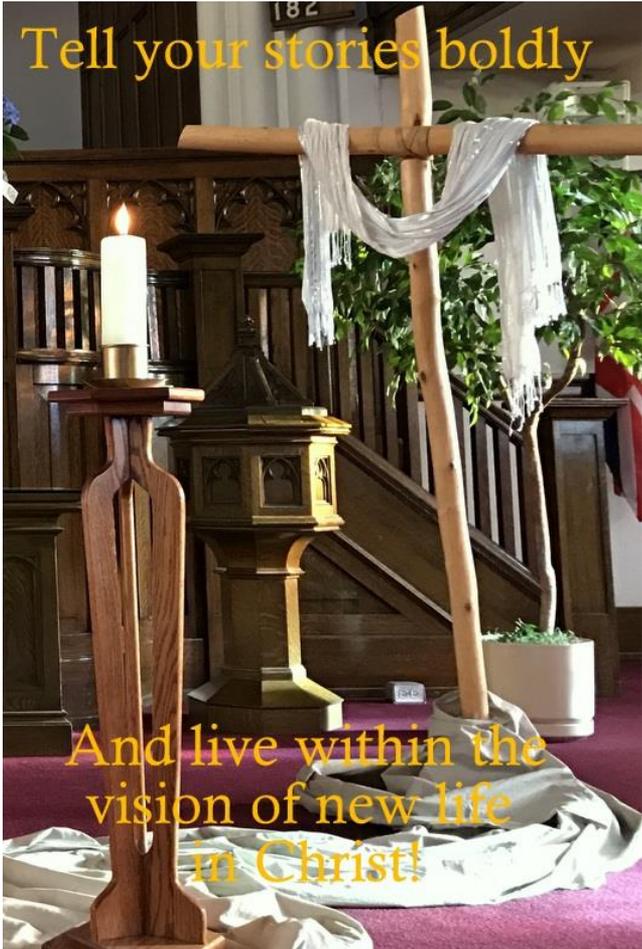
An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2018 April 1

Easter Sunrise

Welcome and Inclusion

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community regardless of economic circumstance, sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities, or ethnicity. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.



Tell your stories boldly

And live within the vision of new life in Christ!

Hymn: *I Danced in the Morning*

Voices United 352

**I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth;
At Bethlehem I had my birth.**

Chorus: (repeat after each verse *)

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

**I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.***

**I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
the holy people said it was a shame;
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
and left me there on the cross to die.***

**I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on.***

**They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance said he.***

Call to Worship:

Rose Hamel

Hear us this morning, Living Lord, as we raise our voices to you.
Hear us this morning, as our voices join with the call of the birds.
Hear us this morning, as we praise you for the miracle of Easter,
For the miracles experienced in our own lives,
and for the miracles yet to unfold among us.
Hear us this morning as we praise you for Easter. Amen.¹

¹ Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2018, p. 39. Used with permission.

Scripture:

Graham Cooke

John 20: 1-10 • The Resurrection of Jesus

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." Then Peter and the other disciples set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple out ran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bend down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

Reflection: What stones or barriers, doubts or fears, do you need to remove in your life, in order to recognize God and Jesus at work in your life?

Hymn: *Hallelujah*

Voices United 179

Chorus: (repeat after each verse *)

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.***

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

**We have been crucified with Christ,
now we shall live forever.***

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

Scripture:

Joann Cooke

John 20: 11-18 • Jesus appears to Mary

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she

said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means teacher). Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my God and your God.’” Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Reflection: *Share a time when your faith brought you hope in a time of despair?*

Pastoral Prayers & Lord’s Prayer

Grateful Response

Hymn: *Give Thanks*

by Henry Smith

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ, his son.**

Ritual

Commissioning:

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!
Go forth with the Risen Christ.
Go and tell all the people back home,
All the people you meet,
That Jesus Christ is Lord.²

Closing Hymn: *Halle, Halle, Halle*

Voices United 958

Cover Image

Cover image is taken by Rev. Karen Bridges from Easter Sunday 2017.

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² Written by Kate Gregory, **Gathering**, Lent/Easter 2018, p. 46. Used with Permission.