

# PALGRAVE UNITED CHURCH

March 31, 2024 EASTER-RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

**Sing a New Song**

**Prelude**

**Lighting the Christ Candle.**

**Welcome and announcements**

**Territorial Acknowledgement**

**Call to Worship:**

Jesus Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Christ is alive!

**He is alive forevermore. Hallelujah!**

For those who first went to the tomb of Jesus, there was fear and surprise.

For us, being familiar with the Easter story, there is the risk of complacency.

So, let us open ourselves to the astounding possibility of new life in Christ.

Let us celebrate the love and power of God breaking out into life where and when we least expect it!

Let us worship God, who makes all things new.

**Hymn:** Jesus Christ Is Risen Today VU 155

## **Gathering Prayer**

**O God, you who lifted the gloom and despair of the disciples with the good news of Christ's resurrection, surprise us this day. Take from us the inclination to lean on our strength instead of yours, to mistake our desires for yours, and to equate our thoughts and actions with yours. Assure us once again of our Lord's promise to be with us always.**

**Be present with us now to make us whole and to make us holy.**

**When our faith is short of understanding, though the truth is there to see; forgive us.**

**When our faith is challenged by that which scares us; remind us of the power of the resurrection.**

**When we are overwhelmed, bring to mind the cry of Mary: 'I have seen the Lord!',  
and grant us faith to believe!**

**In the name of the risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

**Flute solo**

**Eleanor**

**Hymn:**

**Thine Is the Glory VU 173**

## **Prayer for Understanding**

**Scripture Readings:**

**Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24**

**Mark 16: 1-8**

**Sermon**

**You'll Never Walk Alone.**

**Hymn:**

**Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks VU 179**

## **Prayer of thanksgiving and intercession**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Hymn:** Here, O My Lord VU 459 (Verses 1-3)

### **Communion**

God, most Holy, we give you thanks for being with us and for uniting us with one another.

As we share this sacred meal, we join with Jesus' followers around the world to celebrate the joyful feast of the Risen Christ. We remember your love, whole and holy, a love that has held us from the beginning and a love that will hold us for as long as time exists.

On this joyful Easter Day, with hearts lifted high, we offer gratitude and praise to you, O God, for we have seen your grace and power rolling away the stone of sorrow and despair and bursting forth from the tomb in the gift of new life. So we join our voices with creatures high and low, with all the saints before us and beside us, in heaven and on earth, to raise the song of your unending greatness:

**Holy, holy, holy God,  
giver of life and love!  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Blest is the one who comes to bring your love to all!  
Hosanna through the ages!**

You gave to us your Christ, alive in the world;  
a teacher, a healer, a challenger, a saviour.

He laughed with those who laughed and cried with those who cried,  
but most of all, he loved us with an unending love,  
a love that surpasses death,  
a love that brings new life, not only to us but to all creation.

On the night before he was taken to his death,  
Jesus gathered with his disciples.  
He shared with them a meal of remembrance and love.  
He blessed the bread and broke it, saying:  
“Take and eat; this is my body broken for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”  
Each time you eat, remember me.”  
He blessed a cup of wine and passed it to them, saying:  
“Drink this; this is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you.  
Do this in Remembrance of me.”

In the breaking of this bread,  
we remember the brokenness within ourselves.  
We pray for the day when we shall, each one, enter fully into the  
wholeness of Jesus Christ.

So we eat, we drink, and we remember.

*(We partake of the meal) .*

The body of Christ broken for us.

The blood of Christ shed for us.

For the bread and wine we have shared and for the life we have received,  
we thank you, God. Amen.

Let us pray together.

**Gracious God, though we live in a world of great need,  
we have tasted of your goodness.**

**Though faced with brokenness and illness,  
we have heard your call to be a people of healing love.**

**Though daily we touch our limits,  
we receive your grace each day.**

**Send us forth, O God, in faith, in hope and in Love.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn:**                               Here, O My Lord VU 459 (Verses 4&5)

**Offering**

**Hymn:**                               We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection  
VU 586

**Benediction and Commissioning**

**Closing Chorus:**               Halle, halle, hallelujah! VU 958

**Postlude**