



Mountainside United Church



EASTER SUNDAY, Year A
Holy Communion
April 5, 2026

Territorial Acknowledgement:

McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee, Anishinabeg and Kanien'kehá:ka nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples whose presence marks this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

Prelude:

Hermit Songs, Op. 29, No. 3 "St. Ita's Vision" – Samuel Barber
Voice: John Johnston
Piano: Alberto Santos

Easter Acclamation:

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!

Holy Greeting:

The grace of our Sovereign Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

Hymn: VU #157

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

1. Christ the Lord is risen today, Hallelujah!
all creation join to say; Hallelujah!
raise your joys and triumphs high; Hallelujah!
sing, O heavens, and earth reply: Hallelujah!
2. Love's redeeming work is done, hallelujah!
fought the fight, the battle won. Hallelujah!
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er! Hallelujah!
Lo, he dwells in death no more! Hallelujah!
3. Lives again our glorious King: Hallelujah!
where, O death, is now your sting? Hallelujah!
One he died, our souls to save: Hallelujah!
where your victory, O grave? Hallelujah!

4. Hail, the Lord of earth and Heaven, hallelujah!
praise to you by both be given! Hallelujah!
Every knee to you shall bow, hallelujah!
risen Christ, triumphant now. Hallelujah!

Opening Prayer:

Too often, O God, we reduce Easter to a celebration for children, yet they are not mentioned in any of the resurrection narratives.

Holy One, as we gather this morning help us to put childish ways behind us.

Children may have taken over the celebrations of Christmas and at least the birth of a child in central there, but Easter is always something different, something larger, something more mysterious.

We pray that as we hear one of the Easter stories, we may find ourselves moved by a great promise and an abiding mystery.

We pray that we may truly deepen our belief as disciples of Christ Jesus, that in life, in death, as in life beyond death you are with us! That we are not alone!

Christ is Risen!
Christ is Risen Indeed!

Let us worship our Risen Saviour!

Amen and Amen

Church History:

Acts 10: 34 – 43

Reader: Philip Johnston

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

This is the witness of the Early Church!
Thanks be to God!

Psalm 118 VU p. 837(w/Refrain)

Reader : Philip Johnston

Refrain: Hallelujah! hallelujah!

Let Israel now say:

"God's love endures for ever."

Let the house of Aaron say:

"God's love endures for ever."

Let those who fear God say:

"God's love endures for ever."

Refrain: Hallelujah! hallelujah!

God is my strength and my song; God has become my salvation.

There are shouts of joy and deliverance in the tents of the righteous.

The right hand of God does mighty things; the right hand of God raises up.

The right hand of God does mighty things.

I shall not die, but live; and I shall proclaim what God has done.

God indeed punished me, but did not give me over to death.

Refrain: Hallelujah! hallelujah!

Open to me the gates of the temple, that I may enter and give thanks to God.

This is the gate of God; through it the righteous shall enter.

I thank you for you have answered me; you have become my salvation.

The stone which the builders rejected

has become the chief cornerstone.

This is God's doing, marvellous in our eyes.

This is the day that God has made,

let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Refrain: Hallelujah! hallelujah!

Save us, O God, we pray;

God, we pray, give us success.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

We bless you from the house of God.

God, our God, has given us light;

with palm branches in hand let us march to the alter.

You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will extol you.

@Gospel:

Matthew 28: 1 - 10

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. 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. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. 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." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Write these words on our hearts dear God!

Hymn: MV #115 *Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New*

Behold, (behold), Behold, (behold)

I make all things new,

beginning with you and starting from today.

Behold, (behold), Behold, (behold)

I make all things new,

my promise is true for I am Christ the way.

Sermon: You've Said Goodbye but I Say Hello!

Rev. Dr. Douglas Throop

Music for Spiritual Centering:

Rejoice - G. F. Handel, Malcolm Archer
Voices: Mountainside United Church Choir
Keyboard: Alberto Santos

Anthem:

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Sharing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

Creed: VU#918

In English and Tagalog

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

Tayo ay hindi nag-iisa,
nabubuhay tayo sa daigdig ng Dios.

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

Sumasampalataya tayo sa Dios:
na lumalang at lumalang,
na naparito sa pamamagitan ni Hesus, ang Salita
na nagging laman, upang makipagkasundo
at gawing bago,
na gumagawa sa atin at sa lahat sa pamamagitan
ng Espiritu.

We trust in God.

Tumitiwala tayo sa Dios.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and
risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

**Tayo ay tinawag upang maging Iglesia:
upang ipagdiwang ang pakikisama ng Dios,
upang mabuhay na pinahahalagahan ang Nilalang,
upang ibigin at paglingkuran ang kapwas,
upang hanapin ang katarungan at bakahin ang
kasamaan,
upang ipahayag si Hesus, na napako sa krus at nabuhay
na
maguli, ating hukom at ating pag-asa.
Sa kabuhayan, sa kamatayan, sa kabuhayan sa kabila ng
kamatayan,
ang Dios ay kasama natin.
Tayo ay hindi nag-iisa.**

Magpasalamat tayo sa Dios.

Communion Hymn: VU #467 *One Bread, One Body*

Refrain:

**One bread, one body, one Lord of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless.
And we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one Lord.**

1. Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man no more. **R**

2. Many the gifts, many the works,
one in the Lord of all. **R**

3. Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one for all. **R**

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!
We lift them up to our Sovereign God!

Let us together give God our thanks and praise.
It is right so to do.

We praise you this day for the presence of our risen Lord, who is with us always.

May we, too, find hope restored and faith renewed.

May by your living presence within our Community of Faith may we be emboldened in our efforts to live and love as an Easter people.

Let your Holy Spirit guide us into a deeper relationship with you.

May she rouse us to greater spiritual awareness, greater respect for God's creation, and all faithfulness and generosity in our living.
Now with all creation we raise our voices in song
to proclaim your glory:

Sanctus (sung):

**O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to Your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings Your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears Your name always**

O God sustain us in the exercise of our calling to be your disciples.

Let what we do here at this hour remind us of the cost of freedom for we now recall Jesus last supper with his followers.

As we retell this story symbolically, now, here with us Jesus takes bread and offers you thanks.
He breaks the bread, and gives it to all disciples, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.'

At the end of the supper, Jesus takes the cup, again, offers you thanks, and gives it to all disciples saying:
'Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Drink this in remembrance of me.'

By your grace we are made one with Christ, and so we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves as a single, holy, and living offering.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by your life-giving power, she may enable them to be for us the presence of your Christ.

Holy and Loving God, we entreat you to hear the prayers we offer you today on behalf of those in need whose name, or need, or circumstances we now voice in this sacred assembly.

God hear our prayer
And in your love answer.

In the fullness of time,
reconcile all things in Christ,
and make them new,
and bring us to that city of light
where you dwell with all your sons and daughters;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
the firstborn of all creation,
the head of the Church,
and the author of our salvation;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, almighty God,
now and for ever.

Bring us at last with all the saints
to the vision of that eternal splendour
which you have prepared for us;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord, by whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
we worship you, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen and amen!

Prayer of Jesus (Sung):

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Fraction and Distribution:

Post Communion Prayer:

Almighty and Everlasting God, we give you thanks that you have granted us the presence of your beloved one Jesus Christ.

Help us so to walk the ways of love that Christ might evermore dwell in us and us in Christ to the glory of your most holy name. Amen.

Hymn: VU #161

Welcome Happy Morning

Refrain:

Welcome, happy morning!
age to age shall say;
hell today is vanquished,
heaven is won today!

1. Welcome, happy morning!
age to age shall say;
hell today is vanquished,
heaven is won today:
come then, True and Faithful,
now fulfil your word;
this is your third morning:
rise, O buried Lord!

2. Earth with joyful welcome
clothes itself for spring;
greet with life reviving
our returning king:
flowers in every pasture,
leaves on every bough;
speak of sorrows ended;
Jesus triumphs now! **R**

3. Author and sustainer,
source of life and breath;
you for our salvation
trod the path of death:
Jesus Christ is living,
God for evermore!
Now let all creation
hail him and adore. **R**

4. Loose our souls imprisoned
bound with Satan's chain;
all that now is fallen,
raise to life again!
Show your face in brightness,
shine the whole world through;
hope returns with daybreak,
life returns with you. **R**

Commissioning and Benediction:

Postlude:

Thine is the Glory - G. F. Handel
Trumpet: Rev. John Matheson
Keyboard: Alberto Santos

Reference and Information **for the week of April 5, 2026**

- ❖ TODAY- EASTER SUNDAY MORNING. Welcome to the Easter Worship Service of Communion, Special Music, and you are invited for coffee and conversation on Level 1 following the service.
- ❖ April 11. McGill Choral Society will present their upcoming concert this Saturday, April 11 at 3 p.m. at Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste, 309 Rachel E, Montreal, H2W 0A1. The performance features 230 choristers and a full orchestra in Edward Elgar's *From the Bavarian Highlands*, along with a selection of musicals. Doors open at 2:15 p.m. Tickets are available online at <https://concert.mcgillchoral.ca/event/4/from-the-bavarian-highlands-spring-2026-concert> or through Alberto, Sofia, and Marek.
- ❖ April 12. Worship in BHC and join with all for a SPRING LUNCH on Level 1 after the service and celebrate with all those enjoying an April Birthday.
- ❖ April 19. Worship in BHC, followed by the AGM on Level 1. At the conclusion of the AGM, Rev. Throop will lead a discussion with the group looking at where our experiences have taken us in the past year. A light lunch will be provided.