

A graphic for Easter Sunday. On the right side, a white chick is shown in profile, looking towards the left. The background is a soft-focus scene of a cracked eggshell, with green grass and yellow flowers visible at the bottom. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

easter  
SUNDAY

*Christ Is Risen!*



# West River United Church

*'... seeking, sharing, celebrating abundant life in Christ'*



Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

Andrea Rogers

and all members of West River United Church

Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019

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## PRE- SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME\*

ONE: Look around for signs of life! Look around for signs of joy! Let us share these signs with one another as we pass the peace of Christ.

♪ 'Jesus Christ Is Risen Today' VU 155 (*projected*)

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE\*\*

ONE: On this Easter Sunday, we shout and sing the glad news:

ALL: **Jesus Christ is risen indeed! We light the Christ candle because he is here among us. Hallelujah! Amen.**

♪ 'Open Our Hearts' MV 21 (*projected*)

### CALL TO WORSHIP *please stand, as you are able\**

ONE: Easter is here.

ALL: **Alleluia!**

ONE: Listen, love is calling,

ALL: **Alleluia!**

ONE: Hope is Alive.

ALL: **Alleluia!**

ONE: Christ is Risen.

ALL: **Alleluia!**

ONE: This is the miracle of Easter.

ALL: **Hallelujah! Amen.**

♪ 'Rejoice the Lord is King' – VU 213 vs 1 & 4 (*projected*)

PRAYER OF APPROACH AND THE LORD'S PRAYER\* (*in unison*)

**ALL: Living God, we lift our hearts in praise.**

**Today we celebrate that life rules over death.**

**All your promises to us have new meaning;**

**Christ is risen and we live in hope because of this.**

**Help us to rejoice and celebrate as your Easter people;  
in the name of the risen Christ.**

**Together, we pray as Jesus taught us saying**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed by thy name**

**thy kingdom 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 kingdom,**

**the power, and the glory**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING\*

**ONE: Bring your hope. Bring your love. Bring new life, as you  
share your gifts with the Risen Christ.**

PRESENTATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

**♪ 'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow'– VU 541 (*projected*)**

OFFERTORY PRAYER\* (*in unison*)

**ALL: Risen Christ, bring resurrection hope  
through these gifts we now bring!**

**May they become signs of new life,**

**and symbols of hope for a hurting world—**

**a world yearning for the life-giving power  
of your saving love.**

CHILDREN'S TIME

♪ 'Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!' – MV 121 (*projected*)

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION\* (*in unison*)

**ALL: God of new life, where there is despair,  
let us be filled with hope.  
When we are buried in the tomb of our despair,  
let us feel your mercy and grace.  
Help us to bloom with grace in our lives,  
so that we might burst forth in promise,  
and live with resurrection faith  
today and every day.  
With Easter joy, we pray. Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE\*

ONE: Give thanks and sing, for God's faithful love covers us with grace, and raises us up with new life and new beginnings. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

**JOHN 20:1-18** (*New Revised Standard Version*)

<sup>1</sup> Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup> Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup> for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples returned to their homes. <sup>11</sup> But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; (.../over)

<sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' " <sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

MUSIC MINISTRY

SERMON – Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

## **HYMN VU 166 'Joy Comes with the Dawn' (projected)**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION\*\*\*\*

INVITATION

ONE: God is with you.

**ALL: And also with you.**

ONE: Lift up your hearts!

**ALL: We lift our hearts to God.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to God, our God.

**ALL: We give God our thanks and praise!**

ONE: We give you thanks and praise, God of Easter morning!

From the very beginning you called all things into Life!  
With a breath! With a Word! With a song of love that still  
rings through the universe, you created all things –  
from the spinning quark, to the dancing quasar –  
from the only imagined, to the magnificently tangible –  
you gave Life!

**ALL: ALLELUIA!**

ONE: Out of this breath, from this Word,

life erupted – life lived – life evolved.

From single cells, to plants and animals,  
birds of the air, fish of the sea, things that squiggle and squirm,  
animals of the land... and us! Thank you, God!

**ALL: ALLELUIA!**

ONE: People of all places and times. People of all shapes and sizes.  
People of all genders and races. People here and people there.  
You created us, loving God – to live in your image.  
To create in your image. To love in your image.

**ALL: And it was very, very good.**

ONE: In your love, you called us back, again and again and again.  
You called us to new life in you, through prophets, priests  
and teachers, grandmothers and grandfathers in the Spirit,  
people who remembered your love, and shared it,  
no matter what.

**ALL: We forgot and we wandered away.**

**We closed our eyes so that we couldn't see you,  
inviting us back to your love.**

**So you sent Jesus, the Christ, one of us and one with us –  
a teacher, a healer, a prophet, the Anointed –  
one who laughed with us, one who mourned with us,  
one who knew what it meant to be as human as human can be.**

ONE: Jesus, the Christ, one with You.

**ALL: Alleluia!**

ONE: On the night before he was taken to be killed for sharing  
your message of Love and Life, he gathered with his disciples for a feast of  
freedom and hope.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it and gave it to those gathered  
saying, "This is my body, given for you. Each time you eat this bread,  
remember me."

He took a cup, gave thanks to you, then gave it to those gathered saying,  
"This is my promise in my life's blood, that sins are forgiven. Each time  
you drink this wine, remember me."

**ALL: So we eat, we drink and we remember.**

ONE: But we don't only remember his death.

**ALL: We remember his resurrection.**

ONE: We remember his love!

And so we ask you, loving God,  
in the light of this Easter morning, fill us with new life.  
Bless this bread and this juice,  
that these things – and that all of us –  
might be the body and blood of Jesus Christ,  
alive in the world. Now and forever!

**ALL: Alleluia!**

ONE: Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours, God most Holy,  
now and forever. Amen!

BREAKING THE BREAD AND FILLING THE CUP

ONE: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*in unison*)

**ALL: For the reminder of who we are,  
for the reminder of whose we are,  
thank you, living Christ.  
We will live the life that is within us,  
we will share the Easter moment,  
with each other, and with the world.  
Amen.**

**HYMN VU 179 'Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks' (projected)**

BENEDICTION

ONE: New life burst from the tomb, as a butterfly bursts from its cocoon.

**ALL: We are blessed with new life, new hope, and new possibilities.**

ONE: Let us go forth from here, knowing that God is always with us.

**ALL: Let us go forth with love and joy bursting forth from us,  
through the grace of Jesus Christ, the holy and risen one. Alleluia!**

♪ **'You Shall Go Our with Joy' – VU 884 (projected)**

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*\*\*\*Richard Bott, Pacific Spirit P.C. Vancouver, B.C.*