

Southminster United Church, Ottawa, Ontario

April 5, 2026

Easter Sunday

Worship Leader: Rev. Susan Toller

Director of Music: Sarah Westbrook

Reader : Valerie Hindle

Guest musician: Isabelle Lacroix (Soprano)

Capital Youth Jazz Orchestra Brass members: Owen Duncan (Trumpet), Joshua Kuruvilla (Trombone)

Prelude: Capital Youth Jazz Orchestra Brass members

1) Welcome Happy Morning

2) Thine Be The Glory

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Welcome



**We place flowers in the church today
to remember our loved ones**

- Steve Bergwerff
- Charles & Betty Plaxton
- Robert Plaxton
- Dr. Bill & Gladys Watters
- Dorothy Tarte
- Beth Lauzon
- Ruth Drummond
- Mary Huband
- Donald Forrest
- Jane Forrest
- Lorne & Carrie Isaac
- Hilde Ouellette
- Madison Paige Powell
- Rob Shotton
- Edward Bruce Russel
- Gar & Doris Hindle
- Connie Keeler
- Patrick McGill
- Paula H. Mullin
- Beatrice McIntyre
- Don & Ann Wannamaker
- Eleanor Burgess
- Stanley & Mary Temple



Land Acknowledgement

We worship on the unceded and unsundered land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people. They have cared for this land where we live for millenia.

During this time of new beginnings, when we celebrate Easter and the arrival of spring, let us remember to renew our relationship with Indigenous people. There is much to be learned from the original caretakers of this place we call home, if they choose to share their knowledge. Let's be grateful for the Algonquin Anishinaabe and the First Nations, Metis and Inuit people who continue to offer their gifts to this area.

Lighting of the Candles

We light this candle to celebrate the light of Christ, the one who offers unconditional love and acceptance.

We light the Affirming candle to remind us that everyone is welcome here. We are all God's children and our community includes people of all cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities. God loves all of us.

Call to Worship

On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

The good news is dancing!

The good news is on the loose!

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

Let us worship our good-news Christ.

Opening Prayer

Creator,

We thought we had lost your son.

We thought the world had stopped.

While we still wonder where you are sometimes,

We know you are alive.

We rejoice that Christ is risen and that the Spirit moves within and around us.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: Joy Comes with the Dawn (VU 166)

Refrain:

**Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.**

**Weeping may come;
weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight. *Refrain***

**Sorrow will turn,
sorrow will turn into song,**

and God's laughter make us strong. *Refrain*

**We will rejoice,
we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace. *Refrain***

Words: Gordon Light 1985. Music: Gordon Light 1985; arr. Nan Thompson 1995. Words and music copyright © 1985 The Common Cup Company. Arrangement copyright © 1995 Nan Thompson.

Passing of the Peace/ Greeting Time

Prayer of Confession

Friends, on Easter Sunday we remember that the world did its worst to God.

The world battered and bruised, betrayed and abandoned, crucified and buried our living God. And despite it all, Jesus still chose to return.

Jesus rose again and immediately went to work spreading God's love to the very people who had hurt him. So hear me when I say, there is nothing you can do that could keep God's love at bay. With that good news mind, let us go to God in prayer, trusting that Jesus Christ loves, claims, and seeks us.

Friends, let us pray:

**Gracious God,
we want to be Easter people.
We want to shout your good news from the rooftop.
We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you.
We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid,"
but we are afraid.
And we don't know where to look.
And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.
So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people.
We are best intentions and best laid plans.
We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias."
We are on our way, but we are not there yet.
Show us how to embody your good news in this world.
Show us how to be your Easter people.
With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.**

Words of Assurance

Family of faith,
even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias," we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could keep God's love at bay.
So join me in this good news declaration:

Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed.
This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God.
Amen.

Anthem: Awake, O Wintry Earth from Cantata 129
by J.S. Bach English Version by Beverly Easterling
Choir and Capital Youth Jazz Orchestra Brass members

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Prayer of Illumination

Holy One,
all over the world, people are gathering to hear the same story.
All over the world, people are gathering to hear how death lost its sting.
All over the world, people are gathering together, praying for a glimpse of you.
So like our neighbors all over the world, we pray, be here.
Speak to us today.
Soften the calloused parts of our hearts until we can sense your Holy Spirit in our midst once more.
With eagerness and hope, we run to the tomb. We sing alleluia. We bow our heads. We listen for you.
Amen.

Matthew 28:1-10

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he[a] lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.' This is my message for you." So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

Psalm 118 (VU Psalm 118, Part Two, p. 837)

God is my strength and my song;
God has become my salvation.
There are shouts of joy and deliverance

in the tents of the righteous.

The right hand of God does mighty things;
the right hand of God raises up.

The right hand of God does mighty things.

I shall not die, but live;
and I shall proclaim what God has done.

**God indeed punished me,
but did not give me over to death.**

Refrain:

Hallelujah! hallelujah!

Albert Ham ca. 1900

Reflection

Musical Gift: Rejoice Greatly from Handel's Messiah (HWV 56)

soloist: Isabelle Lacroix

Communion

Invitation to the table

On Easter morning, the women went looking for Jesus. The angel said he was not in the tomb, so they ran, afraid yet filled with joy. They sought after him.

They hurried to Galilee, looking for their risen Christ. And in their seeking, the text tells us: "Suddenly, Jesus met them" (Matthew 28:9).

Jesus met the women in their seeking. Jesus met them in their moment of fear and grief. Jesus met them when they felt lost. Jesus met them and provided hope.

Friends, if like the women you are seeking Christ, if you have known grief or fear, if you have ever felt lost, or if you are in need of some hope, then come to this Table. All are welcome here.

For just as Jesus met the women in their seeking, I am confident that Jesus meets us here, saying, "Do not be afraid."

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Risen Christ, good-news God, and ever-present Spirit, today is a day we've been waiting for.

We've been waiting for the holy mystery of this morning. We've been waiting for the good news of an empty grave. We've been waiting for the sound of alleluias.

Today is a day we've been waiting for, and now that we're here, all we can say is thank you.

Thank you for showing the world what could be.

Thank you for loving us with abandon.

Thank you for facing death and returning with mercy.
Thank you for the empty tomb.
Thank you for morning birdsong.
And thank you for meeting us here, as you always do.
Today we celebrate the good news that you are alive in the world. The grave couldn't hold you. Death couldn't keep you. The empire couldn't confine you. Instead, you are here and everywhere.
You are risen. You are on the move in the world. Your love meets us at this Table and calls us out into the world. And that is good, good news.
So on this Easter Sunday, this holiest of days, we ask for your help noticing you in our midst.
When our feet walk beside wildflowers, may we think of you.
When the stars light up the sky, may we see you.
When we break bread with our neighbors, may we feel you.
When a stranger acts with kindness and love, may we recognize you.
We know that you are out in the world, God, and we don't want to miss a minute of it.

Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus and Benedictus) (MV 203)

**O holy, holy, holy God,
O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,
creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always!**

Words: William S. Kervin and Paul Stott. Music: traditional melody, England and Ireland. Words copyright © 2005 Williams. Kevin and Paul Stott. Used by permission.

Words of Institution

On the night before he died,
Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to you,
He broke it, and gave it to those who sat with him saying:
"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way he took the cup, saying:
"This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,
Shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

Prayers of the People

We pray these prayers with gratitude and joy, and we also pray for those who still find themselves at the foot of the cross. We pray for those stuck in the pain of Good Friday. We pray for....

(prayer requests are expressed verbally or silently)

Holy One, so many days feel like Good Friday, but the promise of Easter is that Good Friday does not have the last word. So may we live like that is true. May we speak this hope to our neighbors. May we look for you in our midst. May we see you at this Table, in this ordinary bread and cup. And may we always remember: alleluias came after the grave.

As we live like Easter people, let us continue to pray the words Jesus taught us to pray, saying...

The Prayer of Jesus - Alternate Version (VU 916)

**Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

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Sharing Communion (all are welcome to share communion)

The body of Christ
The cup of blessing

Hymn: Bread for the Journey (MV 202) remove words

**Bread for the journey, (for the journey)
food for the way. (food for the way)
Cup of God's blessing, (God's blessing)
tomorrow, today. (tomorrow, today)
(2X)**

Words and music: Bruce Harding, 2000; French trans. David Fines, 2005. Words and music copyright © 2000 by Bruce Harding, www.evensong.ca. Used by permission.

Prayer after communion

Loving Christ,
thank you for the bread that nourishes our bodies.
Thank you for the cup that quenches our thirst.
Thank you for this community, which reminds us who we are.
Thank you for this Table that brings us together.
Thank you for the music that lifts our spirits.
Thank you for the promise that at this Table, and every table, you will be there.
May this holy meal nourish us to go out into the world speaking of your good, good news.
With joy and hope we pray, amen.

Invitation of Offering

We make our offering as a way of showing our commitment to the light that is needed in our communities and in the world around us. Please give as you are able. We recognize that many people give their skills and talents, and that some people contribute online. If you prefer to donate by credit card, our treasurer Margaret will be at the back with the Square device during coffee hour. Let us now pass the offering plate around.

Presentation of the Offering: Sing, Thanks to our God (TLUS 58) remove

**Sing, Thanks to our God
Sing, Thanks to our God
Sing, Thanks to our God
Sing, Thanks to our God**

Words and music: Amy Yea Kyong Lee, 2019. Words and music copyright © 2019 Amy Yea Kyong Lee. All rights reserved.

Offering Prayer

As followers of Jesus, we give you this offering, O God. We trust the talents and gifts we contribute this week will help those who are suffering, and show them they are loved.

Announcements

Closing Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today (VU 155) (with CYJO Brass members, arr ©St. James Music Press, 2017)

**Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!**

**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!**

**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!**

**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!**

Words: Lyra Davidica 1708, et al. Music: Lyra Davidica 1708; desc. Derek Holman 1971. Descant copyright © 1971 Derek Holman.

Benediction and Sending Forth

We have felt the joy of discovering Jesus is alive.

Now take that happiness with you and spread it throughout God's kingdom.

May you be blessed with the infinite and boundless love of the Holy One

And the Spirit who breathes life, beauty and purpose into all of Creation.

Postlude: CYJO

1) Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

2) This Joyful Eastertide

arr ©St. James Music Press, 2017

Coffee Time

Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version (Updated Edition) of the Bible.

Most of the prayers are by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

**A special thank you to Isabelle Lacroix and the Brass members from the
Capital Youth Jazz Orchestra directed by Nick Dyson for sharing their lovely
musical talents with us all on this beautiful Easter Sunday.**

<p>Coffee Host: Valerie Hindle Ushers/Counters: Gerald Ohashi/ Heather Macfaden/ Bernie</p>
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As the people of Southminster United Church, we affirm and actively support the life experience of all. All persons are invited to take part in every aspect of church life including membership, leadership, celebration of life passages and marriage. We are committed to following Jesus' example as we embrace people of all ages, racialized groups, genders, sexual orientations, gender identities, ethnic origins, economic circumstances and differing abilities and challenges in the ministry and life of Southminster United Church.



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