



Celebrating
176 Years



April 17, 2022

Melville United Church
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Melville United Church

April 17, 2022

Easter Sunday

Presiding today - Rev. Lynda Goy-Flint

Welcome

I greet you in the name of Jesus the Christ, the resurrected.

We gather in community today – April 17, 2022 virtually and in person. We will continue to offer both in-person and on-line services with printed copies being distributed to those without internet access who are unable to attend in person. We encourage people to come out to worship in the sanctuary. Double vaccinations, masking and hand sanitizing are all required to ensure the safety of all in attendance, and there is ample space for people to maintain social distancing. For those who are joining us online or by reading, we invite you to have a candle or tea light available.

We gather on this glorious Easter Sunday morning, and the mood is festive, triumphant, joyous as we celebrate the Good News of Jesus, once crucified, but now risen. And as he is risen to new life, so are we, because of God's great love, promised the gift of new life too.

Announcements

- **UCW April Meeting Cancelled**

This month's UCW meeting has been cancelled. We will try to meet in May, possibly in the garden. Stay tuned!

- **Organ Concert**

To showcase our extensively refurbished organ, on May 14th. Several area organists have been invited to share their gift of music. There will be a free will offering in support of Ukraine and The Hub.

- **Broadview Magazine**

Subscriptions are now due. The cost remains the same at \$25.00. Please pay your money to Ralph Rainford as soon as possible. Ralph will make himself available after the worship service on Sunday mornings outside the Chapel. Please promote this wonderful magazine to those who do not subscribe. Thank you for your support.

- **Ukraine Appeal**

The invasion of Ukraine is costing precious lives and creating a humanitarian crisis as people flee to safety. Over a million people, displaced from their homes, are seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. Many have lost friends, loved ones, and property; struggle to meet their basic needs; and face an uncertain future. United Church Mission & Service partners are responding to the rapidly unfolding crisis—visit our website at <https://united-church.ca>, scroll down to Ukraine Crisis and click on the Act Now button to find out how you can show your support and make a gift.

- **Round Table on Food Security and Faith**

Held by Zoom on Thursday, April 21st at 7pm, hosted by the United Church's Antler River Watershed, Horseshoe Falls, Western Ontario Waterways and Shining Waters Regional Councils. Discover various and diverse food justice ministries in our regions, offer your challenges and celebrations in these ministries, hear from Open Food Network. The link to register:

<https://united-church.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAtfu6tqjkjHddcBlyH4XGK4JcRqwQyeMKq>

- **From the Mission and Discipleship Commission:**
 - Young Adults Together retreat for 19+ years in Fingal ON near St. Thomas from Friday April 29th to Sunday May 1st. For more information and registration visit <https://wowrcucc.ca>
 - Camp Menesetung invites you to their “Clean Up Camp” day (pizza lunch provided) in the Goderich area, June 19th 9am-4pm. Check the camp’s website <https://www.campmenesetung.ca/>
 - Please pray for several other projects funded by our Mission & Service dollars throughout the Region
- **Gifts with Vision** These gifts are perfect for those difficult to buy for people. There's no going out, no standing in line, no wrapping. And you will be helping out those in need near and far. Items address healing and reconciliation, leadership, counter racism, wellness and safe spaces, education, poverty and hunger, the future, Mission & Service. Gifts range from \$5 to \$140. Gifts include food for the north, help build a well, purchasing Covid vaccines for the Global South and East, and much more. You can find the full catalogue at www.giftswithvision.ca.
- We continue to **collect items for the food bank**. A list of the most needed items was sent out, and if you need a printed copy, just let someone on the Social Justice team or Rev. Lynda know, and we will get it to you. In addition to non-perishable food items, the food bank is also looking for personal and feminine hygiene products as well as fresh vegetables, apples and oranges.

I invite you to join us now for a time of worship and contemplation.

Land Acknowledgement Peter Chynoweth, *Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022*, p.30. Used with permission.

This land on which we gather is the Traditional land of the

Petun,
 Haudenosaunee,
 Anishinabewaki,
 Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation,
 Odawa and
 Mississauga people

We worship Creator on this land and acknowledge with respect the thousands of years of ceremony and relationship that are etched in footprint, fire, and faithfulness on the soil and rock that surrounds us.

Lighting the Christ Candle: Bob Root, *Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022*, p.42, alt. Used with permission.

(If you are watching this on-line or reading it from a page I invite you to take a moment to light a candle, centre yourself and prepare to enter in to a time of worship and prayer. As you light your candle repeat the following words)

Each new day reminds of us the light that dwells within us—
 The light of Christ, light of the world, that God has placed deep within our hearts.
 We light the Christ candle,
 Remembering that we are made of light and love,
 Remembering that we are called to bring light and love to others and the world.
 Thanks be!

Prayer of Praise *Sharon Tedford, Engage Worship: 'It was my sin' worship idea*

<https://engageworship.org/ideas/was-sin-worship-idea>, alt.

Our Saviour Jesus,

As we look on the symbol before us,

we are reminded that you put yourself in the place that we deserve to be.

You chose to be broken and wounded, beaten and spat upon, rejected and ridiculed.

Today, as we see our names covering the cross,

help us to remember that you diverted what was heading our way.

You accepted the outcome that was due to us.

You did so freely and out of overwhelming love.

You assumed our role in the story of death.

You took our place in the portrait of mortality.

You became our substitute in the race that would only end in ruin.

And in doing so you faced death head on.

You stood in the darkness;

Your body buckled under the weight of wrong,

you experienced the collapse of life

and the apparent demise of God's plan.

But only for a short while...

After three days you stood up tall,

you reached out your scarred hands

and pushed back the face of death.

You wrecked the murderous plot

that had been set in motion all those thousands of years before.

You changed the story, recreated the picture and won the race!

Jesus, your triumph over 'the end of all' is spectacular!

You secured a route for us to be victorious over the death that we faced.

You succeeded in clearing the road to God,

that had for so long been blocked by our wrongs and selfishness.

(*Take the sheet that is covering the cross and tear it in two—top to bottom*)

By choosing to take our sin on you,

you have tackled the power of the extreme end

and have in its place established a kin-dom of freedom.

Jesus, you have won, you have overcome,

you have achieved that which we never could...

full forgiveness and real relationship with the God who loves us!

So, thank you Jesus!

We delight in you and rejoice with jubilation over your triumph!

Amen!

Call to Worship: *Christine Jerrett, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.42. Used with permission.*

Christ is risen! Hallelujah!

From our grief of Good Friday,

through the waiting of Holy Saturday,

the world emerges into Easter morn'.

The sun is rising.

Night sheds its grip on the world.

A new day awaits.

Come and see. Christ is risen!

Hymn: Jesus Christ Is Risen Today **VU155** (Public Domain)

- 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!

Opening Prayer (in unison): *The United Church Publishing House, Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada. Copyright 2000. Used with permission.*

**God of renewed presence,
on this Easter day
we know that with you all things are possible.
May the Good News of Easter joy
fill our lives and make our hearts glad.
Hallelujah. Amen.**

Ministry of Music "Lily of the Valley" words by Charles W. Fry and music by Buddy Wasisname and the Other Fellers *sung by the Men's Chorus accompanied by Suzanne Flewelling*

Call to Reconciliation *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: New Liturgy w/ communion for April 17, 2022 (Easter - C) <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

We don't have to tell God, but we need to remind ourselves,
of how our actions, words, inattention cause harm to others.
Yet, this is the day, as on every day, when God calls us by name,
filling us with grace, and making us whole.
Let us bring all we have done to God, for mercy and hope. Let us pray together, saying,

Prayer Seeking Forgiveness and Reconciliation *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: New Liturgy w/ communion for April 17, 2022 (Easter - C) <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

**In our foolishness, we think this old story has nothing to do with us,
God of Imagination,
and so we miss the incredible news
that love has triumphed over hate,**

**goodness has defeated evil,
that life has broken the power of death and the grave.**

**Yet, this is a day of joy, of wonder, of grace which never ends,
God of every life, God of very life.
So, may we push aside the stone of indifference
we have rolled across our hearts,
so we may be reminded that this old story is new every moment,
that those ancient promises still hold true,
that we are the ones by called by the Gardener of grace,
Jesus our Brother,
who calls us by name and anoints us with resurrection love. Amen.
*Silence is kept***

Words of Assurance *Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies: New Liturgy w/ communion for April 17, 2022 (Easter - C) <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. Used with permission.*

On that first day, and the next,
and every day until now and beyond,
God turns, calls us by name, planting mercy and life into our hearts.
Alleluia! This is the good news!
Christ is our peace,
the peace we need,
the peace which will heal the world.
Alleluia! Christ is Risen. Amen.

Children's Ministry "God Gave Us Easter" by Lisa Tawn Bergren art by Laura J. Bryant

Hymn: Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah! MV121 (One License #A740237)

Hey now! Singing Hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

1 Jesus love people and he made them friends.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He called to the children
and the women and men.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.

Hey now! Singing Hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

2 Jesus healed people
and he helped them be well.

- Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He taught about God in the stories he'd tell.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
- Hey now! Singing Hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.
- 3 Jesus loved people and they said he was a king.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
He turned all the tables on everything.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
- Hey now! Singing Hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.
- 4 Jesus had power and they took him away.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
They nailed him to a cross
and they killed him one day.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
- Hey now! Singing Hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.
- 5 Jesus loves people and he lives again!
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends.
Hey now, the tomb was empty.
- Hey now! Singing Hallelujah!
Hey now! The morning has come!
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.

Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

A new heaven and earth; the wolf and the lamb together

The Glorious New Creation

For I am about to create
new heavens and a new earth!
The things of the past
will not be remembered or come to mind!
Be glad and rejoice forever and ever in what I create,
because I now creation Jerusalem to be a joy

and its people to be a delight!
I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress.
No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days,
or old people who do not live out their days.
They die as mere youths
who reach but a hundred years,
and those who fall short of a hundred will be thought accursed.
At last they will live in the houses they build,
and eat the fruit of the vineyard they plant.
They will not build for another to inhabit;
they will not plant for another to eat.
For the days of my people
will be like the days of a tree,
and my chosen ones will enjoy
the fruit of their labours.
They will labour in vain
or bear children doomed to die;
for they and their descendants
are a people blessed by God.
Even before they call upon me, I will answer;
and while they speak, I will hear.
The wolf and the lamb will feed side by side;
the lion will eat straw like and ox.
Serpents will be content to crawl on the ground;
they will not injure or destroy
in all my holy mountain,”
says YHWH.

Scripture: John 20:1-18 (*The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Translation*)

Mary Magdalene and Simon Peter find the empty tomb

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark,
Mary of Magdala came to the tomb.
She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance,
so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple—the one Jesus loved—
and told them, “The Rabbi has been taken from the tomb!
We don’t know where they have put Jesus!”

At that, Peter and the other disciple started out toward the tomb.
They were running side by side, but then the other disciple outran Peter
and reached the tomb first.
He didn’t enter, but bent down to peer in
and saw the linen wrappings lying on the ground.
Then Simon Peter arrived and entered the tomb.
He observed the linen wrappings on the ground,
and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus’ head
lying not with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself.
Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in.

He saw and believed.
As yet, they didn't understand the scripture
that Jesus was to rise from the dead.
Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb.
Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside,
and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes.
One was seated at the head and the other at the foot
of the place where Jesus' body had lain.

They asked her, "Why are you weeping?"

She answered them, "Because they have taken away my Rabbi,
and I don't know where they have put the body."

No sooner had she said this than she turned around
and caught sight of Jesus standing there,
but she didn't know it was Jesus.
He asked her, "Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?"

She supposed it was the gardener, so she said,
"Please, if you're the one who carried Jesus away,
tell me where you've laid the body and I will take it away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned to him and said, "Rabboni!"—which means "Teacher."

Jesus then said, "Don't hold on to me,
for I have not yet ascended to Abba God.
Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them,
"I'm ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!"

Mary of Magdala went to the disciples.
"I have seen the Teacher!" she announced.
Then she reported what the saviour had said to her.

Prayer Laura J. Turnbull, *Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022*, p.48. Used with permission.
Ever-living God, may your Easter story become our story.
May the wonder and awe of lives made whole, take hold deep in our soul.
May we receive and live the miracle account of resurrection.
We pray in the name of the enlivening Christ. Amen.

May the words I speak and the reflection that we all share
find a response that is worthy of you,
most Just, most Loving, and most Compassionate God. Amen.

David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.



Reflection: Light and Life



One of my very favourite things is to sit in a window on a beautiful sunny day, especially in the colder months, and read, but even more, to bask in the light and heat of a sunbeam. It's a bit cat-like, and sometimes, just like a cat, I may fall asleep. It's just about the best thing.

Light shining in is such a lift. Just the other day it was rainy and grey and gloomy and I have to say, I struggled to go about doing what I needed to do. It makes such a difference when the light is shining in!

But light isn't all about shining in. Some of the most important lights are the lights that shine out.

Jesus is such a light. In the readings for Good Friday, Jesus has been betrayed by Judas' kiss, arrested and brought to the Council of chief priests and elders of the Jewish people. He is shuffled from the Roman governor, Pilate, to Herod, back to Pilate. At no point do they find him guilty of anything. But despite this, the Council are out for blood, Jesus' blood. They whip up the crowd, though, who demands to have Jesus put to death and so, despite his misgivings, Pilate sentences Jesus to die by crucifixion. Jesus is hung on a cross, and as he is dying, a darkness comes over the whole land, and the sun's light fails. Jesus, the Light of the World is dying, and even creation is in mourning.

But Christ's light was not extinguished, and on the third day when Mary Magdalene goes to the

tomb, the stone is rolled back and daylight shines in. It is enough light to show Mary that Jesus' body is no longer there and instead the space is occupied by two angels in white. Mary soon discovers that Jesus is risen—the Light of the World shines on and shines out. God's amazing gift of his beloved child is made even more amazing in the resurrection of that child to new life, just for us, just so that we might know new life is possible, God's love is constant, and we are loved.



So what about our light? On those gloomy days, and even, at times, the lovely days, our light is but a flicker? And what about when our light is flickering on the most joyous days like Easter? Joyce Rupp writes about that in her book called *Fresh Bread*.

What if we wake up Easter morning and feel crabby, restless, lonely, sad, pained or discouraged instead of feeling the hope, joy, peace, delight, and new life that the church invites us to experience? ...

I have discovered [a] way of rejoicing when my feelings do not match the feast's message. It is the gift of recognizing and remembering all the "little Easters" of my life throughout the year.

Rupp tells of a woman who came to her, very distressed about her very small days where little of any importance happened.

During the next several weeks I began to notice all the "insignificant or little things" in my days. As I did so, a quiet surprise happened inside of me. I was amazed by all the little moments or little Easters, those feelings of joy, surprise, amazement, hope, newness, that get clouded by the tough stuff and the daily dyings. (Why is it that it seems to be so much easier to get caught up in the hard things and the struggles than it is to remember the happy moments?) I began to see how I allowed my spirit to get bogged down in anxieties and problems because I did not notice and celebrate the simple, little surprises. I can know little Easters all year long and, if I develop a recognition of and a taste for them, they will deepen my faith in the resurrection even when I do not feel the joy at the time of its celebration.

My little Easters are those moments when I feel hope press against my spirit and I say, "Hooray! God **is** alive and he loves me so much!" My little Easters are those moments when something that has died in me is raised to life again:

- Watching and caring for the tiny seeds of marigolds and one day seeing fresh, green shoots break through the soil
- Hearing a prayer come from a high school student who's so shy about sharing his God with anyone
- Having a kindergarten girl knock on the front door and ask for a cookie
- Receiving a letter from a friend who writes, "Hello, I've missed you"

- Answering a phone call from a woman I do not know very well and hearing her joy as I accept an invitation to dinner at her home
- Hearing my young niece struggle to say “snicklefritz” and her delight when finally pronouncing it correctly
- Being given a bouquet of wild flowers picked and saved for me by two happy-hearted senior citizens

It would be so easy to pass these things by or not notice how significant they are to my life. I may not always have a high-in-the-sky feeling when I celebrate Easter but I do know that they provide quiet reassurances that God keeps raising dead parts of my spirit to life. I have the hope that comes from knowing that risen Jesus is not just a bible story. He is here, in my very midst. I have known him in too many little Easters to ever doubt that presence. I have been surprised so often, surprised at how simply the risen Lord is near, at how intensely God always re-enters my existence through the people around me.



These little Easters that Joyce Rupp speaks of are the lights shining out of people, animals, nature, cards, letters, invitations, silly moments and gifts—the lights instilled in each of us by Jesus Christ. Sometimes those are they very lights that spark our own light to life.

We may feel that we are too weak, too tired, too small, too sad to offer any little Easters, any light. But Leonard Cohen in his song “Anthem” says “there is a crack, a crack in everything/that’s how the light gets in.” Our weakness, tiredness, smallness, sadness, our brokenness makes for cracks in our being. We might lament those cracks, but they are how the light gets in, and I think by extension, those cracks are how the light gets out.



It is in our human brokenness and fallibility that we have received the light of Christ, and it is through our brokenness and fallibility that we are able to connect with others and spread the light—in lots of little ways, little Easters that we can share with others as others have shared with us.

For in life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us, we are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Alleluia!

Hymn: Thine Is the Glory **VU173** **(Public Domain)**

1 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.

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

2 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.

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

3 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.

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

Joys and Concerns

- Birthdays:
 - John Cuming celebrated Wednesday, April 13th
 - Rossie Rawn is celebrating today, April 17th
 - Alison Rainford celebrates tomorrow, April 18th

Preparation for Prayer

Let us practice the art of Praying with our Eyes Wide Open, that in seeing the world and those within it we are called to tend we may be *opening the eyes of our hearts to all in need around us* (*Lamont Koerner '81 MDiv God Pause for Thursday, September 16, 2021 from Luther Seminary*):

Prayers of the People *Spill the Beans Resources Team, spill the beans: worship and learning resources for all ages, Issue 42, p. 95. Copyright 2022.*

Living God,
out of the darkness of death
and human cruelty,
comes life, everlasting,
Jesus' tomb lays empty,
his friends wonder and worry
doubt and rejoice,
the light is in the world
now and forever,
and in this light we
bring to you our prayers
for others and ourselves.

As we gather today,
one in the long line of
Christian communities,
celebrating Easter,
in troubling times in our lives
and in our world,
some of us happy,
some of us sad,
some of us struggling
and some of us thriving,
we pray for ourselves,
that your love will be our
strength and our shield,
that we will walk always
with Jesus on our hearts,
on our minds, and on our lips.

On this day of celebration,
we bring to you prayers
for all those in pain,

all those lost,
all those struggling
in a world of inequality,
help them to be bound up
in your care,
to know your presence
in this world and in their lives,
and help each of us
to offer support
in every way we can
to all those in need.

On this day of rejoicing,
as we look back to the
resurrection and forward
to your promised kingdom,
where peace will reign,
we bring to you prayers
for all those impacted by
war and violence all over
the world and here at home.
Bring peace to the lives
of all peoples, bring justice
to the broken hearted and devastated
bring reason to the unreasonable,
and bring wisdom to all those
with the power to create change.

On this day of wonder,
this Easter Day,
we bring to you prayers for your church,
help us to remember why we
join together,
in the midst of our singing
and speaking, our activities
and our outreach,
our hopes and our dreams
for an uncertain future,
help us to remember
that we come together
in your name,
to worship you
and give you thanks,
this day and all days.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Offering Invitation

Giving is an act of worship, an act of relationship, an act of love.
And so, as we worship this God,
 who seeks us in relationship,
 who loved us into being,
we offer our gifts.

Offering Hymn: What Can I Do

MV191

OneLicense #A740237

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Offering

If you would like to do your part by making a monetary donation to Melville United Church, there are several ways to do that.

1. By leaving your offering envelope on the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.
2. Cheque (post-dated cheques are welcome): made payable to Melville United Church-which can be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 41, Fergus ON N1M 2W7 or put in the mail slot beside the parking lot door.
3. Donate online through the Canada Helps web-site
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/melville-united-church>
4. Call or email Lynda, to arrange Pre-Authorized Remittance payments (PAR).
5. E-transfer directly from your bank. E-mail to secretary@melvilleunited.com

Thanks to all of you who continue to contribute so much to make Melville the caring community of faith that it is. May you be blessed.

Offering Prayer *Selina Mullin, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.48, alt. Used with permission.*

Dear Lord, bolstered by your love,
let the Christ-light shine through us,
nurturing our souls even as it builds and strengthens this community of faith.

**Please receive and bless the labours of our community of faith
and bless the sharing of these gifts.**

Allow this offering to entwine us with other communities, that all of our spirits may grow.
Take these gifts for Mission and Service and use them to enrich our global community,
nurturing all of humanity as only you can.

Thanks be to you, O God. Amen.

Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Give praise to God's name.

- 1 Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
firstborn of all creation.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Give praise to God's name.
- 2 Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and is risen.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Give praise to God's name.
- 3 We have been crucified with Christ,
now we shall live for ever.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Give praise to God's name.
- 4 Come let us praise the living God,
joyfully sing to our Saviour.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
hallelujah, hallelujah!
Give praise to God's name.

Commissioning *Richard Bott, Gathering: Lent/Easter 2022, p.50. Used with permission.*

We go into God's world
to share what we have.
We go into God's world
to share who we are.
We go into God's world,
with God's love,
Christ's peace,
and the Holy Spirit's song.
Alleluia. Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

Change the Light/Blessings

Watch. I am going to change the light and I invite you to change your light.

I'm not going to put it out, just change it.

See how it is only in one place?

Change Light

Can you see it? Now it is moving everywhere, to everyone, with everyone.

Now everywhere you go today, the light will go with you.

Household Prayer: Morning *Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 1. Copyright 2012.*

God of endless life,
in the light of this new day
we see the dawning of your new creation.
Give us wonder and delight
to enjoy this day that you have made;
through Jesus Christ, our living Lord. Amen.

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Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening
and the day is almost over.
Help us to know that you are with us—
through the promise of your Word,
in the sharing of a meal,
and by the power of your Spirit
that burns within our hearts.
Bless and keep us, this night and always. Amen.