

## St. Catharines United Mennonite Church



### *Order of Service*



**Easter Sunday, April 12th, 2020**

*We invite you to use this "Order of Service" today.*

*You might consider reading the texts and prayers aloud.*

*Words of songs might or sung, either acapella, or with the tracks that have been provided, by means of links. Simply click on the song titles.*

#### **Call to Worship**

It was early in the morning. Still dark.  
The dawn just starting to cut through the fog.  
The air hung heavy with expectation, as if the earth itself were holding its breath.

The echoes of the cross linger. His voice still rings out:  
It Is Finished. Into your hands I commit my spirit.

The story comes to us in pieces and fragments, hints and images:

A vineyard garden, grapes ready for the harvest.

A stone, rolled away. The guards asleep at its side.

A pile of clothes, folded in an empty tomb.

Peter and John, running in with disbelief.  
Walking out with questions and with hope.

But Mary stays behind. To weep in the garden.  
And we weep with her. There is so much loss.  
So much grief. So much death.

With her we look up, and through her tears  
We see angels, seated in victory on top of the stone.

Do not be afraid, they tell us.  
He is not here.  
Why do you look for the living among the dead?  
He. Is. Not. Here.

From the garden she hears a voice:  
Why are you weeping? Whom do you seek?

She still cannot see. The sun is rising.  
She is muttering with explanations,  
But Mary's heart starts beating with tremors  
Of hope. Whom do you seek?  
He is not here.

And like a voice from heaven,  
She hears that voice. The voice she is longing for.  
The gardener speaks her name: Mary.

Jesus looks at you and Jesus speaks your name.  
The world is new as he speaks your name.  
You are made new as he speaks your name.

What the angels said was true  
And it is true today.

Jesus is alive.  
Jesus walks.  
His heart beats in victory.  
Easter is announced by every breath he takes.  
Easter means that love has won.  
Death is finished. Satan is doomed.  
Evil is conquered. God is good.

Love's redeeming work is done.  
It. Is. Finished. It. Is. Finished.  
He is not dead.  
He. Is. Alive.

*Written by Rev. Cambron Wright, of Faith United Methodist Church in Bowling Green, Kentucky.*

**Song: [Christ The Lord Is Risen Today](#)**

Christ the Lord is risen today alleluia  
Sons of men and angels say alleluia  
Raise your joys and triumphs high alleluia  
Sing ye heavens and earth reply alleluia

Lives again our glorious King alleluia  
Where O death is now thy sting alleluia  
Once he died our souls to save alleluia  
Where's thy victory boasting grave alleluia

Love's redeeming work is done alleluia  
Fought the fight the battle won alleluia  
Death in vain forbids Him rise alleluia  
Christ hath opened paradise alleluia

Soar we now where Christ has led alleluia  
Following our exalted Head alleluia  
Made like Him like Him we rise alleluia  
Ours the cross the grave the skies alleluia

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY - Charles Wesley | Samuel Arnold  
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**Song: [This Joyful Eastertide](#)**

This joyful Eastertide  
Away with sin and sorrow  
My Lord the Crucified  
Hath sprung to life this morrow

Had Christ that once was slain  
Not burst His three day prison  
Our faith had been in vain  
But now is Christ arisen

He is risen  
Christ the Lord is risen

Death's flood hath lost its chill  
Since Jesus crossed the river  
Lover of souls from ill  
My passing soul deliver

My flesh in hope shall rest  
And for a season slumber  
Till trumpet east to west  
Shall wake the dead in number

THIS JOYFUL EASTERTIDE - Graham Kendrick  
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**Song: [Jesus Stand Among Us In Thy Risen Power](#)**

Jesus stand among us  
In Thy risen pow'r  
Let this time of worship  
Be a hallow'd hour

Breathe Thy Holy Spirit  
Into every heart  
Bid the fears and sorrows  
From each soul depart

Thus with quickened footsteps  
We'll pursue our way  
Watching for the dawning  
Of eternal day

JESUS STAND AMONG US - William Pennefather  
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## Prayer:

If you were not risen,  
Lord Christ, to whom would we go  
to discover a radiance  
of the face of God?

If you were not risen,  
we would not be [here]  
seeking your communion.  
We would not find in your presence forgiveness,  
wellspring of a new beginning.

If you were not risen,  
where would we draw the energy  
for following you  
right to the end of our existence,  
for choosing you again and anew?

*Written by Brother Roger of Taizé, in The Book of a Thousand Prayers  
(Zondervan)*

## Personal Prayers:

We invite you to offer up your own prayers in this time.

Whether silently or spoken out loud, praying for yourselves, our  
community, country and world in this time.

## Text: John 20:1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. Then

Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.) Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?"

"They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him." At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

He asked her, "Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him."

Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means "Teacher"). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.

*"Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."* 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

**Meditation:** A Good News Story – Pastor Nick Schuurman

**Song:** [Hope Of The Nations](#)

Jesus hope of the nations  
Jesus comfort for all who mourn  
You are the source of heaven's hope on earth  
Jesus light in the darkness  
Jesus truth in each circumstance  
You are the source of heaven's light on earth

In history You lived and died

You are the hope living in us  
You are the Rock in whom we trust  
You are the light shining for all the world to see  
You rose from the dead conquering fear  
Our Prince of Peace drawing us near  
Jesus our hope living for all who will receive  
(Lord we believe)

Lord we believe  
Lord we believe  
Lord we believe

Lord we believe  
(Jesus hope of the nations)  
Lord we believe  
(Jesus hope of the nations)  
Lord we believe  
(Jesus hope of the nations)  
Lord we believe  
(Jesus)  
Lord we believe

HOPE OF THE NATIONS - Brian Doerksen  
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**Song:** [Low In The Grave He Lay](#)

Low in the grave He lay Jesus my Saviour  
Waiting the coming day Jesus my Lord

Up from the grave He arose  
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes  
He arose a victor from the dark domain  
And He lives forever with His saints to reign  
He arose He arose  
Hallelujah Christ arose

Vainly they watch His bed Jesus my Saviour  
Vainly they seal the dead Jesus my Lord

Death cannot keep his prey Jesus my Saviour  
He tore the bars away Jesus my Lord

LOW IN THE GRAVE HE LAY - Robert Lowry  
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**Words of Blessing**

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”*  
Philippians 4:6-7