

St Paul's Presbyterian Church online

Easter Sunday

April 12th, 2020

Partners in God's Mission of Love

We celebrate life in Christ - join us on the journey



Pre-service music *played by Kerry*

Video 1 Introduction and Call to worship

When we are all despairing
and the world is full of grief;
when we see no way ahead
and hope has gone away;
Roll back the stone.

Although we fear change;
although we are not ready
although we'd rather weep
and run away.
Roll back the stone.

Because we're coming with the women;
because we hope when hope is vain;
because you call us from the grave
and show the way.
Roll back the stone!

Hymn: Christ has risen while earth slumbers *sung by Frank and Sally*

Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
as he said and as he promised,
as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing;
let the sun sustain the cheer;
let the world confirm the rumour.
Christ is risen, God is here!

Christ has risen for the people
whom he loved and died to save;
Christ has risen for the women
bringing flowers to grace his grave.
Christ has risen for disciples
huddled in an upstairs room.
He whose word inspired creation
can't be silenced by the tomb.

Christ has risen to companion
former friends who fear the night,
sending loss and limitation
where their faith had once burned bright.
They bemoan what is no longer,
they expect no hopeful sign,
till Christ ends their conversation,
breaking bread and sharing wine.

*Words and music: by John Bell & Graham Maule
Copyright © 1988, WGRG, The Iona Community, Scotland.*

Video 2 Reading Mark 16:1 - 8 Murray

Video 3 Reflection with rocks followed by prayer

Take your rock in your hand.
Allow yourself to feel the weight of it.
the weight of the expectations it carries.
the weight of disappointment and broken dreams.
The weight of sorrow and loss
The fear of the great unknown which lies before us.
Pause, and give the weight to God to hold.....

Feel the possibilities of rolling it away, putting it aside.
The possibility of new, fresh ways of being,
The possibility that even though our expectations may not be met,
There might be good in that.

Pause, and centre your hope in God who holds all in his wide embrace.

Prayer :

God,
You who raise the dead to life,
We are here.

Risen Lord Jesus,

Who gathers us together,
Sharing food, healing
We are here.

Holy Spirit
Who keeps us company
We are here.

Here we are, your disciples,
Your wounded hands and feet
Are ours in our world today.

Sometimes we have been the frightened ones,
Staying at a distance,
Worried about our safety or our reputations.
But you come close to us, even when we are in lockdown.
Unlocking our potential and setting us free.

Sometimes we have been the doubting ones,
When certainty has eluded us,
But you come close to us,
Cradling our doubts
In your accepting grace.

And often, we have been the confused ones,
Feeling far from you,
With questions that have no answers
But still we listen for your voice
Speaking through the complex
Textures of our lives.

Silence

***Through our fear,
Through our doubt,
Through our confusion,
May we continue Jesus' healing work
United by the love of the resurrected One.
AMEN.***

Second hymn In Christ alone

Video 4 Reflection

Third hymn We shall go out with hope of resurrection *video with words in service*

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;

we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of a Christ who sets us free.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story
including all in circles of our love.

Video 5 Prayers for the world - Reflection with eggs

Pick up your egg.

Imagine the promise of it - what lies beneath the shell or the foil

As you hold it, bring to mind all those who are in your prayers....

The essential workers, especially health care workers and chaplains in the health sector.

Friends and family members who are stressed, or lonely, or bored,

People who are locked down in abusive situations,

Parents and children beginning a new way of doing school,

Those who are experiencing judgement because they have caught or transmitted

COVID19

*Those in Fiji, Indonesia, Vanuatu who are dealing with weather disasters as well as
COVID 19.*

Those who are doing their best to live courageously

In discovering a strange new normal

.....

As you begin to peel away the shell or the foil,

Imagine the nourishment, the sweetness,

Experience the hope and anticipation of this new day.

Hold those for whom you are praying

In that hopeful anticipation.

For them and for you,

Dare to trust in a glimmer of light penetrating the darkness,

A new normal which carries freedom and grace

Even in the midst of lockdown restrictions.

A tentative step into resurrection amazement.

Video 6 Resurrection reading from the Jesus story Bible - read by Lynne.

Video 7 Easter acclamation and closing

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!

Let us go with a song in our hearts,
bringing to all we meet the melody of love
which has been given to us in the rising of the Christ.

Benediction

And may the power of life in Christ lift up the life of the world,
the power of love in the Creator swing wide above us like the blue
of the sky
and the faithfulness of the Holy Spirit raise our faith to the heights
of hope.

Amen.



Final Hymn Thine be the Glory