

"I am the resurrection and the life."

John 11:25

« Je suis la résurrection et la vie. »

Jean 11,25

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH

Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

April 5th, 2026 – Easter: Resurrection Sunday

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald
Minister of Music: John Scott
Lay Readers: Meghan Ernst, Colin Mann, Graham Pearson
Greeters: Sherrie & Ivan Carrie

Email: centralsecretary@bellaliant.com
VU: Voices United (red book)

Website: www.centralunitedlunenburg.ca
MV: More Voices (spiral-bound book)

We welcome and celebrate human diversity - including spirituality, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. Here, people of any faith or none can question and discover the sacred in life through openness, struggle, laughter, prayer and music.

Prelude

Choral Introit: “Introit For Easter” (Joel Raney)

Call to Worship:

Leader: Jesus Christ is risen today!

All: Jesus Christ is risen today!

Leader: Jesus Christ is risen today!

All: Jesus Christ is risen today!

Leader: Jesus Christ is risen today!

The women heard it first:

Women: Jesus Christ is risen today!

Leader: And then they told the rest:

All: Jesus Christ is risen today!

Leader: And now we’ve come to share the news

All: Jesus Christ is risen today!

Leader: Jesus Christ is risen today!

All: Hallelujah!

Leader: Let us sing!

All: Hallelujah!

Leader: Let us dance!

All: Hallelujah!

Let us be glad!

Hymn: “Christ The Lord Is Risen Today”

VU #157

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle

A Gift of Music: Central Handbells

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” – arr. Karen Robards

“Simple Gifts” – arr. Susan E. Geschke

Opening Prayer:

**With wonder, Risen One, some came running to the tomb,
eager to experience a moment of awe and transformation.**

**With fear, Comforting One, some came quietly,
hearts and feet weighed down by the still-fresh grief of the cross.**

**With questions, Mysterious One,
some came slowly, not sure what to expect,
but yearning for something real.**

**We, too, come with all our questions, all our emotions,
all our hopes and dreams and yearnings
into the mystery and joy of this Easter day.**

**Meet us here in the midst of our lives,
and be for us a reminder of possibility, of wonder,
of love and life beyond even our wildest imaginings.**

Be the voice that speaks hope into every broken heart.

**Be the mystery that breaks open
even the strongest divisions of our world.**

**Be the miracle that opens us to the promise and the gift of new life
not just today, but every day,**

that with hallelujahs on our lips and in our hearts –

**we might join you in the impossibly possible work of resurrection,
this whole year through. Amen.**

An Affirmation of Easter Faith:

As an Easter people, we affirm...

**...that love will always win, hope will always bloom,
and joy can always be found.**

As an Easter people we reject...

**...cycles and systems which perpetuate fear and hatred,
violence and harm, and we strive for another way,
rooted in life and justice for all.**

As an Easter people, we believe...

**... in the power of the resurrection, at work in our world.
transforming hearts, minds, communities and systems
And, as Easter people, we commit to being a part
of that work of resurrection in whatever way we can.**

As an Easter people, we celebrate...

**....the gift of new life that resurrection brings,
and the invitation it gives us to always begin again.
Therefore, as Easter people, we refuse to believe
that change is not possible, in our lives, in our church,
in our community, in our world.**

Love will always win.

Hope will always bloom.

And joy can always be found.

Confident in our Easter faith, we proclaim:

Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!

Hymn:

"Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia"



Christ has a - ris - en, al - le - lu - ia.
For three long days the grave did its worst
The an - gel said to them, "Do not fear.



Re - jice and praise him, al - le - lu - ia.
un - til its strength by God was dis - persed.
You look for Je - sus who is not here.




For our re - deem - er burst from the tomb,
He who gives life did death un - der - go,
See for your - selves the tomb is all bare.

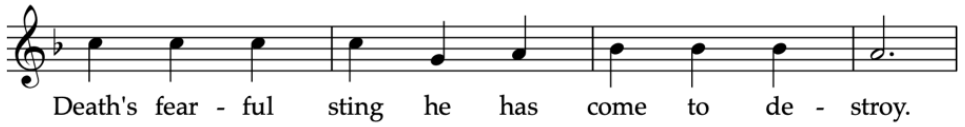


e - ven from death, dis - pel - ling its gloom.
and in its con - quest his might did show.
On - ly the grave - clothes are ly - ing there."

Refrain



Let us sing praise to him with end - less joy.



Death's fear - ful sting he has come to de - stroy.



Our sin for - giv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!



Je - sus is liv - ing, al - le - lu - ia!

The Easter Story from Three Perspectives

It Was Early in the Morning...

Refrain: "Celtic Alleluia"



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Beachside Breakfast...

Refrain: "Celtic Alleluia"

Go to Galilee...

Refrain: "Celtic Alleluia"

Reflection

Choir Anthem: *“The Carpenter’s Son”* (Craig Courtney)

“They Crucified Him on a cross that was made
using the hammer and nails from His trade.
Son of the carpenter, set Yourself free!
If you are the Saviour, come down from the tree”

We Celebrate the Life and Work of our Community

We Share Our Offerings

Offertory Hymn: *“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”*

The musical notation is written on five staves in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Al-le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Je - sus Christ, whose power up - lifts! Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ is ris - en, Al-le - lu - ia!"

Dedication of Our Gifts:

**Spirit of the Risen Christ,
Source of All that Restores and Revives,
in celebration of your abiding presence
we bring our offerings. Bless them to the work of your hope,
Multiply them for the care of your people in body and spirit,
that all the earth may experience the gift of resurrection. Amen.**

Hymn: *“Christ Has Risen While Earth Slumbers”* (see back page)

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Through the speaking of a name beside an empty tomb,
— resurrection was experienced.

In the breaking of bread at table after a long days' journey,
— resurrection was experienced.

In the pouring of wine in an upper room
and the renewal of a covenant, the story of God's love was shared.

In the simple and the ordinary, not the grand and dramatic,
— the resurrection is experienced.

So, it has been since the beginning.

And so, it continues today....

People of Easter's dawning,
may the Spirit of Life, new every morning, be felt in you.

And also in you.

People of Easter's hope, lift up your hearts!

We lift them to the One who has risen among us!

People of Easter's joy,
give thanks to the One who raises us to new life.

We sing our hallelujahs to the God of everlasting love!

Halle, Halle, Halle-lujah!

Halle, Halle, Halle-lujah!

Halle, Halle, Halle-lujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

VU #958

Easter God,
we bring you our praise and our thanks.
You take the pain of our Good Fridays,
the watching of suffering and the waiting for death,
and transform our helplessness into the fragile beginnings of hope.
You take the bleakness of our Easter Saturdays,
the weariness of defeat and desolation,
and transform our despair into the will and courage to go on.
You take the grieving of Easter Sunday morning,
the fearful approach to the tomb,
and transform our bewilderment
into the breathless excitement of new life.

And so, with Mary and the disciples...
...we proclaim your Easter praises, singing:

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

VU #958

Gathered at this table,
we remember a story told mere days ago and yet also an age ago...
We remember that Jesus gathered with his closest friends
in an Upper Room to share the feast of Passover
and while sharing that ancient story of freedom,
he called them to remember the promised freedom of God's Kingdom.
We remember...
...and so we break the bread and pour the cup
and we proclaim with hope this Easter Day:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

Blessing of the Elements
The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Feast

Hymn during communion: "Christ Is Risen(Santo Domingo)"

Luis Bojos

Refrain

Christ is ris-en, al-le-lu-ia,

on the third day, morn-ing!
la ma-dru-ga-da del do-min-go!

Fine

Verses



1. Wom - en came ear - ly to the tomb;
2. Ma - ry stood weep - ing by the tomb;
3. Je - sus ap - peared to his dis - ci - ples,
4. Thom - as was not with the dis - ci - ples,
5. On that day two of the dis - ci - ples
6. Some - one ap - peared while they were fish - ing;



1. they found the stone was rolled a - way.
2. Je - sus ap - peared and said to her,
3. greet - ed them with the sign of peace.
4. "I'd have to see him to be - lieve."
5. walked with a stran - ger to Em - ma - us.
6. said, "Cast your nets in - to the sea."



1. An - gels an - nounced, "The Christ is ris - en,
2. "Go and an - nounce to the dis - ci - ples,
3. Said, "See my wounds, my hands and feet,"
4. Je - sus ap - peared and said to Thom - as,
5. When they broke bread, their eyes were o - pened,
6. They all could see that it was Je - sus



to Refrain

1. rose from the dead on the third day."
2. I am as - cend - ing to our Fa - ther."
3. then asked if they had food to eat.
4. "Come, feel my wounds and you will see."
5. they rec - og - nized that it was Je - sus.
6. and shared a meal in Gal - i - lee.

Prayer after Communion

Easter God,

you have met us in bread and wine,
and surprised us with your joy.

Send us out into the world dancing with delight
and with hallelujahs ringing in our hearts,
to share your justice and your praise,
to be people of resurrection!

Amen

Closing Hymn:

"This Is A Day Of New Beginnings"

Words: Brian Wrenn
Music: Carlton Young



This is a day of new be - gin - nings,
For by the life and death of Je - sus,
Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,
Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us



time to re - mem - ber and move on, time to be -
God's might - y Spir - it, now as then, can make for
step from the past and leave be - hind our dis - ap -
to show and share what love can do. This is a



lieve what love is bring - ing, lay - ing to
us a world of dif - ference, as faith and
point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing, seek - ing new
day of new be - gin - nings; our God is



rest the pain that's gone.
hope are born a - gain.
paths, and sure to find.
mak - ing all things new.

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude

The land on which we live and work and worship is the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. As a community committed to the work of truth and reconciliation, we strive to live in the ways of peace and friendship with all who share this land and call it home.

*From Mike, Carrol, John and Rev. Daniel,
We wish you all a blessed and happy Easter!*



Easter Sunday
HE IS RISEN

Christ Has Risen



Christ has ris - en while earth slum - bers, Christ has ris - en
Christ has ris - en for the peo - ple whom he died to
Christ has ris - en to com - pan - ion for - mer friends who
Christ has ris - en and for - ev - er live to chal - lenge



where hope died, as he said and as he prom - ised,
love and save; Christ has ris - en for the wom - en
fear the night, sens - ing loss and lim - i - ta - tion
and to change all whose lives are messed or man - gled,



as we doubt - ed and de - nied: Let the moon em -
bring - ing flowers to grace his grave. Christ has ris - en
where their faith had once burned bright. They be - moan what
all who find re - li - gion strange. Christ is ris - en,



brace the bless - ing; let the sun sus - tain the cheer; let the
for dis - ci - ples hud - dled in an up - stairs room. He whose
is no long - er, they ex - pect no hope - ful sign till Christ
Christ is pres - ent mak - ing us what he had been, ev - i -



world con - firm the ru - mor: Christ is ris - en, God is here!
word in - spired cre - a - tion can't be si - lenced by the tomb.
ends their con - ver - sa - tion, break - ing bread and shar - ing wine.
dence of trans - for - ma - tion in which God is known and seen.

Words: John Bell
Tune: HOLY MANNA; Southern Harmony