



# Sunset United Church



April 4, 2021- Easter Sunday

Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

Children & Youth Minister:

Michelle McConkey (she/her)

Choir Director: Corinne Groff (she/her)

Pianist: Shirley Hill (she/her)

Special Music: Sunset Covid Choir

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Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory, is an Affirming community of faith. All are welcome here.

## WE GATHER

### Welcome

**Hymn:** VU#155 Jesus Christ is Risen Today \*\*

- 1. Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!  
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!  
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!*
- 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!  
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!  
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!*

3. *But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!  
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!  
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!  
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!*
  
4. *Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!  
praise eternal as God's love, hallelujah!  
praise our God ye heavenly host, hallelujah!  
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!*

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

Jesus Christ is Risen

**Jesus Christ is Risen, indeed!**

Hallelujah

**Hallelujah!**

### **Call to Worship\***

This day is like every other day.

**Alarm clocks beeped. Covers were removed. Coffee  
was brewed.**

**Weary bodies came to life.**

And yet, this day is like no other day –

**For the sun rose, and we knew it was a miracle. The  
tomb was empty, and they knew it was love.**

So again and again we say –

**The longest night is over.**

**Death has lost its sting.**

**Jesus is among us!**

**Alleluia! Amen.**

Again and again and again –

**Alleluia! Amen.**

## Opening Prayer

Hymn: VU#166 Joy Comes with the Dawn \*\*\*

*Joy comes with the dawn;  
joy comes with the morning sun;  
joy springs from the tomb  
and scatters the night with her song,  
joy comes with the dawn.*

1. *Weeping may come;  
weeping may come in the night,  
when dark shadows cloud our sight.*

*Joy comes with the dawn;  
joy comes with the morning sun;  
joy springs from the tomb  
and scatters the night with her song,  
joy comes with the dawn.*

2. *Sorrow will turn,  
sorrow will turn into song,  
and God's laughter make us strong.*

*Joy comes with the dawn;  
joy comes with the morning sun;  
joy springs from the tomb  
and scatters the night with her song,*

*joy comes with the dawn.*

3. *We will rejoice,  
we will rejoice, and give praise,  
to the One who brings us grace.*

*Joy comes with the dawn;  
joy comes with the morning sun;  
joy springs from the tomb  
and scatters the night with her song,  
joy comes with the dawn.*

### Sharing the Story

**Hymn:** VU#167 Christ is Risen from the Dead \*\*\*\*  
(easter verse only)

*Christ is risen from the dead, glory, hallelujah!  
Jesus Christ is risen, glory, hallelujah!*

## WE LISTEN

**Prayer for Illumination\*:**

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

**Hymn:** VU#186 Now the Green Blade Rises \*^\*

1. *Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;*

*love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.*

2. *In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
thinking that he would never wake again,  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.*
3. *Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.*
4. *When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
your touch can call us back to life again,  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.*

## **Reflection**

## **Special Music**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

We know the fear of the upper room.  
We know the feeling of hard days and long nights.  
We know the grief of the tomb,  
And the particular ache of saying goodbye.  
We know the pain of Good Friday,  
And we know the darkness before dawn.

**And still,**

And still,  
     **We believe**  
 We believe that again and again  
     **The sun will rise.**  
 Again and again  
     **God will draw near.**  
 Again and again  
     **We will march toward justice.**  
 Again and again,  
     **The tomb will be empty.**  
 Again and again,  
     **Love will win.**  
 Again and again,  
     **God will lead the church.**  
 Again and again,  
     **And again and again,**  
     **We will be loved!**  
     **The journey will not be perfect.**  
     **We will need to rise before dawn.**  
     **We will need angels along the way.**  
 But again and again  
     **The sun *will* rise.**  
     **We believe.**  
     **Amen.**

**Hymn:** VU#187 The Spring Has Sprung    ^^\*\*

1. *The spring has come, let all the church be part of it!  
 The world has changed, and God is at the heart of it!  
 New light, new day, new colour after winter grey.  
 New light, new day,  
 the spring has come, let all the church be part of it!*

2. The sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!  
 The world expands, let's spread the Gospel way in it!  
 New leaf, new thrust, new greening for the love of Christ.  
 New leaf, new thrust,  
 the sun is warm, let all God's children play in it!
  
3. The spring has come, new people are the flowers of it.  
 Through wind and rain, new life is in the showers of it.  
 New bud, new shoot, new hope will bear the Spirit's fruit.  
 New bud, new shoot,  
 the spring has come, new people are the flowers of it!

**Benediction:**

**Postlude**



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