

Key Scripture - Luke 24: 42, 43

“They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.”

Theme - Risen Jesus in the Flesh



## Welcome and Announcements

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook
- † Special requests may be made through Facebook
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
  - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † **A Stay at Home Order has been issued. We will not meet in person for worship at least until the order is suspended.**
- † Services will be posted to [Facebook](#). You will find a window to our Facebook Page on our [Website](#). You will also find a link to our [Bulletin Page](#). Services are rebroadcast on COGECO (Your TV) the following Sunday 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.
- † As a consequence of the current Stay at Home Order and the possibility that our situation may remain fluid for a while afterward, we have postponed our **Annual General Meeting until 13 June 2021.**
  
- † **Stewardship Update**
  - May - Annual Geranium Sale
    - Purchase Orders will be taken in April for delivery

scheduled for Saturday, May 29. We will follow health regulations and have the pick up in the parking lot.

– May 15, Compost sale at REAL

- A Fundraiser is planned for the sale of compost from the parking lot at REAL on **Saturday, May 15**. That weekend precedes the May long weekend which all gardeners prepare to plant. **SAVE THE DATE** and plan to pick up a bag or two of compost.

- **30 litre bags for \$10.00**

† Ormand Vandusen turned 102 yesterday and he is still going strong.

– Ormand is a Veteran of WWII. An article written about him read, in part -

- Despite the courage and bravery Van Dusen exhibited, he doesn't like to talk about the struggles of war. Instead, he prefers to live in the here and now, and appreciates the life he's been afforded.
- "I'm alive and I've had a damn good life," he said. "I'm not complaining about any of it."

- *Smiths Falls Record News*, November 9, 2020 - By Evelyn Harford

## **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

**Introit** 400 "Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen you your children praying,  
Send us love, send us power, send us grace!

## Call to Worship

We gather with joy, for Easter brings us new life.

**The Risen Christ is with us wherever we go.**

Love breaks all bonds and unites us in hope.

**Christ has defeated death. Let us rejoice and be glad!**

Come and worship with hearts full of praise.

**O God, receive our grateful Hallelujahs!**

## Opening Prayer

God our Maker,

We come before you this day,

giving thanks for all the wonder in your creation -

For the detailed perfection revealed in a baby's tiny fingers,  
in pussy willows unzipping their jackets to greet the spring,  
in each rock face worn by wind and water,

witnessing to your ancient design like wrinkles around  
an aging smile.

These details lift our hearts to praise you.

So let the details of the story of the Risen Christ lift our hearts this  
day,

that we may greet a new week

as an occasion to discover him in our midst,  
making all things new with the springtime of your Spirit.

## Hymn 659 "Eternal Father, Strong To Save"

Eternal Father, strong to save,

whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
who bade the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed limits keep:

*O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.*

O Christ, whose voice the waters heard  
and hushed their raging at thy word,  
who walked upon the foaming deep,  
and calm amid the storm didst sleep:

*O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.*

O Holy Spirit, who didst brood  
upon the chaos dark and rude,  
and bade its angry tumult cease,  
and gave for wild confusion peace:

*O hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.*

O Trinity of love and power,  
all travellers guard in danger's hour.  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
protect them whereso'er they go:  
thus evermore shall rise to thee  
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

## **Time With Children**

At Easter, we believe that somehow Jesus rose from the dead and visited his disciples and taught them for a while. This is pretty amazing. Some people have ideas about what Jesus looked like and what he was able to do ... Like walk through doors and such. It is as if some people imagine that Jesus died like a regular person and came back as kind of a ghost. In the Bible story today, though, Jesus is not a ghost and it is

important for the writer of the story for us to know that Jesus still had scars on his body and was able to eat. This is an important lesson for us. It is important to remember that Jesus was like us, even after Easter.

Christians believe that Easter is the most wonderful event ... Christians believe that Easter is the most important event in our faith ... But ... When we see Jesus after Easter, he is pretty much the same as before. Jesus comforts his friends, shows them that he is the same Jesus as before and eats with them. This is pretty normal behaviour to follow an event so strange and amazing.

You are in your Spring Break from School and afterward, you will not be returning to your classroom for a while. This is pretty strange compared to other years. This whole year has been strange. What do you think we will be like when we come out of it?

Probably normal... Probably, we will be overwhelmed for a while. You might see GrandParents or Great GrandParents in person for the first time in months. You might go to a birthday party or some kind of family reunion to catch up on a lost year and at first, you might feel like it is a bit of a shock and you might feel like you have to get used to it. You might even need a little comfort, ... It might be that you cannot tell if you are happy or sad.

You might find that the people you missed are mostly like they were before, maybe a little older or in some cases tired or if they were sick, a little scarred so to speak. Perhaps you will be able to comfort somebody else. Perhaps you will eat together. Perhaps, after this strange thing that has happened to us, you will find that you, your friends and family are still oddly normal, even ordinary after all. Perhaps you will find that although the year has been very strange, you are still normal.

## **Children's Prayer**

Dear God,

Thank you for the wonder of Easter. We thank you that the Bible reminds us that when Jesus came back after Easter, he was not

strange but normal. Help us to find comfort in knowing that. Help us to offer comfort to folk who are tired or overwhelmed. Thank you for showing us in Jesus that coming back from an amazing event in normal form is somehow part of Your Holy Will.

Amen.

### **Prayer of Reconciliation**

God our Redeemer,

In raising Jesus from the dead, you showed us your power  
to defeat all that brings fear and sorrow to our lives.  
In his resurrection, Jesus promised to be with us always.

Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain about your presence,  
unsure if we can trust the promise of resurrection for ourselves.

Forgive us when we struggle to trust your goodness for us.  
Forgive us when we miss the signs of your love in our midst.

### **Assurance of Blessing**

Scripture tells us that there is a time for every matter under heaven.  
A time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time  
to dance.

In confession, we have offered God an open heart.

Now is the time to rejoice in God's mercy:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

In Jesus Christ, we have time to make a new start. Thanks be to God.

**Scripture**      Acts 3: 12-19;  
                      Psalm 4 (VU 727);  
                      Luke 24: 36-48

Acts 3:12-19

When Peter saw it, he addressed the people, “You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

“And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out,

Psalm 4 (VU 727)

*Refrain -*

*In the night I can take my rest. You alone keep my life secure.*

Answer me, when I call, O God, defender of my cause,  
for you set me free when I was in distress.

**Be gracious to me now  
and hear my prayer.**

*Refrain -*

*In the night I can take my rest. You alone keep my life secure.*

How long, you people, will you defame my honour?

**How long will you love what is worthless and seek lies?**

Know this, that God has chosen the faithful;

**God hears me when I call.**

Stand in awe, and cease from sin;  
**commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still.**  
Offer the sacrifices that are appointed,  
**and put your trust in God.**

*Refrain -*

*In the night I can take my rest. You alone keep my life secure.*

There are many who say,  
**"O that we might see prosperity!  
Lift up the light of your face on us, O God."**  
But you have put gladness in my heart  
more than those whose grain and wine are plentiful.  
**Safe and sound, I lie down and sleep,  
for you alone, God, make me dwell in safety.**

*Refrain -*

*In the night I can take my rest. You alone keep my life secure.*

Luke 24:36-48

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of



Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

**Meditation** "Heart Of Oak" (Boyce)

**Reflection** Risen Jesus in the Flesh

The theme for today’s reflection bounced around a bit. Which is not necessarily unusual but this week, it changed so much that the slides that were prepared and the image to accompany them became quite irrelevant. The new key Scripture became - ***“They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.”*** “I thought,” the writer of Luke goes to great pains to make it absolutely clear that Jesus' resurrection was in body ... not only in spirit. He does this by making reference to nail marks, a scar and the fact that Jesus was hungry. Why is Luke so explicit?

In search of a fresh image for the slides, I Googled, “Hungry Jesus.” Not one image or representation of Jesus eating came up. Instead were dozens of images depicting Jesus feeding the hungry, blessing fish and bread and representations of “I am the Bread of Life.” You would think that Jesus never ate or at least nobody mentioned it.

Several years ago I was at a conference of Ministers. Each day, our meetings would start with a devotional. On one particular day, the selected passage concerned the Woman at the Well. After describing the encounter with the Woman, the preacher asked, “Why did Jesus go to the Well?” The Preacher’s answer was, “Jesus went to the Well so that he could bring Salvation to the Samaritan Woman and to her Village.”

“Interesting,” I thought. According to the Bible Story, *“... he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that*

*Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.*

*A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink.""* John 4: 3-7

By the way I read the story, Jesus went to the well because he was thirsty. Jesus initiated the conversation not because this was part of an elaborate set up to save her soul but because he was tired, he was hot and he was thirsty.

It is interesting how often the normalness, the humanity of Jesus, is ignored. It is interesting how often we speak of the Kingdom of Heaven as a mystical, far away place, filled with disembodied spirits and angels; while Jesus speaks of the Kingdom being in our midst. It is interesting how often people of faith fall into that kind of thinking that denies the realities or the legitimacy or the normalness of this physical world in favour of a place and time populated by spirits and represented or known only in dreams, visions and ideas.

***"They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence."***

Today's Gospel lesson is set in a time following the resurrection. The key concern of the writer is not whether Jesus was alive but whether he was alive in the flesh.

The story of the Baptism, temptation, hunger in the wilderness, weeping at the Tomb of Lazarus, thirst by the well in samaria, anguish in the Garden, and giving up the spirit on the cross; all speak to the humanity of Jesus in all the wonderfulness of the human experience as well as its limitations and tragedy.

The pre-easter accounts root Jesus firmly in the human experience shared with us. This is the incarnation. This is the meaning of Christmas. This is the living out of God's Will that we can see.

It is remarkable that the Gospel writers are very careful to emphasize that the return of Jesus post Resurrection was with the same hunger and scars and physical form that were his before the Easter Event. It is remarkable that of all the changes that could have happened or that one

might expect would be part of the greatest supernatural event only affected one thing ... and that was the power of death. Everything else, even the scars ... remained unchanged, unaffected.

Why does this matter?

Jesus' bodily resurrection means that the material world matters.

When the apostles said that Jesus rose again, they meant that his physical body came back to life. The risen Jesus wasn't a phantom or ghost, but a breakfast-eating, flesh-and-bone, human being.

When Jesus' came out of the tomb in a physical body, it was God's validation of Creation with all of its material and physical form. The resurrection shows us that this world, this life matters. It is as if God looked at the Created order again and said, "It is good."

The resurrection not only assures us of God's forgiveness and comforts us in suffering or death; it also reminds us that this reality is valid and enduring. Just as Jesus comforts his disciples and eats with them, we are reminded to address suffering and evil in this present world, through word and deed, in mercy and in justice, in Jesus' name.

**Hymn**     649 "Walk With Me"

*Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.*

When Moses heard the call of God he said, "Lord, don't send me."  
But God told Moses, "You're the one to set my people free."

Now Peter was a most unlikely man to lead the flock,  
But Jesus knew his holiness and he became the Rock.

Young Mary Magdalene was sure her life could be much more,  
And by her faith she dared to let God's love unlock the door.



And when you share your faith with me and work for life made new,  
The witness of your faithfulness calls me to walk with you.

*Walk with me, I will walk with you  
and build the land that God has planned  
where love shines through.*

### **Invitation to the Offering**

Our lives overflow with blessing and goodness in Christ and in creation. Out of the bounty with which God has blessed us, let us present to God our offering with overflowing thankfulness.

### **Offering Prayer**

You have given us life in a world filled with so much abundance.  
In Christ you have given us new life and abundant hope.

We offer our gifts to you, knowing they are part of your abundance.  
Bless them and bless us, that we may bring hope and new life  
in Christ's name to a world that so badly needs these gifts.

**Amen.**

### **Hymn** MV 82 "Bathe Me In Your Light"

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;  
let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.  
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,  
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.

Bathe me in your love, O Source of Awe and Wonder;  
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and peace.  
May I be attentive to the musings of your presence,  
drinking from the well of hope that brings the heart release.

Bathe me in your grace, O One of Spirit's longing;  
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with strength.  
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and wholeness,  
Fill me with your promise of a love that knows no length.

### **Prayers of the People**

Source of Easter power and hope,  
You have walked with your faithful people through generations,  
people facing challenge and uncertainty,  
people seeking your purpose and promise.

We still face challenges and uncertainty,  
even with Easter in our hearts.

Walk with us and with those for whom we pray for this day,  
so that your resurrecting power may lead us in lives of  
faithfulness.

In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for children and young people  
who must think about the future in uncertain times  
facing threats new to this generation  
like the pandemic and climate change.

Give them hope rooted in the knowledge  
that their lives matter to you.  
Show them how to make a difference in the world,  
whatever threats they face as they grow.

In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for people for whom age or experience, illness or disability  
create barriers to full participation in your world.  
Surround each one in pain or despair with your comfort  
and renew in each one a sense of dignity and purpose.

Show them how much they matter to you and to us.

In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those facing grief and loss in these difficult days  
when it is complicated to gather for support.

Stay with those who must rearrange their lives without their  
beloved.

We remember the passing of Prince Phillip. We pray for the  
Queen, her family and all those who found and find comfort in Grand  
Institutions.

Give them strength and comfort  
through your promise of resurrection.

We pray for communities challenged by forces beyond their  
control—

natural disaster, political strife and  
the economic consequence of the pandemic.

Give courage to those facing challenges, and wisdom to those  
who lead,

so that well-being may be restored soon  
and hope for the future prevail.

In the name of Christ our Risen Lord,  
**Hear our prayer.**

As Earth Day approaches this week,  
we remember before you the struggles within your creation,  
creatures losing habitat, unique species dying out, oceans  
filled with plastic,  
the climate warming and the havoc that results for all of us.

Jesus, you are the firstborn of all creation;  
Help us to honour you by caring for the earth and its fragile  
balances  
in the ways we live and the priorities we set.  
In these ways, too, we would be your disciples

We join too in the celebration of lives lived long and well. We join  
with the Vandusen Family in celebrating the birthday of Ormand Vandusen  
who turned 102 yesterday and is still going strong.

and so we pray the words you taught us -

*Prayers conclude with:*

We experience God in a relationship from which we draw strength,  
courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - as Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer;  
Father, Mother, Friend; may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

**The Lord's Prayer**

**We Depart to Serve with Joy**

**Hymn** 264 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.



Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life, thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish, like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all laud we would render, O help us to see  
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee.

### **Benediction**

Go now, to be God's children in the world.

**We will open our minds to understand the needs around us.**

Go now, to be Christ's servants in the world.

**We will open our hands to share our blessings with all.**

Go now, to be the Spirit's hope for the world.

**We will open our hearts to welcome  
those who have no one to care for them.**

### **Choral Amen**

**Postlude** "Air" from "Trumpet Tune" (Purcell)