

## **April 4 - EASTER**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

Hallelujah! Christ has Risen!  
He has risen indeed!

Happy Easter everyone and welcome to the worship of God with McClure United Church on this beautiful Easter morning. I hope some of you were able to join us for the live Easter Sunrise service... folks from right across Saskatchewan gathered at the rise of the sun to proclaim together the good news of Jesus Christ! What a gift! But don't you worry.. if you weren't able to drag yourself out of bed quite that early... you can still view the service on our website and Facebook page.

I don't know what your Easter day has in store for you... but I pray that wherever you are and whatever you are doing that you will celebrate this gift of life... of hope... hope that death and violence... that a pandemic... is not the end of the story – it wasn't for Jesus and it isn't for us! Thanks be to God!

And thanks to God as well for this loving community – a community committed to sharing God's radical, inclusive love with everyone who seeks it. As an Affirming Ministry of The United Church we do our very best to not only welcome but also to celebrate the beautiful diversity of God's people. No matter your age, class, ability, race, gender, gender identity and sexual orientation we are grateful you have joined us for worship today.

And we are worshipping here in Saskatoon on Treaty 6 territory and homeland of the Metis Nation and we take a moment to acknowledge and pay our respect to the ancestors and keepers of the land.

I'll only share one announcement with you this morning... anything else of importance will be in the weekly email and on our website. But I want to remind everyone that you are invited... encouraged really.. to join us for a brainstorming, sharing, question asking, dreaming time together this Tuesday at 7pm or Thursday at 2pm. As we think about life post pandemic, we are reflecting on what we have learned about what it means to be McClure United Church. Having done church quite differently for the past year, we are wondering... what things aren't doing should we continue to not do and what things are doing now that we should keep doing. So we really need your thoughts and reflections.. what are the things you miss the most? What are the things you're glad we aren't doing? What have we started doing that you really appreciate? It will be a fairly informal conversation but we would love to hear from everyone. Your opinion matters to us. You do need to register to receive the Zoom link for these gatherings and the link to register is on our website, facebook page and was in the weekly email.

And now, let's breathe deeply of God's love and prepare our hearts for this time of worship...

### **Sung Opening And On This Path (Sacred Sounds)**

#### **Opening Prayer**

On this day, we recognize the wilderness in the world  
We trust that God is near  
On this day, we hold on to hope  
We hold on to each other  
On this day we sing "alleluia"  
We trust that love is stronger than hate.  
On this day, we celebrate.  
We sing.  
On this day we trust that nothing can separate us from God's love.  
We light this candle as a reminder of all these things...

Let us pray...

Thank you God for journeying with us through this wilderness time.  
We are grateful for your presence with us... strengthening, grounding... loving.  
We've made it this far together...  
And together we will continue the journey into this Easter time... with hope, with trust..  
Grateful that we do not need to go it alone.  
And now in this time of worship, gather us, wherever we are, to be joined by your spirit  
And uplifted by your love.  
In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **Hymn Jesus Christ is Risen Today (Shirley Blackburn)**

#### **Pageant**

### **Hymn Alleluia Praise to God (Sacred Sounds)**

#### **Prayers**

God of the bright and morning star,  
God of the rising sun,  
God of darkness banished,  
we praise and worship you!  
For empty tombs: thank you!  
For disciples running with good news: thank you!  
For your presence, alive, powerful, resurrected: thank you!  
We celebrate victory... life over death,  
over all the powers that would defeat us.

Help us to grasp resurrection;  
to understand its power,  
to see its force at work in our world,  
overturning evil empires,  
changing the hatred within us,  
moving the world slowly, forcefully,  
bending us towards love and truth.

On this day of great gladness  
empower us to be your ambassadors,  
proclaiming good news.  
Good news in our kitchens and living rooms,  
good news in the offices and workshops  
good news in the fields and factories  
Help us to be that good news,  
walking softly on this good earth  
caring gently for all people,  
living hopefully into your kingdom.

Today we think of all who are grieving,  
who are lonely...  
who feel lost...  
We pray for all who are sick and dying...  
We pray for those who are their caregivers ...  
And we pray for everyone living in the midst of violence, hate and fear.

In this world of broken hopes and dreams  
we catch sight of your kingdom come,  
in the person of Jesus Christ,  
who lives and reigns in us forever. Amen.

### **Sung Blessing: I Come with Joy (Sacred Sounds)**

#### **Blessing**

So let's go from this time of worship with renewed hope,  
trusting in the transforming love of God.  
God does not leave things as they are;  
with God, all things are made new.  
The world is alive with possibility.  
Nothing is beyond the reach of God;  
Not hardship, not despair... not death.  
Christ is risen!  
He is risen indeed.