

Liturgy of the Word for the Third Sunday of Easter

April 18, 2021

9:30 am

Zion UCC, Lowden

BOLD PRINT = congregation

**Indicates those who are able, please stand*

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US!



RINGING OF THE BELL

OUR FAITH IN ACTION – ANNOUNCEMENTS, JOYS & CONCERNS

PRELUDE

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Christ is risen!

Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

Your loving-kindness, O Lord, fills the whole earth. Alleluia!

Blessed is the people whose God is the Lord. Alleluia!

***PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Holy and life-giving God, the air we breathe is filled with Your grace, the path ahead is a holy gift. Let wonder and gratitude spill from our voices to join all creation giving praise and honor to Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

Bulletin, p. 4

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

O God of life, eternity cannot hold you, nor can our little words catch the magnificence of your kindness. Yet in the space of our small hearts and in silence you can come close and repair us.

O God of life, grant us your forgiveness. For our careless thoughts, for our thoughtless deeds, for our empty speech and the words with which we have wounded.

Silence

O God of life, grant us your forgiveness.
**for our false desires, for our hateful actions, for our wastefulness, and for all we have left
untended.**

Silence

O loving Christ, hanged on a tree yet risen in the morning, scatter the sin from our souls as the
mist from the hills; begin what we do, inform what we say, redeem who we are.

In you we place our hope, our great hope, our living hope, this day and evermore.

AMEN.

Silent Prayers of Reconciliation

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Hear the good news: in the life, death, and resurrection of
Jesus, we know that God's love has no bounds. In Christ we
are forgiven and empowered to begin anew.

Thanks be to God!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Peace be with you.

And also with you!

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

(Please greet one another with these or similar words)



WELCOME THE CHILDREN

Children are excused to go to Christian Education classes.

EPISTLE (*Letter to the Church*)

1 John 3:16-24

The Message

GOSPEL

Luke 24: 33 – 48

NRSV

WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The United Church of Canada General Council 1968, alt. 1998

We are not alone,

We live in God's world.

We believe in God:

Who has 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 in 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*We are so thankful for the generous gifts of our members and friends!
If you are able, we hope that you will choose to support the work of Zion United Church of Christ with your financial gifts. If you would like to contribute online right now, please go to our website, www.zionucclowden.org, and click on the donate button.*

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Tune: Hymn to Joy

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Savior Who has won the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of Love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the triune majesty.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Living God, in Christ's resurrection You raised up new Life for the world. Receive what we offer, that others might know that Life through the gifts You give us to use and to share. Amen

*HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

Bulletin, p. 5

*BENEDICTION

... Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.

*POSTLUDE

Thank you to our Worship Leaders

Acolytes	Ellie Coppess & Tyler Stewart
Organist	Sue Monson
Liturgist	Julie Hoffmeier
Videographer	David Niermeyer
Power Point	Carter Horman
Ushers	Callie Tjaden, Aaron Horman, Terry Lasack
Council Ushers	Jody Yutesler, Janice Strackbein
Ministers	All believers
Pastor	Rev. Susan Schneider-Adams

Songs and Scriptures for the Third Sunday of Easter

*OPENING HYMN *Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven* vss. 1-3 (tune: Hyfrydol)

Alleluia, alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise:
sing to God a hymn of gladness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
he who on the cross a victim for the world's salvation bled--
Jesus Christ, the King of glory, now is risen from the dead.

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Death at last has met defeat:
see the ancient powers of evil in confusion and retreat:
once he died, and once was buried: now he lives forevermore,
Jesus Christ the world's Redeemer, whom we worship and adore.

Christ is risen, we are risen! Set your hearts on things above:
there in all the Father's glory lives and reigns our King of love;
hear the word of peace he brings us, see his wounded hands and side!
Now let every wrong be ended, every sin be crucified.

*CLOSING HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story

No. 522

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.

Refrain: I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story, 'tis pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own Holy Word. [Refrain]

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when in scenes of glory I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long. [Refrain]



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of
2 I love to tell the sto - ry, 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat what
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem

Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I love to tell the
seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to tell the
hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of

sto - ry be - cause I know 'tis true; it sat - is - fies my long - ings as
sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from
glo - ry I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that

Refrain
noth - ing else can do.
God's own Ho - ly Word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in
I have loved so long.

glo - ry, to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

1 John 3:16-24 The Message (MSG)

This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear.

My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves.

And friends, once that's taken care of and we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold and free before God! We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because we're doing what he said, doing what pleases him. Again, this is God's command: to believe in his personally named Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love each other, in line with the original command. As we keep his commands, we live deeply and surely in him, and he lives in us. And this is how we experience his deep and abiding presence in us: by the Spirit he gave us.

GOSPEL **Luke 24:33-48**

That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?"

Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."

And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"

They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you--that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."

Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.