

**Carlisle/Kilbride United Church**

**April 05, 2026**

**Easter Sunday**

**Kilbride 9:30 am, Carlisle 11:00 am**



Minister: **Rev. M. Gayle MacDonald**  
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*Those who wish to do so are invited to stand for the Hymns and the Sending Forth/Benediction. Likewise, those who wish to do so are invited to respond aloud where indicated by **bold print**.*

**Welcome & Acknowledgement of the Land:**

As we worship God, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of (Kilbride: the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation), (Carlisle: the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation), who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

**Gathering Song:** MV 8 (v. 1) – And On This Path

*Words: Lynn Bauman; Music: Linnea Good 2003*

**The Journey Band at St Mary's Road United Church performs this hymn in an arrangement by Jon Wong, one of the band's leaders. St Mary's Road is an affirming ministry located on Treaty 1 land in Winnipeg. Near the end of the video they share part of their statement of faith: "welcome radically . . . worship totally . . . hope stubbornly . . . love wastefully . . . live intentionally."**

**And on this Path**

- 1 And on this path,  
the gates of holiness are open wide,  
and on this path,  
the gates of holiness are open wide,  
and on this path,  
the gates of holiness are open wide!  
Open wide! Open wide!  
Open wide! The gates are open wide!

**Invitation to Worship:**

It isn't Friday anymore. The cross is gone.

It isn't Saturday anymore. The confusion and uncertainty are lifting.

It is Sunday. The tomb is empty.

**Now what? What are we to do with  
an empty cross, an empty tomb?**

**Responsive Psalm:** VU 837 – Psalm 118, Part 3

**Easter Proclamation:**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah! Alleluia!**

**Hymn:** VU 155 – Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (placing of flowers and plants)

*Words: Lyra Davidica 1708, et al.; Music: Lyra Davidica 1708, desc. Derek Holman 1971*

**This triumphant Easter hymn first appeared in John Walsh's 1708 collection *Lyra Davidica* as a new version of an anonymous 14<sup>th</sup>-century Latin hymn, "Surrexit Christus hodie." Paul Fey performs a festive organ setting in St John's Episcopal Church in Wisconsin Rapids. Fey studied organ and sacred music at university and certainly has an affinity for video production as well!**

[A Joyful Easter Hymn with Brilliant Trumpets | Jesus Christ Is Risen Today](#)

- 1 Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!  
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!  
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!
- 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!  
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!  
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!
- 3 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!
- 4 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!

**Easter Proclamation/Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah! Alleluia!**

**Prayer for Grace:**

*(from Celebrate God's Presence)*

Come to us, God, like fresh water,  
softening the soil of a parched and weary land.

**Hurts and disappointments harden our hearts;  
frustrations and failures dry us out.**

Come to us, God, with life-giving power.

**Free us from resentment, reluctance, and reserve.**

**Remind us that in your forgiveness we are free.**

Forgiven, may we be forgiving.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Assurance of Grace/Lighting of the Candles:**

Blessed be the name of God.

**As life bursts forth from the darkness of earth's soil,  
so Christ bursts the darkness of despair.**

Sadness ends, hope abounds, joy springs forth.

**Strength is found to face every tomorrow;  
God's wholeness brings healing to all. Amen.**

**Sung Response:** MV 8 (v. 2) – And On This Path

*Words: Lynn Bauman; Music: Linnea Good 2003*

[And on this Path](#)

2     So enter in  
      the gates of holiness are open wide,  
      so enter in  
      the gates of holiness are open wide,  
      so enter in  
      the gates of holiness are open wide!  
      Open wide! Open wide!  
      Open wide! The gates are open wide!

**Prayer for Illumination:** (*mgm*)

May the words we read and speak,  
may the prayers we offer, and  
may the reflections of our hearts and minds  
nourish our faith and draw us ever closer  
to your divine presence. Amen.

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 28:1-10

28:1 After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

28:2 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.

28:3 His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow.

28:4 For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men.

28:5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified.

28:6 He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

28:7 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."

28:8 So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples.

28:9 Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him.

28:10 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."

**Response:** May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Sung Response:** MV 90 – Don't Be Afraid (3x)

*This recording of John Bell and Graham Maule's 1995 hymn can be found on Chorus Pro Musica's 2008 album [Sing with the World: Global Songs for Children](#).*

[Don't Be Afraid \(Scotland\)](#)

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger  
and I have promised, promised to be always near.

**Easter Reflection:** "They Will See Me There"

**[Carlisle] Choral Anthem:** Sweet the Morning

*Words & Music: Pat Mayberry 2021, arr. David Kai 2001*

**Prayers for the Day:**

Sing into prayer: VU 661 (v. 3) – Come to My Heart

*The Praise Singers of Windsor Park United Church perform Joe Pinson's 1979 hymn.*

["Come to My Heart"](#)

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;  
teach me to walk in your way.  
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus;  
answer my prayer today.

**The Life and Work of the Church (Announcements)**

**Offering Prayer:**

*(written by Laura Turnbull in Gathering, LE 2026, p. 46, used with permission)*

God of Abundance, we come before you, having received your call. We offer to you our hearts and these offerings, in humility and thankfulness for your love. Empower us to be your living word. In the name of the Resurrected One, we pray. Amen.

**Offering Doxology:** VU 218 (v. 1 & 2) – We Praise You, O God

The Plymouth Summer Choir of First Plymouth Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, performs Julia Cory's 1902 lyrics in an arrangement by Carolyn Jennings, accompanied by organ and trumpet. The tune, known as KREMSEK after a popular arrangement by Eduard Kremser in 1877, can trace its origins to a 16<sup>th</sup>-century Dutch folksong whose tune was later combined with a Dutch patriotic hymn published in 1626.

We Praise You, O God, arr: Carolyn Jennings

- 1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.
- 2 We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,  
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.  
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

**Hymn:** VU 480 – Let Us Break Bread Together

*Words & Music: African-American spiritual 19<sup>th</sup> century*

This spiritual has been subject to much variation and, as the *Psalter Hymnal Handbook* notes, some of the stanzas may date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, while others have been added over the years via oral tradition. It is performed by the late great operatic soprano Jessye Norman, accompanied by London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Sir Alexander Gibson.

Let Us Break Bread Together

- 1 Let us break bread together on our knees,  
let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall down on my knees  
with my face to the rising sun,  
Oh, Lord, have mercy on me.
- 2 Let us drink wine together on our knees,  
let us drink wine together on our knees. R
- 3 Let us praise God together on our knees,  
Let us praise God together on our knees. R

**Service of the Table** (insert)

**Hymn:** VU 166 – Joy Comes with the Dawn

*Words & Music: Gordon Light 1985*

Gordon Light's 1985 Easter hymn is sung by the composer himself and Khoros of St Michael's Anglican Cathedral in Kelowna, BC. Alberta-born Gordon Light is a retired ordained deacon and priest who is married to another retired Anglican priest; he and his wife now live in Kamloops, BC.

Joy comes with the dawn

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.

- 1 Weeping may come;  
weeping may come in the night,  
when dark shadows cloud our sight. R
- 2 Sorrow will turn,  
sorrow will turn into song,  
and God's laughter make us strong. R
- 3 We will rejoice,  
we will rejoice, and give praise,  
to the One who brings us grace. R

**Commissioning:**

*(written by Bill Perry in Gathering, LE 2026, p. 47, used with permission)*

Go as a disciple who can't describe precisely what the resurrected Jesus is like, but is willing to explore and discover his Way, day by day.

**Benediction**

**Easter Proclamation:**

One: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah! Alleluia!**

**Choral Sending Forth:** VU 958 – Halle, Halle, Halle (several times)

RiverSong performs this traditional Caribbean song in an arrangement by Hal Hopson (1933-2025), an American composer and church musician known for his choral music.

Halle, Halle, Halle

Halle, halle, halle-lujah!  
Halle, halle, halle-lujah!

Halle, halle, halle-lujah!  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!!

**Online Postlude:** He Lives Again

*Words & Music: Angie Killian & Joelle Einerson 2024, arr. Daniel Blomberg, violin arr. John Knudson*

**This joyful children's Easter anthem is a collaboration between Christian songwriters Angie Killian and Joelle Einerson. Enjoy!**

[HE LIVES AGAIN – children's Easter song by Angie Killian & Joelle Einerson](#)



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