



HOLY EUCHARIST
for the
Fourth Sunday
of Easter

St. John's
Anglican Church
West Toronto

April 21, 2024
10:00 am

* *The Land Acknowledgement is taken from A Liturgy for The National Indigenous Day of Prayer*
https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/nidp-liturgy.pdf?fbclid=IwAR1oWVCmVyX1tQWadWWfd1e5PoGDI4bf_p77nxkedV50uBfllCO4BE2MUa
8 Retrieved 2021 March 8.

Cover Image: Icon of Creation, Russian Orthodox, source unknown

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Today's Reading: Acts 4:5-12, NRSV; Psalm 23;1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18, NRSV.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Celebrant & Preacher: | Mother Alexandra Stone |
| Deacon: | The Reverend Evelyn Butler |
| Eucharistic Assistant: | Mabel-Anne Waters |
| Lectors: | May Webster, ODT & Jennifer Jenkins |
| Intercessor: | Joy Kennedy |
| Piano: | Dan Gooch |
| Vocals: | Alie Rutty & Lee Ramsay |
| Technical Support: | Greg Los, Chris Rutty & Michael Taylor |

PRELUDE

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT*

Creator, you made all people of every land. It is our responsibility to give thanks and respect to those who first occupied this land we are upon. We give thanks to the Wendat, the Anishinaabe, the Mississauga of the Credit and the Haudenosaunee, the first people of this land.

We offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred on this land. We are also thankful for the gifts of the People of the land. Creator let us be of Good Mind to reconcile the mistreatment of this land and to those who have been displaced.

With thankful and respectful hearts, we pray in Your name, Your son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. **Amen.**

HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises

CP 237

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, Love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again like wheat arising green.

Words: John M. Crum, alt.

Music: Music Melody French (15th c.); harm. Martin Shaw © 1928 Oxford University Press

WELCOME

PRAYER FOR EARTH DAY

Leader: Creator God, you formed us from the soil and breathed life into our bones. Thank you for our bodies and our earthy companions of flora and fauna. We are grateful that you chose to teach us how to be human by becoming a human among us. We confess that we have often abandoned our first calling to care for our Earth home. Forgive us for the ways we have wounded creation and our human kin who most feel the effects of a changing climate. Open our hearts to wonder and transformation. Teach us to rebel against the silencing of your creatures, the felling of your forests, and the suffering of your children. Help us to become ambassadors of reconciliation on our way to a new creation. Oh Love Incarnate, may your reign come on Earth as it is in heaven.

All: **Amen.**

HYMN **All Things Bright and Beautiful**

Refrain:

*All things bright and beautiful,
all creatures great and small,
all things wise and wonderful,
the Lord God made them all.*

Each little flow'r that opens,
each little bird that sings,
God made their glowing colors,
God made their tiny wings. **Refrain**

The purple-headed mountain,
the river running by,
the sunset and the morning
that brightens up the sky. **Refrain**

The cold wind in the winter,
the pleasant summer sun,
the ripe fruits in the garden:
God made them every one. **Refrain**

God gave us eyes to see them,
and lips that we might tell
how great is God Almighty,
who has made all things well. **Refrain**

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, alt.; Music: Old English tune

OPENING PRAYERS

Celebrant: Christ has risen! Alleluia!

All: Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Celebrant: May the grace and peace of Jesus the Christ be with you.

All: May God fill our hearts with joy.

Celebrant: Almighty God,

**All: to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you
no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly
love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through
Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

GLORIA

CP 366

**All: Glory, in the highest glory,
peace to all, in all their days.
Worship, thanks, and praise
unceasing to the Source of all we raise;
reigning in the sapphire height,
hidden from our mortal sight,
now receive our adoration,
as we make our supplication.**

**Jesus Christ, the world's Redeemer,
Lamb of God, for sinners given,
Word eternal, born of Mary,
Word made flesh, the face of heaven:
holy one, to you we pray,
hear us in the realms of day,
with the Spirit there united,
and the Godhead high exalted.**

*Words: Glory to God (Gloria in excelsis, Greek hymn); para. Paul Gibson
Music: PSALM 42, Melody Geneva, 1551; harm. based on Claude Goudimel; rev.
Alain Mabit, © Paul Gibson; Rev. © 1995 Réveil Publications*

COLLECT

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do your will, and work in us that which is well-pleasing in your sight; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

All: Amen.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The next day the religious leaders, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, 'By what power or by what name did you do this?' Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Leaders of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this person has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this person is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

"the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone."

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.'

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God.

Thou art my Shepherd, I'll not want.
Thou makest me down to lie
in pastures green; Thou leadest me
the quiet waters by.

My soul Thou dost restore again;
and me to walk dost make
within the paths of righteousness,
e'en for Thy own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk thro' death's dark vale,
yet will I fear no ill;
for Thou art with me, and Thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table Thou hast furnishéd
in presence of my foes;
my head Thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.

Text: Psalm 23; para. Scottish Psalter, 1650, alt.

*Music: Tune CRIMOND, Jessie Seymour Irvine; harm. Thomas C. L. Pritchard. Harm
© Oxford University Press*

SECOND READING

A reading from the first epistle of John.

We know love by this, that Jesus the Christ died for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister or sibling in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before God whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and God knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from God whatever we ask, because we obey the commandments and do what pleases God. And this is God's commandment, that we should believe in the name of God's Own, Jesus Christ and love one another, just as God has commanded us. All who obey these commandments abide in God, and God abides in them. And by this we know that God abides in us, by the Spirit given to us.

Reader: Listen for the leading of the Spirit.

All: Thanks be to God

Please stand as you are able.

GRADUAL

CP 715

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

[May repeat]

Text & Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker. © 1985

THE GOSPEL

Gospeller: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Jesus the Christ, according to John.

All: Glory to you, Jesus the Christ.

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd. A good shepherd would die for the sheep. The hired hand, who is neither shepherd nor owner of the sheep, catches sight of the wolf coming and runs away, leaving the sheep to be scattered or snatched by the wolf. That is because the hired hand works only for pay and has no concern for the sheep.

I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep and my sheep know me, in the same way God knows me and I know God—and for these sheep I will lay down my life. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold — I must lead them too, and they will hear my voice.

And then there will be one flock, one shepherd. This is why God loves me—because I lay down my life, only to take it up again.

No one takes my life from me; I lay it down freely. I have the power to lay it down, and I have the power to take it up again. This command I received from God."

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.

GRADUAL

CP 715

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

SERMON

Please be seated for the sermon.

APOSTLES' CREED

Please stand as you are able.

CP 44
Tune: CP 388

Celebrant: Please stand as you are able and join with me in confessing the faith of our baptism.

**All: I believe in God almighty,
Author of all things that be,
maker of the earth and heavens,
keeper of the sky and sea.**

**I believe in God's Son, Jesus,
now for us both God and Christ,
of the Spirit and of Mary
born to bring abundant life.**

**I believe that Jesus suffered,
scourged and scorned and crucified;
taken from the cross, was buried –
true life there had truly died.**

**I believe that on the third day
Christ was raised up from the grave,
then ascended to God's right hand.
He will come to judge and save.**

**I believe in God's own Spirit,
bonding all the saints within
one church, catholic and holy,
where forgiveness frees from sin;**

**in the body's resurrection,
for the breaking of death's chain
gives the life that's everlasting:
this the faith that I have claimed.**

*Words: The Apostles' Creed; para. Sylvia G. Dunstan © 1991 G. I. A. Publications, Inc.
Music: AUSTRIA, Franz Joseph Haydn*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: Holy One,

All: with gratitude we pray.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Deacon: Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; God welcomes sinners and invites us to this table. Let us confess our sins confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence is kept.

Celebrant: Most merciful God,

All: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus the Christ. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: May the peace of Jesus the Christ be always with you.

All: And also with you.

We take a moment to share the peace.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

OFFERTORY

If you are able to make a contribution, we appreciate your generosity. Your offering makes it possible to continue our ministry here at St. John's.

If you would prefer to give online, please visit our website at www.sjw.ca and look for the donate now button.

You are invited to stand around the altar in a circle and remain there through the Prayer after Communion.

At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
every tongue confess him King of glory now;
'tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
who from the beginning was the mighty Word.

At his voice creation sprang at once to sight:
all the angel faces, all the hosts of light,
thrones and dominations, stars upon their way,
all the heavenly orders in their great array.

Humbled for a season, to receive a name
from the lips of sinners, unto whom he came;
faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
brought it back victorious when from death he passed;

bore it up triumphant, with its human light,
through all ranks of creatures, to the central height,
to the throne of Godhead, to his Father's breast,
filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone him; there let him subdue
all that is not holy, all that is not true.
Look to him, your Savior, in temptations' hour;
let his will enfold you in its light and power.

Name him, Christians, name him,
with love strong as death,
but with awe and wonder, and with bated breath,
he is God the Saviour, he is Christ the Lord,
ever to be worshipped, trusted and adored.

Text: Caroline Maria Noel, alt.

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams © Oxford University Press

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**All: God of loving care, you spread before us the table of life,
and give us the cup of salvation to drink. Keep us always in
the fold of your Son Jesus Christ, our Saviour and our
shepherd. Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God our Creator.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you thanks and praise for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true paschal lamb who has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us eternal life. Therefore, joining our voices with the whole company of heaven, we sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

**All: Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and might, CP 732
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes in the name of Our God.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: this is my body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, Father, according to his command,

**All: we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant: and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts, that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ and his blood of the new covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

THE SAVIOUR'S PRAYER

Celebrant: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: Abba, Amma, Beloved, your name be hallowed, your reign spread among us, your will be done well, at all times, in all places, on earth as in heaven. Give us the bread we need for today. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Let us not fail in the time of our testing. Spare us from trials too sharp to endure. Free us from the grip of all evil powers. For yours is the reign, the power and the glory, the victory of love, for now and eternity, world without end. Amen and Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: O Christ, we died with you on the cross.

All: Now we are raised to new life.

Celebrant: We were buried in your tomb.

All: Now we share in your resurrection.

Celebrant: Live in us, that we may live in you.

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

*Words: Trad.; Music: Community Mass, Richard Proulx
© 1971, 1977 G.I.A. Publications Inc.*

COMMUNION

*The Eucharistic feast is a participation in the Body and Blood of Christ.
Receiving Communion is a sacramental means through which we reaffirm
that we became part of Christ's one Body in our baptism.*

*The Anglican Church welcomes all Christians from any denomination to
receive Communion.*

*Please speak to the priest after the service if you would like to discuss
baptism or if you have any questions about the sacraments.*

*Those who do not wish to receive Communion at this time are welcome to
come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to
indicate that you wish to be blessed.*

Gluten free hosts are available. Please let us know if you require one.

HYMN

Walk Softly in Springtime

CP 209

Walk softly in springtime, to hear the grass sing
its whispering carols to Jesus our King,
to see the new flowers, bright colors display
to tell all the children of glad Easter Day.

Sing gently in springtime, and join with the birds,
who warble their music, a song without words,
that floats through the air and that reaches the sky,
a message of love to Creator on high.

Praise gladly in springtime when earth seems to glow
with new life and color in all things that grow;
for all nature's children are happy to say:
Rejoice, for the Savior is risen today!

*Text: Edna Fay Grant © 1965, renewal 1993 The Hymn Society in the US and Canada
Music: F. Alan. E. Reesor ©*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: God of steadfast love, watch over the Church redeemed by the blood of your Son. May we who share in these holy mysteries come safely to your eternal realm, where there is one flock and one shepherd. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Saviour. Amen.

Celebrant: Glory to God,

All: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

CELEBRATIONS, NEEDS, REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. **CP 672**
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Praise God, in Jesus fully known.
Creator, Word and Spirit one.

HYMN **Creating God, Your Fingers Trace** **CP 410**
Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.

Sustaining God, your hands uphold
earth's myst'ries known or yet untold;
let water's fragile blend with air,
enabling life, proclaim your care.

Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.

Indwelling God, your gospel claims
one family with a billion names;
let every life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face.

*Text: Jeffery Rowthorn, © 1979 The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada
Music: tune KEDRON, attrib. Elkanah Kelsay Dare*

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go into the world and live the good news!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

WHAT'S *happening* This Week

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Tue, Apr 23 | Morning Prayer (9:30 – 10 am) Drop-In Dance Class (7 – 8:30 pm) |
| Wed, Apr 24 | Morning Prayer (9:30 – 10 am) Centering Prayer (10 – 10:30 am) |
| Sat, Apr 27 | Food Drop-Off (9:30 – 11:30 am) Coffee, Tea, and Creativity (10 am – 12 pm) |
| Sun, Apr 28 | Morning Prayer (In Priest's Office – 9 – 9:30 am) Holy Eucharist (10 – 11:30 am) |

Building up for God!

The mission of St. John's Church is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ, to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God, and to give and receive support to meet the challenges of our daily lives and ministries. We call on everyone to come and join us.

We are an accessible, accepting, diverse community. We are young and old, able-bodied, and disabled, employed and unemployed. We are married, single, divorced, straight, and LGBTQ2S+. We are from all over the world, yet we could live next door. You will find open minds and open hearts at St. John's.

Ministry Team:

The Rev. Alexandra Stone, *Interim Priest-in-Charge*
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The Rev. Evelyn Butler, *Deacon*
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The Rev. Bob Shantz, *Honorary Assistant*

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