



**Carlisle/Kilbride United Church**  
**April 12, 2026 – Easter 2**  
**Kilbride 9:30 am, Carlisle 11:00 am**

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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.

**The Life and Work of the Church**

**Sing a New Song:** TLUS 148 – We Have Been Called (Love's Embrace)

**Lighting of the Christ Candle:**

The light of this candle reminds us that the light and love of Christ is in our midst. **May its warmth remind us of the warmth of God's unconditional love.**

**Gathering**

**Gathering Song:** VU 179 (v. 1) – Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks

*Words: Donald Fishel 1971, alt.; Music: Donald Fishel 1971, arr. Darryl Nixon 1987*

**During the pandemic, the Church of England posted this video of St Martin's Voices singing on the beautiful grounds of Lambeth Palace as part of their online worship for Easter Day. Situated in on the south bank of the River Thames in Lambeth, London, this palace is the official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury.**

**[Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord | Easter Music](#)**

Hallelujah, hallelujah.  
Give thanks to the risen Christ;  
hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give praise to God's name.

- 1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth,  
firstborn of all creation. R

**Invitation to Worship:**

So gathering as we do in this sacred place,  
we pause again to reflect, to feel, and to commit  
to thoughtful and mindful intention.

**We wonder again about the ebb and flow  
of this living, breathing, expanding universe . . .  
and of this community.**

We give our attention right now  
to each other,  
to new beginnings,  
to this time,  
to this season.

**Prayer of Approach:**

May we greet one another  
with open hearts and minds,  
inspire each other  
to consider new questions  
and seek deeper meaning,  
and cultivate both wisdom and compassion.

**And may this time together  
empower us to take some new steps  
so all our living is transforming and the  
yearning of our hearts becomes reality. Amen.**

**Hymn:** MV 8 – 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.**

**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!

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 Grace:** (*mgm*)

God of light and love,  
how good it is to gather as one people  
whether gathered here in person  
or gathered in heart and soul.  
We confess that we are getting weary  
of walking through this tumultuous world,  
uncertain of what lies beyond the next turn.  
Remind us that you walk with us  
and that we are blessed to have the companionship  
of this community.  
When the way seems too long, or too difficult,  
when the road seems lonely or fraught with difficulty,  
help us to focus on the small blessings  
that come our way.  
Help us to remember the depth of your love,  
acts of kindnesses given or received,  
the ordinary things that bring us comfort or joy.  
Forgive the anger and anxiety that tempt us  
to give up hope in human goodness,  
to forget your presence in the midst of our sorrows.  
Teach us to live hopefully and peacefully in our current reality –  
to find peace in the quiet times,  
to feel love connecting us in the alone times,  
to gain strength in caring voices.  
Walk with us, Blessed Companion,  
as we walk together through the darkness of uncertainty,  
or grief, or disappointment  
towards the dawn that is waiting somewhere up ahead.  
We put our trust in you. Amen.

**Assurance of Grace:**

Jesus came, not to condemn us, but to reconcile us to God and to one another that

we might have fullness of life.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Sung Response:** VU 179 (refrain) – Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks  
[Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord | Easter Music](#)

Hallelujah, hallelujah.  
Give thanks to the risen Christ;  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Give praise to God's name.

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

Holy One, may we listen to the words of scripture as a child, hearing them for the first time, filled with awe and wonder and curiosity. Like a child may we ask our questions with open hearts and minds. May we listen between the words for the whispering of your spirit moving among us. Amen.

### **Readings from Our Christian Tradition**

**History of the Early Church:** Acts 1:12-17, 20-26

*Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas*

<sup>12</sup> Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup> When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup> All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

<sup>15</sup> In those days Peter stood up among the brothers and sisters (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, <sup>16</sup> "Brothers and sisters, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus, <sup>17</sup> for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." <sup>20</sup> For it is written in the book of Psalms,

'Let his house become desolate,  
and let there be no one to live in it;'

And 'Let another take his position of overseer.'

<sup>21</sup> "So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup> beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." <sup>23</sup> So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. <sup>24</sup> Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen <sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." <sup>26</sup> And

they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias, and he was added to the eleven apostles.

**Gospel:** John 17:6-29, Jesus Prayers for his disciples

<sup>6</sup>"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. <sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

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

## **Reflection**

**Hymn:** TLUS 148 – We Have Been Called (Love's Embrace)

*Words & Music: Bret Hesla 2019; Accompaniment: Tom Witt*

**Bret Hesla's 2019 album *Love's Wide Embrace* was written on commission for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Besides being a composer, Bret Hesla is a songleader in various community and faith-based groups and co-founder of music groups Minnesota Community Sings and Bread for the Journey.**

[Love's Wide Embrace](#)

- 1 We have been called.  
We have been called to celebrate  
our home here in love's wide embrace.  
To bear in mind.  
To bear in mind all that we share;  
to join the song of love's good ways.  
Hallelujah, we have been called

to join the song of love's good ways.

- 2 We have been held.  
We have been held in tender care  
as we lay wounded by the road.  
Receiving grace.  
Receiving healing at the hands  
of strangers with the face of God.  
Hallelujah, we have been healed  
by strangers with the face of God.
- 3 We have been sent.  
We have been send and gladly go  
to stand where borders must be crossed.  
To challenge powers,  
to challenge powers, to welcome all,  
embracing love's full joys and costs.  
Hallelujah, we have been sent  
embracing love's full joys and costs.
- 4 We have been called.  
We have been called to celebrate  
our home here in love's wide embrace.  
To bear in mind.  
To bear in mind all that we share;  
to join the song of love's good ways.  
Hallelujah, we have been called  
to join the song of love's good ways.

**Offering Prayer:**

*(written by Wendy MacLean in Gathering, LE-2021, used with permission, adapted)*

Loving God, you are always faithful.

We turn to you with our hopes and our fears.

We turn to you with a song of thanksgiving and a prayer for help.

**Precious Companion, we give thanks**

**that you have chosen us to serve you as a community of faith.**

**We do our best to imitate your generosity**

**and to copy your loving devotion by sharing our gifts.**

**In your love, multiply our gifts as we reach out, we pray in Jesus' name.**

**Amen.**

**Offertory:** MV 191 – What Can I Do?

*Words & Music: Paul Rumbolt & Michele McCarthy*

Musicians of Golden Ears United Church perform a spirited arrangement of Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy's 2005 offertory.

[MV 191 What Can I do](#)

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.

### **Prayers of the People & Prayer of Jesus:**

Sing into prayer: O Lord, Hear My Prayer (v. 1)

French composer Jacques Berthier's sung prayer is an example of Taizé music, which originated in the 1970s within the French ecumenical religious Taizé Community. This style of music is inclusive and accessible, characterized by short, simple, repeated melodies that produce a meditative quality meant to facilitate spiritual contemplation.

[O Lord, Hear My Prayer | Taizé | Choir with Lyrics | Jacques Berthier | Psalm 102 | Sunday 7pm Choir](#)

O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.  
When I call, answer me.  
O Lord hear my prayer, O Lord hear my prayer.  
Come and listen to me.

### **Hymn:** VU 420 – Go to the World

*Words: Sylvia Dunstan 1985; Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams 1906*

The Newman Vocare Ensemble perform live in Newman University Church in Dublin. The hymn was arranged beautifully by Rev. James Chepponis, a liturgical composer and ordained priest who served in parish ministry for many years and as director of the Diocesan Office for Music in Pittsburgh, a position he held for thirty years until his death earlier this year.

[Go to the World - Tune by Ralph Vaughan Williams, arr. James Chepponis](#)

- 1     Go to the world! Go into all the earth.  
      Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,  
      baptising as the sign of our rebirth.  
      Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
  
- 2     Go to the world! Go into every place.  
      Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.  
      Go seek God's presence in each time and space.  
      Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
  
- 3     Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;  
      the nights of tears give way to joyous day.

As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

- 4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,  
for I am with you 'til the age shall end,  
when all the hosts of glory cry "Amen!"  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

### **Commissioning & Benediction**

**Sung Sending Forth:** VU 179 (v. 2) – Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks

*Words: Donald Fishel 1971, alt.; Music: Donald Fishel 1971, arr. Darryl Nixon 1987*

[Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord | Easter Music](#)

Hallelujah, hallelujah.  
Give thanks to the risen Christ;  
hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Give praise to God's name.

- 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and is risen.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah.  
Give thanks to the risen Christ;  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Give praise to God's name.

**Online Postlude:** The Old Rugged Cross

This 1913 gospel hymn by George Bennard is given a passionate performance by One Church Music, a group of worship leaders and musicians in Columbus, Ohio, with a mission of "using music to unite us."

[OLD RUGGED CROSS | Choir Cover | One Church Music](#)