



The United Church of Canada
Prairie Spirit Pastoral Charge
Coaldale United and St. Andrew's UC
Trinity and First United
Worship leader Ruth Pelletier
Reader: Laverne Bryant
Music: Barb Goertzen

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

Land Acknowledgement:

Introit: MV 130

Rise Up (x2)

Rise up! Rise up! Rise up, o my soul
Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name!
Rise up! Rise up! Rise up, o my soul
Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name!

Call to Worship:

Come! Celebrate the Good News!

Jesus lives!

New life is all around us. Stop and experience the beauty.

God rises with every sunrise in the heavens.

And God rises with every moon.

**The light of Christ shines throughout all the universe,
on every day and through every night.**

Come, let us accept this sacred gift we have been given.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed! Hallelujah!

Opening Prayer:

Hymn: VU 157

Christ the Lord is Risen Today

Kid's Time – Why Not the Easter Sheep???

Mission Story: Rooted and Rising

The stone was rolled away in a small, overlooked place. Not in the centre of power, or a crowded city. Across Canada, in small towns and rural communities, churches continue to be places of discovery and renewed life.

In Fort Nelson, British Columbia, Hillcrest United Church has stood on the northern landscape for more than 60 years. In a place shaped by distance and long winters, the church gathers neighbours in prayer, in song, and in everyday acts of care. Traditions are honoured, new life is welcomed, and everyone is invited in.

In Chipman, New Brunswick, volunteers at Chipman United Church prepare meals for neighbours who need them. Young people help lead worship. When some members could no longer attend in person, the church carried worship online—and discovered thousands of people joining to be part of that circle of prayer.

At Tobermory United Church, the building hums with life throughout the week. Community groups gather and space is shared with neighbouring congregations. Down the road, their thrift shop offers affordable goods—and when someone needs help, those items are tenderly given.

This is rural ministry. Creative, determined, and deeply rooted in community. These churches are not fading away. They are adapting, experimenting, and opening their doors in new ways so faith and community can continue to flourish.

At Easter, we proclaim that new life can break through even when the future feels uncertain.

Through Mission and Service, we help make that possible. Together, we strengthen communities that continue to serve, welcome, and care in places across this country.

This Easter, please **give generously** to Mission and Service. We are helping to ensure that hope continues to rise—in rural communities across Canada, and around the world.

Mission Prayer: from Song of Faith

God is creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe. Nothing exists that does not find its source in God. Our first response to God's providence is gratitude. We sing thanksgiving. Amen

Prayer of Reconciliation and Words of Freedom:

Hymn: VU 703

In the Bulb There is a Flower

Scripture:

Matthew 28:1–10 (NRSV)

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, for 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 and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

Colossians 3:1-4 (The Message)

So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, *act* like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from *his* perspective.

Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your *real* life—even though invisible to spectators—is with Christ in God. *He* is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too—the real you, the glorious you. Meanwhile, be content with obscurity, like Christ.

Message:

Hymn:

In The Garden

I come to the garden alone
while the dew is still on the roses,
and the voice I hear falling on my ear,
the Son of God discloses.

*And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.*

He speaks, and the sound of his voice
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
and the melody that he gave to me
within my heart is ringing. (R)

I'd stay in the garden with him
though the night around me be falling,
but he bids me go; thru the voice of woe
his voice to me is calling. (R)

Offering: 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 and the Lord's Prayer (sung): music by Pat Mayberry

*Creator God, 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 the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.*

Hymn: MV 30

It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

Commissioning and Benediction:

We follow our Loving Shepherd into new life as the sheep of God's flock!

God leads us with the light and wisdom of the Spirit!

May we be light and hope for others!

Sung Blessing: MV 122

This is the Day

This is the day that God has made;

we will rejoice and be glad!

This is the day that God has made;

we will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing

hallelu!

We will rejoice and be glad!

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!

We will rejoice and be glad!