



2nd SUNDAY IN EASTER

The "If... Then..." Of God's Light

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Cover Photo Zion UC, Armstrong taken by Franklyn James

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

APPROACHED TO GOD

Before the service, meditate and speak to God. During the service let God speak to you. After the service talk to each other and the wider community about God.

KEYS

Words printed in **ALL CAPS & bold** are spoken or sung by everyone.

At places marked with the “✝,” you are invited to stand, as you are able.

Functionaries

On Piano

- Lindsay Lundquist

Singer(s)

-
-

Reader(s)

-

Support Personnel

- Ed Murdoch

Videographer & Editor

- Franklyn James



Order of Worship

INTROIT:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TERRITORY AND RECONCILIATION

As we gather today, we recognize that the first peoples lived here for countless generations before we did. We acknowledge that we are on the unceded traditional lands of the Splats'in First Nation, and we celebrate their faithful stewardship.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENT!

CENTERING HYMN: *Come Touch Our Hearts* MV #12

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

- Joys, Concerns & Prayer Requests

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ has risen,

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

One: We gather to worship the risen Christ, Conqueror of death.

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

One: We lift up praise to the risen Christ, Redeemer of all life.

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

One: We give thanks to the risen Christ, Giver of the Holy Spirit.

All: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

One: Christ has risen,

All: Christ is risen indeed!

OPENING HYMN: Come In, Come In And Sit Down VU #395

OPENING PRAYER

Resurrected Christ, the one who has overcome death and doors alike,

We recognize that any gathering of believers is sacred.

Fill this space with your abundant joy and send out any hint of scarcity.

God, we know that you meet us exactly where we are.

We thank you for coming to us in the way that we need.

When our faith is shaky, and we say, "unless I see..." you come to us with outstretched hands.

Hands and sides which bear the marks of your sacrifice for us.

You give us unconditional love, unwavering presence and abundant grace.

In return, we give you faith that is not perfect but enmeshed with our humanity.

And even though this can never be enough, you take it gladly.

We offer you all that we have to give; take our lives, our finances, our time, our talents.

May we not keep anything behind closed doors from you. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: We confess that there are times when we are
overcome by fear; times when our faith fails,
times when we close ourselves off to you.
times when we ignore the needs of others.

All: Lord, forgive us.

One: When shadows surround us,
show us the radiant power of your light.

When we hold on to our worldly possessions with tight fists,
help us to use our resources for the glory of your realm.

When our differences threaten to divide us,
draw us together in the unity of your perfect love.

All: Christ, forgive us.

One: We grieve the ways in which we have caused pain;
the ways in which we have fallen short,
the ways in which we have turned away
from the suffering in our world.

All: Spirit, forgive us.

AFFIRMATION

One: Our words of confession are released into the air,
and in the act of speaking them aloud, we have been set free.
In the stillness, God whispers "Take heart; you are forgiven,
cleansed of all unrighteousness."

All: Praise God, in whose fullness we receive grace upon grace.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

- **Psalm 85:9-13 – Read from the Bible**
- **Behold How Pleasant, Psalm 133, VU, p.856**
- **1 John 1:1-2:2**

REFLECTION/SERMON: *The "If... Then..." Of God's Light*

HYMN: *I Am the Light of the World VU#87*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Welcome Light, Love, and Hope of God. Surround us with the warmth of the Holy Spirit.

Demonstrate your never-ending grace to us.

Inspire within us this same grace to offer to others.

Enhance our senses to recognize your presence in the world, so that we may see, hear, and touch the ways you participate in our everyday lives.

Awaken our souls to the injustices that are prevalent within our cultures.

Grant us eyes to see those who are overlooked.

Grant us ears to hear cries for help.

Grant us hands to extend to those in need.

May we advocate for the voiceless, the parentless, the homeless, and the disadvantaged.

Infuse empathy in us so that we may offer dignity to those we help.

Grant us the wisdom to empower them in the midst of their plights.

May we act out of justice,
may we love mercy,
may we walk humbly with you, O God.

Let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught in the version found in the ***New Zealand Prayer Book***.

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
echoes through the universe!*

*The way of your justice be followed
by the peoples of the earth!
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, 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 forever. Amen.*

CLOSING HYMN: We are One VU #402

THANK YOU & BLESSING

*May your lives reveal the Resurrection to the world,
and be a living testimony of the love of Christ.
May you walk in the overwhelming abundance of God's provision.
May you live joyfully and love fully with your heart and soul. Go now
in the peace and presence of the Resurrected Christ. Amen.*

DOXOLOGY: Three Things I Promise MV #176



THANK YOUS & CREDITS

Thank you for participating in today's worship, I pray you have been greatly blessed.

Remember, for those we are unable to connect with for any reason; call to buoy up their spirits, and/or pray for them and entrust them to the care of the divine.

Due to physical distancing caused by the Corona Virus, COVID 19, all church activities that require physical contact are suspended until further notice.

GIFTS & OFFERINGS

You may send us your gifts & offerings using the information below:

- Zion United Church @ to zionunitedarmstrongbc@gmail.com
- St. Andrew's @ standrewsunitedenderbybc@gmail.com
- Mission & Service Link: <https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/get-involved/giving-opportunities>

Those of you who are on PAR and those who mailed in the gifts and offerings thank you.

We are always happy to hear your comments and queries. If you have prayer requests, you may use our social media message tabs or email them to ministerfranklyn@gmail.com

Call to Worship & Prayers - Seasons of the Spirit™ SeasonsFUSION Lent - Easter 2021 Copyright © Wood Lake Publishing Inc. 2020

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MUSIC CREDITS

Come Touch Our Hearts – MV #12

Words and music: Gordon Light, 2002;

arr. Andrew Donaldson, 2002

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Words, Music: James K. Manley © 1984 James K. Manley,

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Arrangement: © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People.

Words: James Manley. Arrangement: Songs for a Gospel People.

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Ps. 133 Behold, How Pleasant – VU, p. 856

Words, Music: © Pablo Sosa, Camacua

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Argentina. Arrangement: © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People.

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I Am the Light of the World - VU #87

Words, Music: Jim Strathdee 1967 © 1969 Desert Flower

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We Are One – Voices United 402

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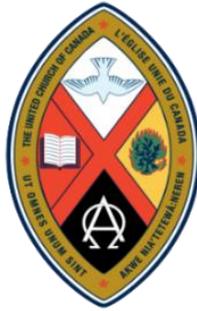
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