



GATHERING

Christ is risen,

Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujeh!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Early on the first day of the week,
while it was still dark, the sun paused,
the angels hushed, the alleluias shifted.

***Early on the first day of the week,
while the stars faded, the dew fell,
the leaves fluttered, the stone moved.***

Early on the first day of the week,
while morning broke, the grave-clothes fell,

the tomb cracked,

the light sparked,

the angels gasped,

hope bowed,

the word spoke,

the gardener walked,

God sang,

the universe celebrated,

the Saviour breathed

and love returned.

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN 166 (VU) – Joy comes with the dawn

GOSPEL - Mark 16:1-8

WORD – Happy Easter!

OFFERING

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

***The gift of new life, the gift of new hope,
the gift of resurrection,
we celebrate with hallelujahs today.
And we bring our own gifts, of resources,
of time, of commitment, praying that you
use them all to bring new life, new hope,
and resurrection where what seems dead
can find a new purpose. Amen.***

EASTER COMMUNION

Invitation

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Christ is risen!

We have seen the Risen Son!

Lift up your hearts, people of God.

We lift them to the Risen One.

Let us give thanks to God.

***We offer our thanks and praise to the
One who gives us new life.***

No matter where we find ourselves today, at home,
in front of a computer or television, in our living
room or in the kitchen, we gather as the
community of Christ knowing that our living is tied
up with that of Christ who lives forever.

And so with joy we gather, separate for now, but together in heart at this sacred table to be sacred community: to be the people called by God into new life.

Remembering

We remember Jesus gathering with his closest friends and shared this simple meal, taking bread and wine and infusing them with new life; taking the ordinary stuff of life and making them holy and life-giving.

Today, we take this simple bread, and as it is broken we think of Jesus' words: "Take and eat; this is my body broken for you."
We take this cup, and as it is lifted up we think of Jesus' words: "Take and drink; this is my life, poured out for you and many in compassion and love."

Bless us now, O God, in the sharing of this symbolic meal, that we may be enlivened to share your gifts with those who hunger and thirst for wholeness.

We come before you to pray for the needs of our world...

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS

(from United Church of Canada)

Sharing the Bread and Cup

HYMN 703 (VU) – In the bulb there is a flower

BLESSING

People of God, go out this day knowing that you are witnesses to the resurrection of Christ.

***With our eyes open to wonder,
with our minds attuned to goodness,
with our souls aware of our fears and
doubts that still remain
but with our hearts open
to joy and forgiveness,
we will go in peace to love and serve
the world.***

Seen - A Blessing for Easter Sunday

*You had not imagined
that something so empty
could fill you to overflowing
and now you carry the knowledge
like an awful treasure,
or like a child that roots itself
beneath your heart:
how the emptiness will bear forth
a new world that you cannot fathom
but on whose edge you stand.
So why do you linger?
You have seen and so you are
already blessed.
You have been seen
and so you are the blessing.
There is no other word you need.
There is simply to go
and tell.
There is simply to begin.*

Jan Richardson



*In preparation for Holy Communion you will need:
Some bread on a plate, a cup or glass of juice,
water or wine. You may like to place a candle to
light on the table. When we get to the time in the
service to share the Bread and Cup, take a few
moments to eat and drink, either on your own, or
with those in the room with you.*