**St. Andrews United**

**Church**



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

**e-mail:** **standrewsucgra@rogers.com**

**Website:** [**www.standrewsunitedchurch.com**](http://www.standrewsunitedchurch.com/)

**Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s**

**Pastor: Rev. Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/**

 **Merna Edison/Thomas Bee**

**Easter Sunday Service**

**March 31, 2024**

**Proclamation** (Reveal the cross)

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

**Christ is Risen indeed!**

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

**Relight the Light of Christ**

The light which the world tries to extinguish cannot be put out. Today we light the candle again, proclaiming the transforming power of God.

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Acknowledging our Kinship**

As we begin today, we acknowledge the history, spirituality, culture, and stewardship of the land of the Indigenous People of this region. We seek to live in respect, peace, and right relations as we live, work, and worship upon Traditional Territory. We are mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

**Call To Worship**

We run to the tomb
to be forever surprised.
**Christ is risen!**
Through our tears of sorrow and despair,
we don’t recognize him.
**Christ is risen!**
Then he calls us by name.
**Christ is risen!**
We run into the world announcing,
“We have seen the Lord!”
**Christ is risen!**

**Prayer of Confession**

O God, we love surprises,
but this is the greatest of all.
Jesus Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!
Just when we give in to the forces of darkness and death,
there you come again and roll away the stone.

O God, help us offer your wonderful surprises
to all of your creation, in the name of the risen one. Amen.

Words of Assurance (John 20, Easter)

Surprise! The stone is rolled away!
Christ is risen! Be gone, darkness and death!
You have no power here! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!

**Reflection**

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

**Scripture Reading** - Mark 16: 1-8, John 20: 1-18

**Meditation - You Are Looking For Jesus**

**Hymn - I Danced in the Morning - 352 VU**

**Invitation of Offering**

**Dedication of Offering**

God of the victory of life over death; on this glorious Easter Sunday, we rejoice in the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Just as the women encountered the empty tomb and the angelic message of new life, we too encounter the living Christ in our hearts and lives. As we come to present our tithes and offerings, may they be an affirmation of our search for the risen Christ, the one who challenges us to see beyond our own expectations. Bless our giving and help us discover the transformative power of the living Jesus in our lives. In the holy name of our risen Savior, we pray. Amen.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern**

When everything was dark and it seemed that the sun would never shine again, your love broke through.

Your love was too strong, too wide, too deep

for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your lovedance and spread

and burst forth with resurrection light.

Gracious God, We praise you for the light of new life

made possible through Jesus.

We praise you for the light of new life

that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.

We praise you for the light of new life

that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,

will live in us each day;

and that we will be bearers of that light

into the lives of others.  Amen.

**Sung Lord’s Prayer - 959 VU**

**The New Creed**

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

**Benediction**

Because the tomb is empty, your life can be full, so go into every place and every day as people brimming with the love of God.
Be graceful in spirit, hopeful in word, faithful in deed.
Live for the risen Christ as Christ lives in you.
Alleluia and Amen!

**Postlude**