

ORDER OF SERVICE

EASTER SUNDAY

March 31st, 2024

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

*Please Stand Where Able

MUSICAL PRELUDE

BIBLE OPENING

BLESSED EASTER, CHRIST IS RISEN

Unveiling of the Cross

WELCOME & CELEBRATIONS

GREETING

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Each new day reminds us of Christ's light that dwells within us,

The light God has placed deep within our hearts.

We light the Christ candle this Easter morning.

Remembering that we are made of light and love,

Remembering that we are called to bring light and love to others in the world.

Thanks be to God.

LIGHTING OF THE PEACE CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(responsive)*

The stone is rolled away!

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

He lived and died in past history.

He lives and influences present history.

He promises to be here with us where two or three are gathered in his name.

We celebrate his triumph over death.

We recognize his presence.

We applaud his achievements! We declare our love to others in the world.

Come let us worship.

RESURRECTING THE HALLELUJAHS

OPENING PRAYER *(unison)*

God of resurrection, you have rolled away the stone and the tomb of our world has been opened wide.

With the dawn has come a new creation.

Let our celebration today empty our tombs, renew our lives, and release your power.

Through the risen Christ we pray. Amen

***HYMN VU #155**

"Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION and PARDON

(responsive)

Merciful Christ, the world despised and rejected you

You responded with grace, humility, and welcome

The proud questioned your power, devised your death

You responded with peace, forgiveness, and new life

Forgive us, Merciful One

Our scheming

Our selfishness

Our violence

Our arrogance

Forgive us, Merciful One When we are like them... Make us like you

(Time of silent confession)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Risen Christ, we claim your grace, your mercy and your forgiveness

We claim your resurrection power:

Dying, you destroy our death

Rising, you restore our life.

You come now with saving power

Alleluia. Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC

WE HEAR THE WORD

TIME FOR ALL AGES

COLLECTION and BLESSING

OUR Lenten Coin Jars

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 16:1-8

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

REFLECTION

"Resurrection People and Stones"

SPECIAL MUSIC

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

OFFERING INVITATION

***Please Stand for the Offering Hymn while the Offering is brought forward**

Sung Response "What Can I Do?" (2 times)

*What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.*

*Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**Teach us, God, to offer
the very best of who we are
in the service of your will
through the mission of this church:
may we offer hope, joy, and reconciliation
in the world so much in need.
Receive what we give for
the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen**

PASTORAL PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer..... AMEN

*HYMN # VU179

"Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks"

*COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

(responsive)

From this Easter festival of celebration,

We go forth to tell the Good News:

In the name of Creator God who makes us,
In the name of the Risen Christ who makes us free,
In the name of the Spirit who makes us one.
Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed - Hallelujah!

* SONG BLESSING VU #586 (vs 1)

"We Shall Go Out with Hope"

*We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
tales of a love that will not let us go.
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
We'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.*

POSTLUDE

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*"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection,
not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime."*

Author Unknown

Our Lenten Calendar Challenge for TODAY

*Pray, thanking God for Jesus and for the many
ways we can gather and worship God.
Pray for those who will receive the coins collected
that they would see God's presence through them.*

*Our Lenten coins will be donated equally to the
Lambton Wellness Centre and the Lambton
Church Centre. We Thank You for your generous
participation. If you would like to financially
support with a cheque, please be sure to make it
out to London Road West United Church - Lenten
Coin Challenge.*

LONDON ROAD WEST UNITED CHURCH

EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31st, 2024

Welcome to our service this morning

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