

Easter Sunday - March 31, 2024 ORDER OF WORSHIP – Rev. Tom Woods

Please stand where ** is indicated

****Gathering Song:** MV 122 This Is the Day

Announcements:

Welcome:

In this community of faith, we celebrate that all are welcome in this place.

All are welcome by God's grace.

****Call to Worship:**

We long to sing today's song.

We ache to proclaim the good news.

The world longs to hear again the promise in today.

He is risen.

Christ is risen.

Jesus Christ is risen today.

And all our alleluias rise.

There is life after death.

There is hope after defeat.

There is more. There is more. By the power of God, there is more.

****Opening Prayer:**

**Dear God, we come before you this day as did your followers so long ago,
wondering if it can really be true that Jesus is alive,**

amazed that it could be so,

joyous that your love endures forever and is stronger even than death.

We shout "Alleluia!"

and we pray that your Spirit will raise us to joyful worship and service to you.

Amen.

****Opening Hymn:** VU 155 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

Scripture:

Isaiah 25:6-9

- offered by Sandra Braye

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

John 20:1-18

Hear the Witness of the Gospel.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Reverend Tom Woods

Ministry of Music: The Hymnal He Lives

Offering Invitation:

Instrumental during Offering: Jesus Paid It All – Sarah

****Offertory Response:** VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

****Offering Dedication:**

Invitation to the Table:

(One)... the table where we can expect to meet Jesus.

(All)

**Where is Jesus? He is here, waiting for us,
inviting us to share this holy feast once again
so that we might be strengthened to meet him again and again along the way.
So whoever you are, wherever you have been,
come and celebrate this holy feast on this Easter day,
because Jesus is here and invites us to join him
in this feast which he has prepared.**

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(One)

... We can do nothing but give you thanks and praise for the life you have given us
and the life that lies ahead.

(All)

Awesome God, on this Easter Day, come among us by the power of your Spirit.

Show us the presence of the risen Christ as we celebrate this meal.

Receive the gifts we bring to this place,

and use them to make all things new even now, even here, even at this table.

(One)

Make this bread and this cup for us the body and blood of our resurrected Lord.

By your Spirit, unite us with the risen Jesus,

that we might see him here and everywhere we go

as we embody the gift of his resurrection in our lives and in our world.

(All)

Loving God,

help us to glimpse the risen Christ at work in our world.

Show us how to see and serve him in all those we meet,

and guide us in finding your new life along our journey each and every day.

Keep us faithful in your service until the new life we see in him is real for all the world as we feast together once and for all in the joy of your eternal realm.

Through our risen Christ, we give you all praise and thanks and glory, eternal God, now and forever. Alleluia! Amen.

Prayer After Communion:

****Hymn: VU 164 The Day of Resurrection**

****Blessing:**

****Parting Song: VU 586 We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection (v. 1)/
Go Now in Peace (*words Nancy Price & Don Besig; music Don Besig*)**

OUR MISSION

**TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE
BY LIVING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS:**

**showing mercy,
promoting justice,
offering forgiveness,
acceptance, and hope.**

OUR VISION

We, the congregation of Knox United Church, publicly proclaim our commitment to become an open and welcoming community of faith. We declare that we welcome everyone regardless of age, race, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

Everyone is welcome here.

Through the process of honouring diversity and challenging injustice with those who bear the weight of discrimination, we commit ourselves to openness, growth, education, love, and acceptance.

Christ's Disciples in Ministry: Everyone
Minister of Worship, Outreach and Faith Formation:
Rev. Tom Woods
Minister of Music & Dramatic Arts:
John Lindsay-Botten
Church School Superintendent: Lynne Stewart
Pastoral Care: Olive McIlldoon & Judy Hayes

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*Thank you to everyone who took part in this morning's Easter Sunday worship service,
with special thanks to our guest musician Sarah Matorin,*