**St.Andrews United Church**



60 West Avenue, St. Thomas 519- 631-4558

e-mail: standrewsucgra@rogers.com

Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s

website : www.standrewsunitedchurch.com

Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/

Merna Edison/Thomas Bee

# April 9, 2023

***Easter Sunday***

**Easter Sunday**

**April 9th, 2023**

**Proclamation**

Weeping may linger for a night,

**But joy comes in the morning.**

God turns our weeping to dancing.

**God clothes us in gladness.**

Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

**(Christ Candle is lit)**

**Hymn - Jesus Christ is Risen Today - 155 VU**

**Call to Worship** *Celebrate God’s Presence, 191, adapted*

Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

We take our place in the procession of all who celebrate the resurrection.

**God calls us to be an Easter people! Let us live out the power of new life.**

Christ is risen.

**Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!**

Let us worship God!

**Amen.**

**Acknowledging Our Kinship**

One: For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land; their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality. We are gathered on their traditional territory and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages. Help us to become better neighbours so that we might live together in better ways.

**All: For we are all kin in Christ, "All My Relations," with each other and this earth, its waters, air, animals, and plants.**

 **Gathering Hymn - Welcome, Happy Morning - 161 VU**

**Prayer of Confession** *Celebrate God’s Presence, 195, adapted*

If at times, we deny you,

**God, forgive.**

When the risks of discipleship are high,

And we are nowhere to be found:

**God, forgive.**

When we wash our hands of responsibility:

**God, forgive.**

When we cast our lot with powerful oppressors

and seek to buy freedom with silver:

**God, forgive.**

When fear keeps us from witnessing to your truth,

or prejudice keeps us from believing it:

**God, forgive.**

In the bright light of Easter morning, O God,

our sin is exposed, and your grace is revealed.

**Tender God,**

**Raise us in your love so that, with joy,**

**We may witness to your deeds of grace and power,**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, the Risen one. Amen.**

**Prayer of Assurance** *Celebrate God’s Presence, 197, adapted*

The stone is rolled away ~ we are released!

The tomb is empty ~ we can be free!

Christ is risen ~ life can be full! Thanks be to God.

**Young at Heart**

**Hymn - This is the Day That God Has Made - 175 VU**

**Scripture Reading - John 20: 1-18**

**Meditation - Questions, Always Questions**

**Hymn - Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks - 179 VU**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering Hymn - Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**Offering Dedication**

In the name and in the spirit of the Risen Christ,

We bring our gifts to you, Eternal One.

Help us to give with them A ready mind, A willing spirit,

And a joyful heart. Amen**.**

**Prayers of the People**

Risen Lord, hear our cry for help –

for those surrounded by the shroud of death

for those covered by the mantle of dying

for those hemmed-in by illness, visible or veiled

hear our cry for help…

for those weighed down with worries

for those carrying the burden of distress

for those overwhelmed by isolation

hear our cry for help…

for those who are weary

for those who are tattered and worn

for those who collapse from exhaustion

hear our cry for help…

Risen Lord, hear our cry of thanksgiving –

for the graciousness with which you hear

for the patience with which you listen

for the grace with which you care

hear our cry of thanksgiving…

for the ways you accompany us through deep valleys

for the ways you lead us to still meadows

for the ways you provide all we need

hear our cry of thanksgiving…

for transforming death in resurrection life

for blessing and breaking ordinary bread

for opening our eyes to recognize you

hear our cry of thanksgiving…

Risen Lord, hear our cry for communities of faith –

that we sense purpose beyond ourselves

that we perceive the needs of creation

that we stretch ourselves to respond

hear our cry for communities of faith…

that our ways be formed by Your Way

that our lives be shaped by Your Life

that our love be Your Love

hear our cry for communities our faith…

And hear us now as we pray together saying …

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn - May the God of Hope Go with Us - 424 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction** *Celebrate God’s Presence, 200, adapted*

From this Easter festival,

We go forth to live resurrection:

In the name of the God who makes us,

In the name of the Christ of makes us free,

In the name of the Spirit who makes us one.

**Christ is risen!**

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.**

**Upcoming**

**April13 -Board Meeting 10:30am**

**April 13- Metcalfe Gardens Worship-3pm**

**April 16-Messy Church Sunday**

***Next Sunday will be a Messy Church Sunday. We will start in the Sanctuary and then move into the hall. Lots of fun activities are planned. As well, there will be lunch to follow. Don’t miss this Sunday Fun day!***

**If you are interested in subscribing to Broadview Magazine(formerly Observer), please contact Marg Hutchison at 519-633-1105. Cost is $25 per year.**