



Resurrection of the Lord - B April 4, 2021

Key Scripture - John 20: 17

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.'"



Theme - Grace Beyond Imagination

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
- † We will **not meet in person for worship unless and until the COVID Response Level is reduced and the Lockdown 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.
- † Today, we will celebrate Communion
 - Although the table was set on Good Friday, we did not share in the Bread and the Cup as an acknowledgement of Absence and of the Tomb.
 - Easter Sunday is a celebration of Christ's Presence, Grace that cannot be bound by even our most feared and inevitable circumstance. We will, therefore, share in the Bread and the

Cup, no matter how strange it may seem to do so while apart.

- In our tradition, we normally use grape juice but we may use wine.
- We may use a variety of breads although breads without yeast reflect the type that Jesus and his Disciples would have used in the Upper Room. Some may choose Pita Bread but this is not necessary.
- The way you arrange the Bread and the Cup is up to you.
 - If you wish, however, it is common to have the Bread and the Cup placed on a cloth with another cloth or napkin covering both until the cloth is removed during the Communion Rite.
 - We will eat and drink together.
 - After Communion, it is common to re-cover the Cup and the Plate upon which you placed the Bread until the conclusion of the Service.

† 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**

Trinity has been honoured and blessed to be able to conduct Brown Bags and Blessings during this long, Pandemic time. **The time has come when this phase of our Ministry concludes.** What we may become in the

future is unknown but we will continue to listen for God's guidance and Grace.

We will continue as many of our Lunch Deliveries as possible. Our Christian Community Team is developing a plan.

We are grateful for our volunteers and supporters. We are also grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls. Take Away Meals have been subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program. We are also supported through the kindness of individual benefactors.

Two Guys for Lunch have been faithful partners.

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 "Hello, Happy Day!"

Hello, Happy Day! (X2)

Hello (hello); Hello (hello)

Hello, good morning, happy day.

Hello (hello); Hello (hello)

Hello, good morning happy day.

Hello, good morning, happy day.

Christ is risen, Hallelujah

Hello, good morning, happy day.

Christ is risen, Hallelujah.

Call to Worship

O Day of Resurrection, let us shine with joy!

Christ has led us from death to life.

O Day of Resurrection, let us live with hope!

Christ has led us from earth to heaven.

Christ has risen from the dead.

He has risen indeed.

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah, this day and always!

Opening Prayer

God of life and love,

Maker of all things visible and invisible;

on the first day of creation, you spoke,

and out of chaos came life;

out of darkness came light.

On the first day of the week, you raised Christ from the tomb,
and out of death came new life.

On the first day of this week, you call us to gather in Christ's
name,

to rejoice in the power of resurrection

and claim your gift of new life in the Spirit.

Blessing and honour and glory and power be unto you, O God,

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,

this day and always.

Hymn 155 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

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!

Time With Children

When I was a boy, my father was my hero. The things he knew and the things he could do. He had an answer for everything. I was so proud of him. I was also a little bit afraid. "How could I learn all those things?"

How could I be so brave?

How could I remember to pay all those bills? How do you balance a cheque book?

(I never learned that) but now I do not have to because of Internet Banking...

How could I manage all that responsibility? I did not know what he did, but I knew it was very important.

I loved and admired my Dad. I still do.

I am not afraid or intimidated anymore. I know how he did what he did and I have done many of the same things. I still love my Dad and I am still quite proud of him, but I know now how he did it. I am not saying that when I look back, what he did was easy, it just is not as scary to me any more.

It is not as scary because when my time came, I was ready or almost ready or ready enough to get through.

The stories of Jesus and his Disciples have some scary bits for his followers. But when they came to those scary bits, they found that everything they needed, they had.

Our future is uncertain. We never know what it will be, we are almost never certain if we will be ready. Usually, though we find we can rise to meet it and always, we find that God is there to help.

Children's Prayer

Prayer of Reconciliation

Almighty God,

You raised Jesus from the grave,
and shattered the power of sin and death.

We confess that we remain captive to fear,
and bound to habits that hold us from enjoying new life.

Indifference deadens our hearts,
and we seek comfort rather than justice.

We cling to hurt, resentment, and disappointment
and refuse the freedom that comes with forgiveness.

Forgive us, O God,

and restore us to the joy and new possibility
promised to us in Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Blessing

Scripture Acts 10:34-43;
Psalm 118 (VU 837);
John 20:1-18

Acts 10:34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

Psalm 118 (VU 837)

Refrain -

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Let Israel now say:

“God’s love endures forever.”

Let the house of Aaron say:

“God’s love endures forever.”

Let those who fear God say:

“God’s love endures forever.”

Refrain -

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Open to me the gates of the temple,
that I may enter and give thanks to God.

**This is the gate of God;
through it the righteous shall enter.**

I thank you for you have answered me;
you have become my salvation.

**The stone which the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.**

This is God's doing,
marvellous in our eyes.

**This is the day that God has made,
let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Refrain -

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Save us, O God, we pray;
God, we pray, give us success.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

We bless you from the house of God.

God, our God, has given us light;
with palm branches in hand let us march to the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you;
you are my God, and I will extol you.

Refrain -

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

John 20:1-18

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. 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.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes.

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; 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. 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.” When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. 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.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). 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.’” 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.

Meditation "I Don't Know How To Love Him" (Lloyd Webber)
Played by Arlene Hunter

Reflection Grace Beyond Imagination

Captain's log, stardate 9522.6: I've never trusted Klingons, and I never will. I could never forgive them for the death of my boy. It seems to me our mission to escort the Chancellor of the Klingon High Council to a peace summit is problematic at best. Spock says this could be an historic occasion, and I'd like to believe him, but how on earth can history get past people like me?

Star Trek is a fascinating look into the future from 50 years ago. I watch the original series with amazement. The older I am and the greater the passage of time since 1965 when the pilot was made, the more amazing it becomes. I find it amazing not because of the technology and capability and astrophysical theories proven to be true but by how much has been shown, so far, to have missed the mark. It is clear that the USS Enterprise of 300 years from now was anchored firmly in what is now 50 years ago.

Captain Kirk would not be in command of much in 2021, let alone 2265. His relationship with and treatment of female members of his crew would see him stripped of command on this point alone. Dr McCoy would call the First Officer "A pointy eared hobgoblin" once. God only knows where he would be practicing medicine after that. There would be no fistfights on the bridge. The Board of Inquiry would see the Enterprise tied up for some time ... there would likely be a change in the Command Team.

The prediction or vision of crew culture on the USS Enterprise, in retrospect, is bizarre. The vision carries the attitudes and limitations of its writers; likely formed in the 1950's. The design of the USS Enterprise imagined in 1965 is fixed in 1965. The onboard computer speaks in

monotone and takes whole seconds to compute. What was amazing 50 years ago is comical today when it is presented as a vision of the future.

What a surprise the Resurrection was. No matter how many times Jesus made reference to it, the possibility of it and its meaning could only be interpreted and predicted through the lens of what the Disciples already knew and experienced. Of course they were confused and afraid.

"I Don't Know How To Love Him" played by Arlene this morning is a beautiful and meaningful piece. In it, Mary Magdalene struggles with her love for Jesus. She is confused by her feelings because she is trying to experience and articulate her love of Jesus but she is bound and blinded by her experience of love in the past.

So much of what we are is tied to the past. Our visions and hopes for the future are likewise limited.

“Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father.”

Mary clings to the physical form of Jesus outside the Tomb because this is the only form of Jesus she has ever had. Mary clings to the physical form of Jesus because this is all that is possible for her to imagine. Mary has no point of reference to imagine anything else. Mary’s vision of the Post Resurrection Kingdom of God could never be much different than what she already knew, as long as she continued to cling to that which was familiar.

Kirk asks, “How on earth can history get past people like me?”
Mary clings to the physical form of Jesus.

We have been hearing the words, “New Normal” for a year now and it will be months before we have a hint of what that will be. It seems that we have not been that good at guessing so far. Nor can we be that good, really. Doubtless, somebody will have guessed correctly and will make a fair bit of money writing a book about it. I would be surprised if it is

anybody I know. What will not surprise me is that we will know what it is when we see it and we will be faithful in crafting a Ministry with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to meet the needs of our New Normal. It will be wonderful, and Jesus will be there in ways we cannot yet imagine.

Who knew a little more than a year ago that we will have been called to serve as we have. Who knew that we would gather without gathering and sharing in this Sacred Feast both together and alone at the same time and finding God's Grace in it?

Communion

May resurrection's God be with you!

This is the day to offer yourselves to God.

We open our hearts to the One who fills them with grace.

Join in the glad songs of all creation this day.

Our voices praise the One who opens wide the gates of life.

When only emptiness stretched out,
you spoke at that time,
and goodness and beauty sprang forth:
swallows darting in the skies,
young rabbits in the grass,
hippos splashing in rivers.

All this wonder and joy was your gift
to your children created in your image,
but we ran our own way.

Time after time after time,
you sent the prophets to remind us
of your never-ending love,
but we chose to remain in sin's tomb,
the stone of our rebellion locking us away.

So you sent your Son,
 your grace made flesh
so we might not be given over to death.

With those who see and believe,
 with those who stand and question,
we lift our Easter songs to you:

Holy, holy, holy are you, God who has made this day!
All creation celebrates your constant love.
Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the One who is revealed on this morning.
Hosanna in the highest!

When he could have clung to your glory,
 Jesus chose to become human at that time,
 so we might be filled with your grace.

When we stood alone,
 he came to take us by the hand
 to teach us a new way.

When our lives crumble around us
 and we lie scattered on the ground,
 he gathers us up, reshaping us
 into your beloved community.

When we were unable to break
 the power of evil over us,
 he was raised from the tomb
 because you refuse to give us
 over to death.

As we stand before the empty tomb,
celebrating the great news of this day,
we would have that faith which is a mystery:

**Christ died, so sin could not hold on to us;
Christ was raised, so death could not hold on to him;
Christ will come, to hold us in steadfast love and hope.**

At this time, wherever we find ourselves,
at home, in apartments, in care facilities,
pour out your Spirit upon your people
and on the gifts of the feast of the resurrection.

May the bread which is broken open like the tomb,
strengthen us so we may go
to rebuild shattered hopes,
to bind up the hurts of the world.

May the cup which is filled
with the fruits of your steadfast love,
nourish us to leave the shadows
of our fears and doubts
to stand with the lonely and forgotten,
to listen to the cries of the world.

And in that time to come,
when we will be gathered
with our sisters and brothers
of every place and of every moment,
we will sing your praises,
as you hold on to us forever. Amen.

Hymn 166 "Joy Comes At The Dawn"

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 -

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.

Sorrow will turn,

sorrow will turn into song, and God's laughter makes us strong.

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.

We will rejoice,

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

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.

**We Respond to God's Word
Offering Ourselves
For The Work And Witness Of The Church**

Invitation to the Offering

On Easter Day, we celebrate God's most precious gift to us in Christ's dying and his rising. As we present our gifts to God this morning, may our generosity reflect God's goodness to us, and the hope we have in Christ Jesus, our Risen Lord.

Offering Prayer

God of Resurrecting Hope, we thank you with grateful hearts, recognizing how much you have given us in Christ, and what his gift has cost. Bless the gifts we bring so they may help spread the hope and joy we feel today in the world you love so dearly. In the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

Hymn 359 "He Came Singing Love"

He came singing love and he lived singing love;

he died singing love. He arose in silence.

For the love to go on we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;

he died singing faith. He arose in silence.

For the faith to go on we must make it our song;

you and I be the singers.

He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;
he died singing hope. He arose in silence.
For the hope to go on we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;
he died singing peace. He arose in silence.
For the peace to go on we must make it our song;
you and I be the singers.

Prayers of the People

God of new beginnings,

Break into your church with resurrecting power.

Where congregations have drifted through months of distancing,
re-energize connections and commitment for ministry,
reconcile people and personalities
with a sense of common purpose.

Where gatherings present challenges,
renew trust in your faithfulness and hope
that remembers the empty tomb.

Resurrect, renew and revive your people, O God.

Hear our prayer.

God of new possibilities,

Break into our relationships with resurrecting power.

Where they are vibrant and life-giving, nurture and sustain them.
Where they are marked by hurt or misunderstanding,
refresh them with forgiveness and reconciliation.

Where they are neglected or taken for granted,
open the great gift we offer each other.

Resurrect, renew and revive your people, O God.

Hear our prayer.

God of new opportunity,

Break into the governance of your world with resurrecting power.

Stir the minds and hearts of leaders

to work for justice, understanding and
the equitable sharing of resources.

Where laws are unjust, or those who enforce them corrupt,
call those in power to account and

lift up the voices of the oppressed.

Where the pandemic presents new problems and complicated
decisions,

bring wisdom, compassion and cooperation to all.

Resurrect, renew and revive your people, O God.

Hear our prayer.

God of new life,

Break into situations of illness, pain, grief and loss
with resurrecting power.

Where there is sickness of body, mind, or spirit,
bring healing and hope.

Where people mourn the loss of relationships or dreams,
bring comfort and courage to go on.

Where those who serve and care and maintain our common life are
exhausted,

bring rest and renewal.

Resurrect, renew and revive your people, O God.

Hear our prayer.

God of Easter Day,
Break into moments of celebration and joy.
Give us gratitude, the impulse to share,
and a spirit of grace and understanding.

Resurrect, renew and revive our spirits.
Hear our prayer.

God of New Creation,
Break into the circumstances, places and lives that we name in the
silence of our hearts...

Resurrect, renew and revive your people.
Hear our prayer.

Now we pray in one voice in the words that Jesus gave -

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 352 "Lord Of The Dance"

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

Refrain -

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
But they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the dance went on.

Refrain -

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;
The holy people said it was a shame,
They whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,
And left me there on a cross to die.

Refrain -

**Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.**

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance and I still go on.

Refrain -

Dance, then, wherever you may be;

I am the Lord of the dance, said he,

And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,

And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

They cut me down and I leap up high;

I am the life that will never, never die;

I'll live in you if you'll live in me;

I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Refrain -

Dance, then, wherever you may be;

I am the Lord of the dance, said he,

And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,

And I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Benediction

Scattered from one another,
we can still go with God.

**We will offer healing and hope to all
who wander in the shadows of life.**

Separated from one another,
we can still go with Jesus.

**We will listen to the ignored;
we will speak for the forgotten.**

Together we can join the Spirit
in offering steadfast love.

**We will hold up the fallen;
We will embrace our community with Prayer.**

Choral Amen

Postlude "Superstar" (Lloyd Webber)