

St. James United Church

April 11, 2021/2nd Sunday of Easter/Holy Humor Sunday

Minister: Rev. Marion Davis
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director: Amy Dalziel
Associate Music Director: Branden Olsen

St. James United Church is a safe place for all people to worship, regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background or sexual orientation.

We Gather as God's People

MUSICAL PRELUDE
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY/FIRST PEOPLES
WELCOME
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & WORK

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Binding us into community,

All: Christ is among us!

One: Banishing our doubts,

All: Christ is among us!

One: Ending our fears,

All: Christ is among us!

One: Bringing us hope,

All: Christ is among us!

Source Unknown

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (in unison)

O God, you came to the disciples and offered them Easter assurance. You came to Thomas and offered him resurrection hope. Come to us in this time of worship, and fill us with faith hope, and love.

Celebrate God's Presence, p193

HYMN: *Thine is the Glory* VU 173

Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son:
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment
rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes
where the body lay.

[Refrain:]

Thine is the glory,
risen, conquering Son,
endless is the victory
thou o'er death hast won.

Lo, Jesus meets us,
risen from the tomb!
lovingly he greets us,
scatters fear and gloom.
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth:
death hath lost its sting. **R**

No more we doubt thee,
glorious Prince of life;
Life is nought without thee:
aid us in our strife;
make us more than conquerors,
through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan
to thy home above. **R**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (in unison)

Gracious God, as people called by your presence in the world, we search our hearts, and ask your forgiveness:

**For opportunities not taken, for care not given,
for sorrow not shared, for joy not celebrated
for love not extended
for those failings we cannot speak aloud;**

Gracious God, we seek your healing grace and ask forgiveness in the name of Jesus. Amen

Moment of Reflection.....

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS:

We live in a promise that is strong and true:
that God's steadfast faithfulness is greater than our sin,
and that the abundance of God's mercy
is greater than all the forces that drive us away
from God's presence.
Let us give thanks for our salvation!

Kate Crawford, Gathering Lent/Easter/Pentecost 2021 p39

MUSICAL INTERLUDE: *Deep in our Hearts* MV 154

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
Deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
Deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
Deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
Deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
Deep in our hearts there is a common song;
Deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

We Listen to and for God's Word

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION: (in unison)

O God, for whom there are no barriers, no stones too big to remove, roll away any resistance we have to you. Let your words fill us with new life and bring us out from the tomb of indifference, alive, again in you. Amen

Celebrate God's Presence p197

SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 4:32-35

PSALM 133: Sung by Brandon Olsen

GOSPEL READING: John 20:19-31

MUSICAL INTERLUDE:

REFLECTION ON THE WORD: "In Our Doubt....."

HYMN: *In the Bulb There is a Flower* VU 703

In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

We Respond to God's Love

OFFERING INVITATION:

We have gathered our gifts together and have donated online, by PAR, by letter drop, as well as in the offering plate and now we dedicate them to God in gratitude and praise.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

We bring our gifts to you, O God. Here is the work of our hands, and here is the love of our hearts. Accept what we offer and use them, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrate God's Presence p50

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: *This Joyful Eastertide*

VU 177

This joyful Eastertide,
away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the crucified,
hath sprung to life this morrow.

Refrain:

Had Christ, that once was slain,
ne'er burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain:
but now has Christ arisen,
arisen, arisen, arisen.

My flesh in hope shall rest,
and for a season slumber,
till trump from east to west
shall wake the dead in number. **R**

Death's flood hath lost its chill,
since Jesus crossed the river:
lover of souls, from ill
my passing soul deliver. **R**

COMMISSIONING:

Leave this time of worship knowing that there is nowhere you can go where God is not and nowhere too far to find your way home.

Kate Crawford in Gathering Lent/Easter 2018, p35

BENEDICTION:

The grace of Christ attend you;
The love of God surround you;
The Holy Spirit keep you this day and always.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

Life and Work – April 11, 2021

We would like to acknowledge the following donations to the General Fund:

* In loving memory of my daughter, Sharon Kelly, parents Helen and Nelson Stokes, and husband Charlie Parsons from Annie Parsons.

* In loving memory of parents, Chesley and Mary Granter and Leah and Louis Bursey, and daughter Kimberley Renee from Doug and Joan Bursey.

We offer our sincere condolences to Glenn and Glenda Winsor and family on the passing of Glenn's father Roy Pike Winsor on Monday, April 5, 2021. His funeral took place on Saturday, April 10 from the Anglican Church of the Good Samaritan.

Condolences are also extended to Gus Kelsey, along with family and friends, on the passing of his wife Winona on April 6, 2021. Her funeral took place on Saturday, April 10 from St. James United Church.