

**Together We Worship**  
May 4<sup>th</sup> 2025 Service

**Welcome**

**Life of the Church Community (Announcements)**  
**Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

As we prepare ourselves for worship, we light the Christ Candle and we re-center on Christ: Christ who lived, Christ who died and Christ who rose again.

**Call to Worship** (Including Psalm 4:7a, 8)

Christ has risen.

**Christ has risen indeed!**

It takes a whole season to take in this news.

**It takes a whole lifetime to praise God for this news.**

As the Psalmist proclaims: “God has put gladness in our hearts.”

**We can “both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O God, make us lie down in safety.”**

We can also rise up and give thanks!

**And so we worship God!**

**Opening Prayer**

God of the resurrection,

Christ, risen from the dead, awakens our minds to your Love and the extremes you will go to show it to us. We now seek to find him in fellow travelers on the road, in family picnics on the beach, in the solitude of our bedrooms and in this community of faith. Open our hearts to see you in our midst, to believe in this miracle – Risen Christ all around us! Amen.

**Hymn**      VU#165 - Come, You Faithful (Tune VU#142  
                 VU # 213 Rejoice the Lord is King\_

## **Prayer for Transformation** (Inspired by Luke 24:36-48)

God of the resurrection,

Christ, risen from the dead, awakens our minds to your Love and the extremes you will go to show it to us.

Help us to not miss out on encountering Christ.

We yearn to hear the Scriptures opened and have our hearts burn within us. Help us hear from both friend and stranger new readings and tellings of your Holy Story.

We year to touch the physical body of the Risen Christ. Help us remember that our bodies too are holy and sacred, made and blessed by you, their Maker.

We yearn to be followers of Jesus and proclaim “repentance and forgiveness of sins” in his name to all...to be like Mary and come with news of an empty tomb. Help us God not be discouraged by fear and trembling. Give us the courage to proclaim the good news for Jesus’ sake, Amen.

### **Theme Time:**

With Children:

At my church we will be “hiding” seeds that will grow in sanctuary to show how small acts, even hidden ones, of kindness grow through God’s grace).

With Adults:

How have you interpreted the word “saved” in your faith? Describe how hope has sustained you? Where do you find hope?

End With:

Life without hope can be a life of despair. Hope motivates us, leads us in our choices and decisions, and moves us forward despite the doubts and discouragement we may hold. A life of hope gives us permission to dream, to imagine and to create. Hope carries within it, possibilities, change, and faith beyond our selves; faith in a God of hope and love.

**Hymn**      VU#703 – In the Bulb There is a Flower  
Please be seated

### ***We Listen for God's Voice***

Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways.

**Speak to us now through the reading of the scriptures.**

**Scripture readings:** Romans 8:24-25 (Common English Bible)

<sup>24</sup> We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn't hope. Who hopes for what they already see? <sup>25</sup> But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it with patience.

This is the trustworthy witness of God's faithful people through the ages,  
**The divine word to us today. Amen.**

**Sermon** – Rev. Tracy Robertson

Hymn        VU#186 – Now the Green Blade Rises

**VU # 159 The Strife is Over**

***God Invites Us to Respond in Faith and Hope***

**Invitation to the Offering:**

God of the resurrection,

You ask us to offer back to you just one part of all the things you give us...sustenance, breath and love. One of the ways we do so is through our tithes and our offerings.

Our offerings will now be received.

Offering Response:    VU#958 – Halle, Halle, Halle

**Prayer of Dedication:**

Gracious God, bless these gifts, those given through PAR, and those we give at other times. Use them as you will, for your work. Amen.  
Please be seated.

**Prayers of the People**

God of the resurrection,

Thank you for listening to our prayers as we continue in our journey of faith. This path of following Jesus can include moments of great joy and insight, inspiration from the Holy Spirit. Thank you for those moments and help us be ready to accept that the Risen Christ will surprise us in who and when they come.

Following Jesus also includes moments of struggle and challenge. Help us to engage with these as Jesus did: honestly, openly and not afraid to reach out for support.

Following Jesus also includes moments, sometimes whole seasons, when doubt is louder than faith, questions more numerous than smiles, and when we are unsure you are truly listening, loving and journeying with us.

God please remind us you see doubt as one aspect of who you created us to be. You move closer when we doubt, not further away. In this moment of silence help us remember you are as close to us as our bone marrow. Help us to honestly tell you where doubt is abiding for us right now.

(hold silence for at least 3 deep breaths)

God, who is in us, you hear our prayer.  
God, who is journeying with us, you hear our prayer.  
God, thank you for Jesus who taught us how to pray,  
each in the language of our hearts:

**Our Father/Mother/Creator  
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.**

Hymn: VU#187 - The Spring Has Come  
VU # 266 **Amazing Grace**

### ***We Go into the World to Share God's Love***

#### **Sending Forth**

Christ has risen.

**Christ has risen indeed!**

As the Psalmist proclaims: "God has put gladness in our hearts."

**We can "both lie down and sleep in peace; for you alone, O God,  
make us lie down in safety."**

We can also rise up and proclaim this good news!

**And so let us go and proclaim the Risen Christ. Amen.**

