



Waterloo Christian Reformed Church

209 Bearinger Road N2L 4H5 (519) 746-5727

Eastertide, April 19, 2020

Because the good news of Easter can hardly be contained in a single day's celebration, Easter is only the first of fifty days of **Eastertide**, the "Great Fifty Days" that lead up to Pentecost. This season is designed for extended celebration, for exploring the ramifications of Easter for the redemption of all creation, and for joyful Christian living.

This service will be held online using Zoom. A recorded copy of the service will also be posted on the WCRC website and be sent out for viewing any time.

Preacher: Rev. Vicki Cok

Worship Leader: Dave Jaarsma

Pianist: Ann Smith

Liturgy: Nelda Looyenga

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather for Worship

Call to Worship

On this first Sunday of Eastertide;

joyful is the sound we make this morning!

For this day liberates us from doubt and fear.

Thankful is the song we sing!

For this day moves us past darkness and despair.

Hopeful is the prayer upon our lips!

For this day awakens in us long-awaited new life.

Jesus said, "Where two or more are gathered in my name,
I am there among them."

Christ lives here and now.

He is among us at this and every moment!

May his peace and presence be known to you.

And also to you.

God's Greeting

Song of Praise: **Is He Worthy?** – Andrew Peterson/Ben Shive (led by Chris Tomlin on YouTube)

Do you feel the world is broken? We do.

Do you feel the shadows deepen? We do.

Do you know that all the dark won't stop the light from getting through? We do.

Do you wish that you could see it all made new? We do.

Is all creation groaning? It is.

Is a new creation coming? It is.

Is the glory of the Lord to be the light within our midst? It is.

Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? It is.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave,

He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.

Is He worthy? Is He worthy?

Of all blessing and honor and glory,

is He worthy of this? He is.

Does the Father truly love us? He does.

Does the Spirit move among us? He does.

And does Jesus our Messiah hold forever those He loves? He does.

Does our God intend to dwell again with us? He does.

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?

The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave,

He is David's Root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave.

From ev'ry people and tribe, every nation and tongue

He has made us a kingdom and priests of God to reign with the Son.

Is He worthy? Is He worthy

of all blessing and honor and glory?

Is He worthy? Is He worthy, is He worthy of this? He is.

Is He worthy? Is He worthy? He is. He is.

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We Confess Our Sin and Receive Forgiveness

Lord, bring new life where we are worn and tired;

new love where we have turned hard-hearted;

forgiveness where we feel hurt and where we have wounded;

and the joy and freedom of your Holy Spirit where

we are prisoners of ourselves.

[*Silence*]

To all and to each,

on his community and on his friends,

where regret is real,

Jesus pronounces his pardon

and grants us the right to begin again.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song of Response: LUYH #819 – **I Love the Lord**

Refrain

I love the Lord; he is filled with compassion.

He turned to me on the day that I called.

From the snares of the dark,

O Lord, save my life, be my strength.

- 1 Gracious is the Lord and just;
our God is mercy, rest to the weary.
Return, my soul, to the Lord our God,
who bids tears away.

I love the Lord. **Refrain**

- 2 How can I repay the Lord
for all the goodness he has shown me?
I will raise the cup of salvation
and call on his name.

I love the Lord. **Refrain**

- 3 I shall live my vows to you
before your people. I am your servant.

I will offer you my sacrifice
of praise and of prayer.
I love the Lord.

Refrain

I love the Lord; he is filled with compassion.
He turned to me on the day that I called.
From the snares of the dark,
O Lord, save my life, be my strength.

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

O Risen Christ,
even as you appeared to despondent disciples
in the garden, at your tomb, and on the road to Emmaus,
assure us now of your presence and power
during this time of need and sorrow.

Speak to us now as you have spoken throughout the ages. Amen.

Scripture Reading: **Revelation 21:1-6**

Concluded with “This is the word of the Lord” and “**Thanks be to God**”

Sermon: **The Beginning and the End**

Moment of Silent Meditation

*Take a moment to reflect on what God's word might mean for your life or on a truth that spoke to you.
Please be still until after the pianist concludes this time of silence.*

We Respond with Gratitude

Song of Response: LUYH #351 (vs. 1,3 & 4) – **Love Divine, All Loves Excelling** (led by the National Episcopal Cathedral, October 9, 2010 on YouTube)

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven, to earth come down;
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.
- 3 Come, Almighty to deliver,
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee with thy hosts above,
pray and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee:
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,

till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love and praise.

Prayers of the People (using Chat)

We will conclude this time of prayer with the Lord's Prayer:

***Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever. Amen.***

Offering: **Ontario Christian Gleaners**

Diaconal Prayer

We Celebrate Holy Communion

Sisters and brothers, the gospels tell us that on the first day of the week, the day on which he was raised from the dead, Jesus appeared to his disciples and was made known to them in the breaking of bread. Come, then, to the joyful feast of the Lord.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image, and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, and made a covenant to be our sovereign God.

You sent your Son to die in our place and by your power he broke free from the prison of the tomb, and at his command the gates of hell were opened. The one who was dead now lives. The one who humbled himself is raised to rule over all creation, the Lamb upon the throne.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

LUYH #361 – Because He Lives

God sent his Son, they called him Jesus;
he came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain

Because he lives I can face tomorrow,
because he lives all fear is gone,
because I know he holds the future,
and life is worth the living just because he lives.

Let us recall that on the night of his betrayal, the Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks to God, and broke the bread saying, "Take, eat; this is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me." In the same way after supper, he took the cup, and after giving thanks, offered it to his disciples, saying,

“Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Let us pray:

Almighty and ever-loving God, in remembrance of your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine; make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Let us proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Is not the bread that we break a sharing in the body of Christ?

We who are many are one body, for we all share the same loaf.

Is not the cup for which we give thanks a sharing in the blood of Christ?

The cup which we bless is our participation in the blood of Christ.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

(We share the bread and cup with each other.)

Song of Thanksgiving: LUYH #468 – **I Will Rise** (led by Chris Tomlin on YouTube)

- 1 There's a peace I've come to know,
though my heart and flesh may fail.
There's an anchor for my soul;
I can say, "It is well."
- 2 There's a day that's drawing near
when this darkness breaks to light,
and the shadows disappear
and my faith shall be my eyes.

Refrain

Jesus has overcome, and the grave is overwhelmed.
The victory is won; he is risen from the dead.
And I will rise when he calls my name;
no more sorrow, no more pain.
I will rise on eagles' wings,
before my God fall on my knees,
and rise. I will rise.
And I hear the voice of many angels sing,
"Worthy is the Lamb!"
And I hear the cry of every longing heart,
"Worthy is the Lamb!"
And I hear the voice of many angels sing,
"Worthy is the Lamb!"
And I hear the cry of every longing heart,
"Worthy is the Lamb!"
"Worthy is the Lamb!"
And I will rise when he calls my name;
no more sorrow, no more pain.
I will rise on eagles' wings,
before my God fall on my knees,
and rise. I will rise. I will rise.

We Are Sent Out with the Spirit

Call to Discipleship

As Christ burst forth from the tomb,
may new life burst forth from us
and show itself in acts of love and healing in a hurting world.

***And may that same Christ, who lives forever
and is the source of our new life,
keep our hearts rejoicing and grant us peace
this day and always.***

Closing Song: LUYH #488 – **Jerusalem the Golden**

- 1 Jerusalem the golden,
descending from above,
the city of God's presence,
the vision of God's love—
I know not, oh, I know not
what joys await us there,
what radiancy of glory,
what bliss beyond compare!
- 2 They stand, those halls of Zion,
all jubilant with song,
so bright with many an angel
and all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them,
the daylight is serene;
the tree of life and healing
has leaves of richest green.
- 3 There is the throne of David,
and there, from pain released,
the shout of those who triumph,
the song of those who feast.
And all who with their leader
have conquered in the fight,
forever and forever
are robed in purest white.
- 4 How lovely is that city,
the home of God's elect!
How beautiful the country
that eager hearts expect!
O Christ, in mercy bring us
to that eternal shore
where Father, Son, and Spirit
are worshiped evermore.

Benediction and Choral "***Amen, Amen, Amen***"