



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER MAY 4TH, 2025

St. Andrew's United Church

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***Those who are able, please stand at marked places**

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST COMES AMONG US

Prelude

Words of Welcome

***Lighting of the Christ Candle**

****God Lights a Lamp*** (lyrics on screen)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Easter Prayer (from *Celebrate God's Presence*)

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

God calls us to be people of the resurrection! Let us take our place in the procession of all who have celebrated Christ's resurrection through the centuries.

Let us live out the power of Christ, who is raised from the dead.

God of power, God of people, you are the life of all that lives, the energy that fills the earth. In you, we grow to know the truth that sets all creation free. You are the song the whole earth sings the promise liberation brings.

We give you thanks and praise for the promise of new life in Christ.

Amen.

***Gathering Hymn: MV #1 – Let Us Build A House**

Learning Together

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Acts 9:1-9, 17-20

The conversion of Saul

Gospel Reading: John 21:1-19

The risen Christ at the seashore

Proclamation: Transformation

Rev. Stuart Jackson

***Hymn: VU #625 – I Feel the Winds of God Today**

WE RESPOND IN LOVE

Offertory – Soloist, Robert Woodbury

***Offering Hymn: Give Thanks** (lyrics on screen)

Communion Hymn – VU #468 – Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table *(from Celebrate God's Presence)*

One: We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. In Christ, God breaks down the walls that make us strangers to ourselves, the walls that divide us from one another. We are the body of Christ. At this table we bear witness to our faith. At this table, God brings wholeness and healing to our world. Let us break bread together.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: At this table in this welcoming,

All: In this sharing, in this remembering we celebrate the gift of life!

One: God of abundant life, we gather around this table as part of your beloved Creation. We thank you for your many gifts to us: for clouds and sky, for plants and soil, for mountains and oceans; for all creatures with whom we share this world: the creatures of the air, the creatures of the land, the creatures of the water. At this table, in this welcoming,

All: In this sharing, in this remembering we celebrate the gift of life!

One: We thank you for sending so many sisters and brothers with whom we share this good journey. We thank you for the blessings of home, family, church, community. God of many blessings, as we gather around this table, may we feel the strength of your love for us. At this table, in this welcoming,

Institution

One: We remember together that vision of God's reign shown to us in Jesus at table; he shared food with followers and friends, with saints and sinners, with crowds of thousands on the hillside, and a few friends in an upper room. On the night before he died, he had supper with his companions. He took a loaf of bread, and giving thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. Remember me."

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he passed it among them, saying: "Drink this. Remember me."

Through this loaf and cup, Jesus lives within us. In word and deed, Jesus lives among us. At this table, in this welcoming,

All: In this sharing, in this remembering we celebrate the gift of life!

One: Let us profess our faith in God, the source of life:

All: We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God, who created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new; who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust God.

We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

One: Jesus taught that bread was meant to be shared, and that all are welcome at God's table. Jesus asked to be remembered in the sharing of the bread. At this table, in this welcoming,

All: In this sharing, in this remembering we celebrate the gift of life!

One: Jesus taught that all of life is woven together, and that love is why we're here. Jesus asked to be remembered in sharing of the cup. At this table, in this welcoming,

All: In this sharing, in this remembering we celebrate the gift of life!

One: May there be bread for the journey. May there be friends along the way. May we dare to dream and laugh and love, and seek justice every day. At this table, in this welcoming,

All: In this sharing, in this remembering we celebrate the gift of life!

One: As we remember, we give thanks, we pray together in the words Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer (*VU 960 - on screen*)

Prayer after Communion

One: Let us give thanks for this holy meal:

All: God of the Way, you are the road we travel and the sign we travel, and the sign we follow; you are bread for the journey, and the wine of arrival. Guide us as we follow in your way, holding onto each other, reaching out to your beloved world. And when we stray, seek us out and find us, set our feet on the path again, and lead us safely home, in the name of Jesus, our Companion, we pray. Amen.

Benediction

***Hymn - VU #186** *Now the Garden Blade Rises* (*lyrics on screen*)

Postlude – Soloist, Robert Woodbury