



Waterloo Christian Reformed Church

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

Eastertide, May 3, 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: Carolyn Kleefman

Pianist: Pam Joosse

Liturgy: Nelda Looyenga

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather for Worship

Call to Worship —Psalm 116:17b-19

[I will] call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord,

in the presence of all his people,

In the courts of the house of the Lord,

In your midst, O Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord!

Prayer of Invocation

Compassionate God,

You protect us from unseen danger

And catch us when we stumble and fall.

You answer when we call to you in prayer.

Help our worship of you to be sacrificial

And our vows to you to be sincere,

Serving and rejoicing because of you as long as we live. Amen.

Song of Praise: LUYH #496 – **Come, All You People**

1 Come, all you people, come and praise your Maker;
come, all you people, come and praise your Maker;
come, all you people, come and praise your Maker;
come now and worship the Lord.

2 Come, all you people, come and praise the Savior ...

3 Come, all you people, come and praise the Spirit ...

God's Greeting

We Confess Our Sin and Receive Forgiveness

Prayer of Confession

Lord, you said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command."

Forgive us our lukewarm love and our disobedience.

Lord, you said, "You may ask for anything in my name."

Forgive us when we think we need to solve our own problems.

Lord, you said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

We confess that our lives are often consumed by worry and anxiety.

Lord, you said, "If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit."

Forgive us our barren lives, Lord.

Lord, you said, "You must testify, for you have been with me."

We confess, Lord, that we have been too often silent.

Lord, you said, "Love each other as I have loved you."

***In this and in so many other ways,
we confess our failures and shortcomings. Amen.***

Song of Response: LUYH #709 (vs. 2) – **Jesus Loves Me**

2 Jesus loves me—he who died
heaven's gate to open wide.
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.

Refrain

Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me!
The Bible tells me so.

Assurance of Pardon

During this pandemic we have been assured that washing our hands will wash away the virus. So too, we are assured, in remembering our baptism, that being washed in Jesus blood will wash away our sins. The Heidelberg Catechism states it like this:

What does it mean to be washed with Christ's blood and Spirit?

***To be washed with Christ's blood means
that God, by grace, has forgiven our sins
because of Christ's blood
poured out for us in his sacrifice on the cross.***

(pouring of water into bowl)

***To be washed with Christ's Spirit means
that the Holy Spirit has renewed
and sanctified us to be members of Christ,
so that more and more
we become dead to sin
and live holy and blameless lives.***

- Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 70

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for Illumination

Loving God, you provide for our every need.

You feed our bodies and our souls,
yet we hunger to know and love you more and more.

Nourish us with your Word today.

Through Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

LUYH #896 – **Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Scripture Reading: **Psalms 116**

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

Sermon: **In the Land of the Living**

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 #204 – **Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna**

- 1 Christ is risen! Shout hosanna!
Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder;
all creation is amazed.
In the desert all-surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.
- 2 Christ is risen! Raise your spirits
from the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection,
not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.
- 3 Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim demonic chorus:
“Christ is risen! Get you gone!”
God the First and Last is with us.
Sing hosanna, everyone!

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: **New Ground (Diaconal Ministries Canada)**

Diaconal Prayer

We Are Sent Out with the Spirit

Closing Words

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world –

Which some seek to control, but which others view with despair –

We declare with joy and trust;

Our world belongs to God!

From the beginning, through all the crises of our times,

Until his kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever.

Our world belongs to him!

God is King! ***Let the earth be glad!***

Christ is the Victor: his rule has begun. ***Hallelujah!***

The Spirit is at work, renewing the creation. ***Praise the Lord!***

Closing Song: LUYH #668 (vs. 1 & 5) – **I Worship You, O Lord**

- 1 I worship you, O LORD,
for you have raised me up;
I cried to you for help,
and you restored my life.
You brought me back from death
and saved me from the grave.
- 5 My mourning you have turned
to dancing and to joy;
my sadness you dispelled
as gladness filled my soul.
And so, I'll sing your praise,
my God, through all my days.

Benediction and Choral “***Amen, Amen, Amen***”