

Risen One, Bringer of Joy, plant the seeds of great gladness deep in the soil of our being. May we enjoy life, begin each day with enthusiasm, and become ever more aware of you. Amen.

Pause for reflection

And [the women] came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. (Mt 28:9)

Risen One, Beloved, draw us ever nearer to you. We offer you our love and devotion. We embrace you and bow to your beauty. May we commit our entire lives ever more fully to you. Amen.

Pause for reflection

[Mary Magdalene] went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. (Mk 16:10-11)

Risen One, Truth-Bringer, open our hearts to hear your voice. May we listen deeply even when tears of sorrow moisten our hearts. Erase our resistance to the surprising ways you choose to enter our lives. Amen.

Pause for reflection

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb ... (Lk 24:2)

Risen One, Tomb-Opener, you are the power we need. Roll away the stones of unloving. Push back the rocks of discontent. Shove aside the boulders of worry. Untomb us and set us free. Amen.

Pause for reflection

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remember his words. (Lk 24:5-8)

Risen One, Carrier of Memories, you have revealed many things to us through events and people, in the pages of scripture, and in the quiet of our hearts. Carry us back in memory to savour your revelations. Amen.

Pause for reflection

But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what happened. (Lk 24:12)

Risen One, Source of Amazement, we run to the tomb of life, we run to see for ourselves. When we look with eyes of faith, we are amazed at what we find. That which seems dead and forsaken fills with wisdom and teachings for our lives. Amen.

Pause for reflection

All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers. (Acts 1:14)

Risen One, Core of Community, whenever we gather, you are with us. Whenever we gather, the ancestors are near. Whenever we gather, you make of our hearts, one heart. Risen One, we welcome you into our midst. Amen.

Pause for reflection

Hymn VU#157 – Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

- 1 Christ the Lord is risen today, Hallelujah!
all creation join to say; Hallelujah!
raise your joys and triumphs high; Hallelujah!
sing, O heavens, and earth reply: Hallelujah!
- 2 Love's redeeming work is done, Hallelujah!
fought the fight, the battle won. Hallelujah!
Lo, our sun's eclipse is o'er! Hallelujah!
Lo, he dwells in death no more! Hallelujah!

3 Lives again our glorious King: Hallelujah!
where, O death, is now your sting? Hallelujah!
Once he died, our souls to save: Hallelujah!
where your victory, O grave? Hallelujah!

4 Hail, the Lord of earth and heaven, Hallelujah!
praise to you by both be given! Hallelujah!
Every knee to you shall bow, Hallelujah!
risen Christ, triumphant now. Hallelujah!

Blessing:

*From this Easter festival, we go forth to live resurrection:
In the name of the God who makes us, in the name of the Christ
who makes us free, in the name of the Spirit who makes us one.
Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Thanks be to God!*

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Easter Sunrise Service

April 16, 2017
Saint James United Church



Call to Worship:

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Christ is risen! (*louder*)

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! (*louder*)

Christ is risen! (*louder*)

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah! (*louder*)

Opening Prayer:

**God of renewed presence, on this Easter day we know that
with you all things are possible. May the Good News of Easter
joy fill our lives and make our hearts glad. Hallelujah. Amen.**

Hymn: *Midnight Sharpness, Starfields, Fading*
(*tune: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*)

Midnight sharpness, starfields, fading,
creeping hues engulf the east,
strips of grave-cloth cloud reflecting faintest lines in crimson-grey:
Herald Dawn's first heartbeat glowing,
blood-red streaks of fire flow
'cross the fields of furrowed labour, signs of living, promise, hope.

Cold of winter, dark of evening, cannot crush the light-seed sown,
flames on frozen, dew-wrapped grasses,
sparkling tears of Joy Unknown:
Christ is risen! Christ is risen! Shout O skies! Rejoice O fields!
Hallelujah! Jesus! Saviour! Let the Bells of Morning peal!

Praying with the Easter Stories

*So they left the tomb quickly with ... great joy, and
ran to tell his disciples. (Mt 28:8)*

