

Gladwin Heights United Church, The United Church of Canada

Please be aware that this service is broadcast live on Facebook at 9:30am

**The Third Sunday of Easter
May 4, 2025**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

++ Please rise in body or spirit

MV = More Voices; VU = Voices United

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING:

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

We worship on the unceded territory of the Halq'eméylem-speaking peoples. Following the recommend practice, we acknowledge the territory extemporaneously.

We light the Christ Candle.

We light the Rainbow Candle.

WE WELCOME EACH OTHER

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

This day God calls us

to be people of the resurrection!

Let us take our place in the procession

of all who have celebrated Christ's resurrection
through the centuries.

Amen! Alleluia!

Let us live out the power of Christ raised from the dead.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

Let us worship God!

Let us pray.

WE CENTRE IN GOD:

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.**

++**HYMN:** MV 12 – “Come Touch Our Hearts”

WE OPEN OURSELVES TO GOD:

Easter morning takes us by surprise,

awakening us to the doubt and despair

that have been rooted in our lives.

Let us now confess to God.

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.

[Silent Prayer]

AND WE ARE ACCEPTED:

In the bright light of Easter morning
our sin is exposed,
and God's grace is revealed.

**Our God raises us up love so that, with joy,
we may witness to Their awesome deeds.
In the name of Jesus the Risen One,
we rejoice and give thanks.**

WE RESPOND: MV 108 – "I Know Your Word"

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

SCRIPTURE: Reader: Florine Lint

John 21:1-19 [New Revised Standard Version]

"All With Joyful Exultation" [Psalms for All Seasons 30C]

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON:

++HYMN: "Would I Have Answered When You Called"
[Tune: VU 625]

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S LOVE

PASSING THE PEACE:

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER VU 921 [Ecumenical Version]

MISSION AND SERVICE STORIES:

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

Let us present our offering to the work of God.

++OFFERTORY: "Take my Gifts" [Tune: VU 460]

Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,
gave me light and food and shelter, gave me life and set me free,
now because your love has touched me, I have love to give away,
now the bread of love is rising, loaves of love to multiply!

The offering is brought forward.

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS:

In the midst of our despair, God offers hope.

In the midst of our death, God offers life.

In the midst of our sorrow, God offers joy.

God does not erase what has happened;

God enters into it, gives it meaning,

and leads us beyond it into new possibility.

**In these gifts, we enter into what God is doing
and reach for resurrection.**

++HYMN: "We Are Called to Tell the Story"

WE GO OUT TO SERVE GOD

++COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

EXTROIT: MV 209 – "Go, Make A Difference" [Refrain & v2]

POSTLUDE

END OF WORSHIP

BEGINNING OF SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

*Elements of today's service are taken from Celebrate God's Presence,
The United Church of Canada, 2000.*