



# NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

Easter Sunday

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024      10:30 am

Welcome!

*“As followers of Christ, we are called to be a  
worshipping and learning, receiving and giving  
community of faith, hope and love.”*

Newcastle United Church Mission Statement

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*As we gather as a faith community, we acknowledge that we are on sacred land rich in the legacy, culture, and spirituality of the Indigenous people. It is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people. We acknowledge that we live and work on land that is under the Williams Treaty, which has been the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee Nations, as well as many other Indigenous nations. These lands today are under the care of the Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nations people.*

*We acknowledge this land, out of respect for the many Indigenous nations who have cared for the lands and waterways from the beginning of time and continue to do so. Today we are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and to worship on their traditional lands.*

*We are committed to learn and understand the truth of our shared history, confronting our past and present so that we can strive to build a future together upon true reconciliation, living out what the original ancestors of Turtle Island envisioned: sharing the resources of the land and waterways, and to live in harmony with one another as one people.*

## ***Approaching God With Praise***

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Announcements**

**\*Indicates for congregation to stand as you are able.**

**Prelude (A centering time) "Crown Him with Many Crowns"**

Words: Matthew Bridges and Godfrey Thring; Music: George J. Elvey;  
Arranged by Phillip Keveren

**\*Hymn VU 136 "O Come And Mourn With Me Awhile" vv. 1-4**

**Opening Scripture Romans 8:32-35 & 37-39**

### ***Remembering Jesus***

**\*Hymn VU 158 "Christ Is Alive" vv. 1-5**  
*(While the hymn is sung, the sanctuary is transformed.)*

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

L: This is a joyous day! Christ has risen! His love and peace give light to our paths and hope to our days! Christ's resurrection pushes back the darkness, letting the Light of Life rekindle our lives. Renewed in spirit let the joy we find be heard through our proclamation:

**A: Hosanna in the Highest. Let the glory of Christ shine throughout all of God's creation.**

### ***Call To Worship***

L: Very early in the morning, God created all that is good and beautiful.

**A: Very early in the morning, a mother placed her newborn baby in a manger.**

L: Very early in the morning, the good news that Jesus was living in their midst was shared with frightened friends from the mouths of angels, saying:

**A: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, he is risen!"**

L: So, at the beginning of this morning, the first morning of the rest of our days, let us stop looking for the living among the dead. Let us open our hearts to God in prayer, and may God grant us the grace of a new beginning.

### **Opening Prayer**

L: Easter God,

We bring you our praise and thanks.

You take the pain of our Good Fridays, the watching of suffering and the waiting for death, and transform our helplessness into the fragile beginnings of hope.

**A: You take the bleakness of our Easter Saturdays, the weariness of defeat and desolation, and transform our despair into the will and courage to go on.**

L: You take the grieving of our early morning, the fearful approach to the tomb, and transform our bewilderment into the breathless excitement for new life.

**A: On this Easter Sunday, renew us and resurrect our lives, O God, and let us celebrate the renewal of hope, of life, and of love in this world once more! In the name of your Son, the Resurrected One, we pray. Amen**

(Rev. Penny Nelson, modified by Rev. B. Ransom)

***Listening For The Spirit Of God  
Through The Word***

**Scripture Reading:**

**New Testament      Gospel of John 20:1-18**

**Response**

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

**A: We give praise for the presence of God through the Word.**

**\*Hymn MV 121 “Hey Now! Singing! Hallelujah!”  
vv. 1-4**

## **REFRAIN**

**Hey now! Singing hallelujah!  
Hey now! The morning has come!  
Hey now! Singing hallelujah!  
The tomb was empty at the rising sun.**

**Jesus loved people and he made them friends.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
He called to the children and the women and  
men.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. REFRAIN**

**Jesus healed people and he helped them be well  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
He taught about God in the stories he'd tell.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. REFRAIN**

**Jesus loved and they said he was a king.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
He turned all the tables on everything.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. REFRAIN**

**Jesus had power and they took him away.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
They nailed him to a cross and they killed him  
one day.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. REFRAIN**

**Conversation Time**

**Hymn MV 121 “Hey Now! Singing! Hallelujah!”  
v. 5**

**Jesus loves people and he lives again!  
Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends.  
Hey now, the tomb was empty. REFRAIN**

*Words and music: Linnea Good*

**Reflection: Do you Know How the Story Ends?**

**Ministry of Music: “Because He Lives”**

*Words and music: Bill & Gloria Gaither*

### ***Our Response***

**Invitation to The Offering**

**\*The Offertory Hymn MV 34 “All Is Done For The  
Glory Of God” v. 1**

**All is done for the glory of God.  
Amen! Amen!  
All depends upon our glorious God.  
Amen! Amen!  
Amen! Amen! Amen!  
All is done for the glory of God.  
Amen! Amen!**

*Words and music: Abel Nkuinji*

**Dedication Of The Offering**

**Prayers of the People**

## ***Communion***

### **Communion Hymn-Choir “Communion Song”**

#### ***Invitation***

L: On this day, we celebrate the risen Christ

**A: On this day, we celebrate resurrection in our lives.**

L: On this day, we embrace the grace which reaches from the tomb.

**A: On this day, we embrace faith by committing to love in action.**

L: On this day, we shout Hallelujah!

**A: On this day we shout, Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

#### ***Prayer of Communion***

L: It is through our neighbors and creation that we see the rising of Christ, O God. Creator of Our Earth: We celebrate the shifting of seasons from one to the next. As the earth sheds its snow, it begins to drink in the warm rains and creation comes alive once again.

In this spirit of new life and hope we celebrate. We celebrate the risen Christ in our midst. We celebrate the table in which we can join together with friends and strangers, loved ones and enemies. Through this meal which has stood the test of time, we covenant to love you, God. We covenant to



love as Jesus the Christ loved us - loving our neighbours as ourselves. Through a simple meal of grain and grape, we, your children are united.

As we enter this season of Easter, we ask that the warm winds of the Spirit encircle this table and accompany us on our journey. May the Spirit help us to recognize Christ-presence in our midst. May the Spirit open our souls in order for us to see humanity, God and creation through the eyes of Jesus.

It was Jesus who introduced this meal to his followers. Even though Jesus knew he would be betrayed and be deserted by those at this supper, he still continued to join them at the table, sharing time and space with whom he grew closest. As the night lengthened, Jesus took a simple portion of bread. He blessed it and broke it, and shared it with the disciples. He urged them: *Remember me*. Afterwards, Jesus took the cup. During his blessing, Jesus reminded them how he would go to the ends of the earth in his love for them.

Today, we celebrate this earth-shaking love of Jesus – a love that sent him to the cross and a love that lives eternally with us, encouraging us to live a resurrected life.

The Bread of Life and the Cup of the Covenant:  
Gifts to unite us as one body in Christ.

## **Distribution of Elements**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving (In Unison)**

**Through this space and time together today, we celebrate the covenant that ties us with God, Jesus the Christ, our neighbors and creation. Thank you, Divine Crafter of the Table, for fashioning us a holy meal that uniting us with the Body of Christ. Send us into the world resurrected, refreshed and ready to share Christ's unconditional love. Amen.**

*(by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian. Modified by Rev. B Ransom)*

**\*Closing Hymn VU 155 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" vv. 1-4**

### ***\*Commissioning & Benediction***

#### **\*Sung Blessing - "Go Now In Peace"**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen, amen, amen.**

**Words can be found on the screens or in front of Hymn book.**

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*Flowers in the Sanctuary*



*In Memory*

*Sarah and Verdun  
Spicer*

*Elaine Spicer*

*Neil*

*Love Always, Diane*

*In Memory of Frank,  
Eva, and John Hoar*

*Frances and Heather*

*Margaret Tait*

*Warren Tait*

*Ronald Munro*

*Hazel May Munro*

*In Celebration*

*Our Family and Friends Wendy & Roy*

