



**Sunday, April 18, 2021**



Easter Sunday was April 4 and we celebrated the Risen Christ! The Season of Easter continues and lasts until May 23 which is Pentecost Sunday 16. The cross remains in the sanctuary with the white cloth on it until then. Easter is the most important and oldest festival of the Christian Church, celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

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**ORDER OF SERVICE**

GATHERING: Morning has broken *arr. Eugenie Rocherolle*

CENTERING WORDS

ANTHEM: "The Creation"

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: **VU296** This is God's wondrous world vs. 1 & 2

CALL TO WORSHIP:  
*(Adapted from Miles. J. Russell, 'Seeds of Life,' Mandate May 2010)*

After the dormancy of winter, **new growth springs to life.**  
The birds return from their southern home.  
**Buds emerge on the trees as they discover again the warmth of the earth.**  
Crocuses and other early spring flowers begin to carpet the land as it throws off its wintery coating.  
**The creation awakens to the possibilities of spring.**  
Life shows itself in every corner of the earth.  
**God is our Creator, who continues to create in the rhythm of life we call the seasons.**  
Come let us worship. Come let us enter into the Spirit of God's creative moments. Come let us sow the seeds of new life.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN: **VU296** This is God's wondrous world vs. 3 & 1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

CANDLE LIGHTING

CHILDREN'S TIME

HYMN: **VU303** For beauty of prairies vs. 1 & 2

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 1:11-12 read by Sarah Cory

ANTHEM: Look to the Day-John Rutter

SCRIPTURE READING: Mark 4:26-34  
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON: Creation Liturgy read by Fred Cross and Karen Lumley

**Our Prayer** (from Seeds of Life, Mandate May 2010)  
We sow seeds in God's good earth, **trusting in the promise of hope.**  
We sow seeds in God's good earth,  
**trusting in the promise of abundant life for all.**  
We sow seeds in God's good earth, **trusting in the gift of all for all.**  
We sow seeds in God's good earth,  
**trusting in the possibility of compassion for all.**  
We sow seeds in God's good earth, **trusting in the assurance of faith that the dream of God is possible, for a creation that is blessed and named good.**  
We sow seeds in God's good earth, **praying for all who care for the land, for all who produce the food that feeds the earth.**  
We sow seeds in God's good earth, **praying for a just sharing of the abundance that is part of God's creation.**  
We sow seeds in God's good earth, **praying that we would learn to walk gently on the earth and so preserve it for future generations.**  
We sow seeds in the earth, the seeds of our lives, that they might bring blessing,  
**Knowing that it is Christ, who sowed the seeds of transforming love. Amen.**

HYMN: **VU303** For beauty of prairies vs. 3 & 1



**OUR LAND** - We remember, as we celebrate God's presence in Worship that St. Andrew's River Heights United Church gathers in Treaty 1 land, the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota peoples and in the heart of the Metis Nation. As Treaty people, we seek to live with respect on this land, and live in peace and friendship with all our relations.

**Response: VU291 Chorus**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: **VU218** We praise you, O God vs. 1

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;**

**in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.**

**We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;**

**we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

BLESSING

BENEDICTION (MV212 Sent out in Jesus' name)

**Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now**

**to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.**

**The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain**

**into a world of love, of justice and of peace.**

**The task is our to do, to set it really free.**

**O, help us to obey, and carry out your will**

POSTLUDE: March *Louis Lefebure-Wel*

**Announcements**

**A special thank you** to our quartet of singers today: Sarah Cory, Nicki Legrand, Nolan Kehler, Fred Cross.

**A special thanks** to the Fellowship & Pastoral Care Group who baked loafs and Abigail, Blake and Daphne Regier who made homemade cards for each of the forty packages. Thanks, it was appreciated by all who received them.

Each week we will mention people from our congregation who are in care facilities. Remember them in your prayers. This week we will remember those in:

**West Park Manor**-Pat Richtik Room 16 2S

**Dakota House**-Peggy Phillips Room 151

**Lion's Place**-Joyce Fry Room 1610

**Rita Swan** is enrolled in the Licensed Lay Worship Leader program of the United Church of Canada and we as a faith community support her in this. As part of this class, she must preach twice in the church that supports her. Rita will be preaching on Sunday, April 25 for our online church service. Offer Rita your prayers, support and encouragement as she continues this journey of living out her calling.

April 26th to May 2nd Rev. Karen Lumley will be on Study Leave calling the congregation to check in. Rev. Joshua Ward from St. Matthew's Maryland Community Ministry will be our guest preacher that day

**If you** or anyone you know has a special birthday, anniversary or celebration coming up let us know so that we can announce it.

**Scripture Readings for next week:**

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

**ST. ANDREW'S CONTACT LIST**

Our heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who helped with today's service—we couldn't have pulled it off without you!

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