

# Holy Week Easter Sunday



**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**St. Paul's United Church**  
**308 King St, Midland ON, L4R 3M6**  
**Tel: 705-526-6077      E-mail: [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com)**

**Worship Leader: Rev. Kirsty Hunter**  
**Music Director: Victoria Warwick**

**Tech Team:**  
Glenn Erwin,  
Gabriela and Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox,  
Marina Commisso, Alexis Danford, Fran Hill

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# Gathering and Preparation

## Prelude

## Processional

## Sing Praise and Bless the Lord

Sing praise and bless the Lord,  
sing praise and bless the Lord! Peoples! Nations! Alleluia

## Welcome

## Check In

Talk about an Easter moment you love/loved

## Acknowledgement of the Land

Ahniin, We acknowledge that the land on which St. Paul's United Church is located is the traditional land of the Wendat and Anishinaabe First Nations.

**Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous People from across Turtle Island, including Metis and our neighbours on Christian Island, Beausoleil First Nation. We are grateful to have the opportunity to worship and work on this land. We are all Treaty people.**

This week, we celebrate Winnipeg area artist Henry Guimond from Sagkeeng First Nation. The personal patch he designed for Canadian Astronaut Jeremy Hansen will be worn during the Artemis II flight around the moon. It was created along with knowledge keeper, Dave Courchene III, to carry Indigenous knowledge into space. Hansen requested the patch after participating in a vision quest program.

**We commit ourselves to walking in a new way together: a path of healing and hope. Chi-Meegwetch**

## Call to Worship

God of renewal and new life,  
Like the first snowdrops of spring,

**Help us to be harbingers of a new beginning  
Filled with light and warmth and love.**

Like the yellow daffodils,  
**Help us bring joy to all that see us  
As we do your work in the world.**

Like the many-coloured tulips,  
**Help us meet different needs for different people  
Doing what we can to bring hope and peace.**

God of renewal and new life,  
May your spring come soon,

**And may we help usher it on.**

So, let us worship in this space that God is creating,  
where all are embraced.

**Together we become beloved community.**

**Opening Prayer**

**Reader: Heather McDonald**

**Lighting of Christ Candle**

**Prayer** As we light this Christ Candle,  
may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

**Sung Response**

**Here in this place, the light of God,  
my soul finds repose:  
Holy space, the heartbeat of God,  
My soul finds a home**

**Peace of Christ**

**Theme Conversation**

Renewal

**Song of Praise**

VU#161 Welcome This Happy Morning

**Listening**

**Scripture**

John 20:1-18 NRSV

**Reader: Herb van den Dool**

**Sermon:**

In the Garden

**Song for Reflection**

VU#179 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks

**Life and Work of the Church** (Announcements)

**Offering of Thanksgiving**

**Anthem**

Day of Celebration (Choir)

**Offertory Response**

VU#541 Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow

**Celebrations and Concerns**

**Prayer of Confession**

God of grace, despair, pain, and fear are part of life;  
sometimes we let them guide us.  
Sometimes we let them hold us back from living your way,  
and we lose sight of your strong love.

Help us be a brave and holy people, living beyond fear.  
Teach us to trust in your steadfast love.

Amen.

### **Words of Assurance**

This is the good news:  
God raised Jesus from death,  
turning sorrow into joy and despair into hope.  
Hallelujah

## **Communion**

Christ is Risen

**He is risen indeed!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,  
you are beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description.  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,  
you are creative and self-giving,  
generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe.  
Nothing exists that does not find its source in you.

**Through fear-filled days and aching nights when the powers of death have  
done their worst, your love has never deserted us.**

**Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;  
your presence never fails us, your gifts of hope and new life transform us.**

We praise you for Jesus Christ, risen to life, eternal as your love.  
With the women at the tomb, we raise the strain of gladness.  
Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!  
The day of resurrection has come, scattering fear and gloom.  
And so we rejoice with all your people of every time and place,  
and with angels and archangels, to proclaim the glory of your name:

**Oh holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space All earth and sea and  
sky above bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.**

It is Jesus, God incarnate, the Risen Christ, who joins us together as a community of broken but hopeful believers:

loving what he loved living what he taught,  
and striving to be his faithful servants in our time and place.

In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises,  
and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did.

On the night before Jesus died,  
he took a loaf of bread,  
gave thanks, broke it, and said,  
"Take and eat, whenever you do this, remember me."

After supper,  
Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying,  
"This is the new covenant, remember me."

**We do remember.**

**We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching, his dying,  
and his rising to life again.**

In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! (2x)**

Holy Mystery, God the Spirit,  
we call on you to transform these familiar things, as you continually transform  
the world around us.

Bless this bread and this cup,  
the wheat and the grape,  
the farmer and the harvest,  
the seed and the sower.

**So that in the sharing of these simple elements in community,  
we may taste and see your goodness.**

Through Christ, in Christ, and with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

**Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen! (2x)**

The Gifts of God for the People of God

## **Prayer after Communion**

**Thank you, O Christ, for this feast of life.**

**We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life.**

**We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy.**

**We are now commissioned to: feed as we have been fed,**

**forgive as we have been forgiven,**

**love as we have been loved.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**

**Song for the Journey**      VU#173 Thine is the Glory

**Blessing**

**Closing**                      VU#958 Halle Halle Halle

**Postlude**

The potted plants placed in Remembrance of our Beloved People are beautiful. My 'In Remembrance' list to this point has the following names: - Rev. Kirsty -

Tom Barber in Remembrance of Les, Alice and Ellen Barber,  
Debbie Just in Remembrance of Susan Webb,  
Kathy Stewart in Celebration of Thanksgiving,  
Kirsty Hunter in Celebration of Thanksgiving,  
Fran Hill in Remembrance of Doug Hill,  
Louise Leck in Memory of George Leck,  
Marlis Dupuis in Remembrance of Ruth & Gunter Freund,  
Zena Pendlebury in Remembrance of Cliff Pendlebury  
And, In Memory of Marian Wilcox and Doug and  
Lorraine Bumstead Placed by Gail, Bruce and Linda  
Wilcox