

**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD**

**11 am Easter Sunday 2022 04 17**

**WE GATHER**

**PRELUDE**    *a time of quiet reflection*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... and also with you. Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield this Easter Sunday with Communion on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

You may notice the order of service looks different today. We will focus on the Easter story from the Gospel of Luke with scripture readings followed by a dramatic reflection.

The people of Knox Bayfield acknowledge with gratitude the territory upon which we live, work, play and worship. Knox is on the traditional lands of the Anishinabewaki, Attiwoonderonk (Neutral), and Mississauga peoples within Treaty 29, of 1827. We are all treaty people. We acknowledge that The Presbyterian Church in Canada was a part of the residential school system. We seek a new relationship with the First Nations of this land, one based in truth, respect, and reconciliation.

**HYMN**                      **Let There be Light**                      **#727**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**                      **See PWS&D Insert**

**PRAYER OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION**

Gracious, life-giving God, maker of all things visible and invisible, you spoke and out of chaos came creation. Out of shadows came light. On the first day of the week, Christ was resurrected by your grace, and out of death came life. You come to us through the Holy Spirit, to shine light on our way forward, offering your gift of new life in Christ Jesus. Praise and honour and blessing be to you. O God, you raised Jesus from the grave and shattered the powers of sin and death. Yet, we confess that we are captive to fear, we resist the hope that new life is possible for us. We hide in layers of indifference and we seek comfort rather than justice in this world. We cling to resentment and push away the freedom that comes with forgiveness. Forgive us, O God, and restore us to joy and wholeness through your great mercy. Amen

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON, SHARING THE PEACE**

We are God's forgiven people. Let us be at peace with God, with one another, and with ourselves, through the undying mercy of Jesus Christ. May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**HYMN: The day of resurrection**                      **#249**

**TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God of the Living Word, by the power of your Holy Spirit moving in us and around, open our minds to understand, our hearts to love, and our wills to carry out your mission in the strength of your Word made flesh. Amen.

**GOSPEL            Luke 23:55 – 24:3            [B#89/W#91]**

**REFLECTION**

It's funny looking back. We were so worried about that stone, who would move it for us so we could get into the tomb.

There were only a few of us that morning. I just forget who was there besides Mary and Joanna and me. But we didn't think a few women could move the boulder on our own.

Isn't that the way, though? You get so focused on the problem you expect, spend all your worry on that one thing –and then it's something completely different which changes your day – changes your life!

The tomb was already open when we got there –like a mouth in the rock shouting at us.

But we couldn't hear its joy. We were so fixed on what we expected to do. We wanted to honour Jesus. Honour his body after all he'd been through. But isn't that the way, though? You have a plan. You know how things ought to happen. And then God turns your world upside down.

At that moment, when we couldn't find the body, we didn't know what was going on. Didn't have a clue. I was a witness. I was there. We looked and looked, and all we could see was an empty stone ledge.

**UNISON PRAYER 1: God of mystery, we journeyed here on Easter morning, seeking to find you. We *know* the Easter story yet we do not always *understand* what is happening. Open our hearts to be surprised, just as the women were when they found the tomb empty. Amen.**

**HYMN            Be still and know that I am God #64 verse 1**

**GOSPEL            Luke 24:3-5            [B#90/W#91]**

**REFLECTION**

We were perplexed, all right. We had been there when they handed Jesus over to the soldiers. He could barely walk by his own strength. And we were there while he was hanging on that cross. We saw him die; we heard him die. We watched as they took his body down. We followed Joseph to the tomb. We were there, all of us women. I was a witness. We were there.

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After the Sabbath, we were ready. We had the spices; we had it all worked out. But we weren't counting on angels. I ask you, do you expect an angel, dazzling in your eyes on the saddest day of your life? They were so bright, we threw ourselves on the ground in front of them.

But those angels, they sounded as if we should have known better! "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" Well, Angel, were you there when they crucified my Lord? Did you see him suffer? Did you hear him breathe his last desperate breath? I was a witness. I was there.

My heart was broken on Friday. And you don't get over a broken heart in a couple of days!

But then hindsight is so much clearer, isn't it? When I look back now, after all these years, I can see how God was at work. In Jesus. In our very midst. All those years.

But face to face with that angel, I didn't know what to say. Still, my heart started to beat a little faster. Jesus definitely was not there. But I was. I was a witness. And he was not there.

**UNISON PRAYER 2: God of mystery, we can understand why those women were perplexed. We know the Easter story but we do not understand how things happened as that day dawned. Yet your gift of hope is dazzling to us, too. We would like to believe that death is not the end.**

**HYMN            Be still and know that I am God #64 verse 2**

**GOSPEL        LUKE 24:5-11                    [B#90/W#91]**

### **REFLECTION**

Remember how he told you ... Remember?

Of course we remembered being with Jesus in Galilee. We women were always there, watching, listening, herding the children, organizing lunch.

Of course we remembered Jesus in Galilee. How he spoke. How he taught us that God's kingdom was like a woman baking, flour up to her elbows, waiting for the yeast to rise.

Jesus had been watching us, listening to us, too. I remember how he loved the children near by, under his feet. I remember how he loved a good meal, a good laugh. I remember how he loved to tell a good story, how he made me think. I was there in Galilee. I was a witness.

I remember when he told us that the Son of Man would be rejected and killed. But I didn't want to hear it. I didn't want to believe Jesus would die. Not so soon. Not in so much pain. I remember but I didn't want to. Not then.

Then again, hindsight is so much clearer, isn't it? When I look back now, after all these years, I can see how God was at work. In Jesus. In our very midst. Right beside us all those years. I remember his clear hope that all God's people would come from east and west, from north and south to eat together in God's kingdom. I just didn't understand Jesus would have to die to bring people to the table together. To make peace between us.

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Still, I remember when he was dying. With his last breath, he said to God, "Into your hands I commend my spirit." I was a witness. I was there.

And now I see he was giving his spirit to us; putting his spirit into our hands so that we can take his peace with us wherever we go. To bring all God's people to the table together. Jesus rises in us, in his friends, in our broken hearts. He rises to put us back together again so we can befriend the world, make peace for all God's people in his name.

Hindsight is so much clearer, isn't it? When I look back now, I can see how God was at work. In Jesus. In our very midst. And still is. That morning, when we remembered what we'd known all along, we ran back to tell the others. Jesus is risen. And we've got work to do – in his name. You know what those disciples said? It's all idle chatter. An old wives' tale. But I know. I was there. I was a witness. And as Peter found out, hindsight is always so much clearer!

**HYMN            Be still and know that I am God #64 VERSE 3**

**GOSPEL        LUKE 24.12                    [B#90/W#92]**

May God bless our understanding of this God's holy word. **The word of God.**

### **TO RESPOND IN FAITH**

#### **THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO GOD**

**QUOTE** Christian stewardship recognizes that everything we have belongs to God and that we are called to care for all that God has given to us. We are honoured to be given this role.  
The Church of Scotland

### **INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

On this Easter day, we come to the table to remember our future with Christ. We remember Jesus declared that people will come from east and west and north and south to sit at table in God's kingdom. Remember – the Risen Christ has spread this joyful feast for you. Taste and see that God is good.

**HYMN            Jesus Christ is risen today    243**

### **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**THE APOSTLES' CREED    [in unison]    #539**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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### **THE STORY OF THE TABLE**

When we gather at this table, we remember how this meal began, how it has promised hope and new life to Jesus' friends from one generation to the next. Often, when we gather, we remember bread and wine shared around a table one solemn, holy night.

Today we remember another day, the first Easter day, when Jesus appeared to friends along a road. But they were too sad and tired to recognise him. So he came to the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, then they recognised him.

As we break this bread and share this cup in the name of our Risen Christ, may our eyes be opened to recognize Jesus present with us here.

And as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, let us thank God for what we are about receive.

### **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** [responsive] **#564**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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 God thanks and praise.**

Holy One, on this joyful Easter day, we offer you our gratitude and praise with hearts full of love, for we have seen your grace and power, rolling away the stone of sorrow and despair, bursting from the tomb in the gift of new life. And so we join our voices with all your creatures high and low, with all the saints before us and beside us, in heaven and on earth, to celebrate your resurrecting power. Therefore, with choirs of angels and archangels and with those of every time and place, we give you praise and glory. We join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Receive our praise and joy this day, O Christ. Your resurrection promises that there are new possibilities for us and our weary world. Even when we falter in discouragement, even if we hesitate at the news that your great love has come back to embrace us, You will not let us go. You call us by name to assure us of your love. You open your arms to welcome us back to your side. You spread this table for us, offering us not only the bread and wine, but your very self, present with us here and everywhere.

In joyful anticipation of sharing these gifts, we proclaim our faith And so, remembering Christ's life, love, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Spirit of Life, rising in us and around us, breathe upon us now and upon this bread and wine.  
May they be for us Christ's body and blood, gifts of new life, with the power to make us whole.  
As this bread and wine become a part of us, may we become a part of you, Jesus, united with  
you and with each other in love.

Dare us to live for justice and joy, trusting that all things will work together for good through the power of love that raised you from the dead, the power of the love we share in your name.

And all the people say, **Amen**

We boldly lift our voices to pray: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallow'ed be thy name.**

**Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**HYMN**      **Holy, holy, holy**      **#299**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND INVITATION

Jesus, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you: do this in remembrance of me.' [eat]

In the same way, he took the cup saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood: as often as you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.' [drink]

We break this bread, the communion in Christ's body once broken. We drink this cup, communion in Christ's blood once shed. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Eternal God, we thank you for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us and we praise you for breaking into the world. Send us out in peace for we have seen, have heard, and been fed by your grace. Keep us faithful and alert for signs of Christ's coming and lead us to live lives marked by truth and light, in the name of Jesus we pray.

Giving, life-giving God, with our gifts this day, receive our thanks and praise for the hope rising within us through the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Bless these gifts with your Holy Spirit so that they will bring hope to raise the hearts of those to whom we reach out in Jesus' holy name.

Before we call, you answer, God. Before we speak, you know our words. Hear our prayers. Let there be joy in Jerusalem, and peace among all nations. Let sounds of weeping and cries of distress turn to shouts of joy and laughter. Let infants grow and thrive; let the old dance like

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children. Let every person find a home and enjoy the fruit of their labor. Let the wolf and the lamb live in peace; let no one hurt or destroy another. We pray all this through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

**HYMN                      Amen                      #766**

### **TO GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME - COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

May the God of grace surround you. May the Risen Christ walk with you. May the Holy Spirit empower you to serve with joy and gladness, now and evermore. Amen.

**POSTLUDE                      Holy, Holy, Holy                      #623**

### **Let there be light #727**

Let there be light; let there be understanding; Let all the nations gather; let them be face to face.

Open our lips; open our minds to ponder; Open the door of concord, opening into grace.

Perish the sword; perish the angry judgement; Perish the bombs and hunger; perish the fight for gain.

Hallow our love

; hallow the deaths of martyrs; Hallow their holy freedom; hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come; your spirit turn to language; Your people speak together; your spirit never fade.

Let there be light; open our hearts to wonder; Perish the way of terror; hallow the world God made.

### **Be still and know that I am God #64**

1) Be still and know that I am God. x 3

2) I am the Lord that healeth thee. x 3

3) In thee, O Lord, I put my trust. x 3

### **The day of resurrection #249**

The day of resurrection Earth tell it out abroad The passover of gladness The passover of God  
From death to life eternal From earth unto the sky Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory

Our hearts be pure from evil That we may see aright The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection  
light And listening to His accents May hear so calm and plain His own all hail and hearing May  
raise the victor strain

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Now let the heavens be joyful Let earth her song begin The round world keep high triumph And  
all that is therein Let all things seen and unseen Their notes of gladness blend For Christ the  
Lord is risen Our joy that has no end

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### **Jesus Christ is risen today #243**

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah! Our triumphant holy day, hallelujah! Who did once upon  
the cross, hallelujah! Suffer to redeem our loss, hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah! Unto Christ our heavenly King, hallelujah! Who  
endured the cross and grave, hallelujah! Sinners to redeem and save, hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah! Our salvation have procured; hallelujah! Now above  
the sky he's King, hallelujah! Where the angels ever sing, hallelujah!

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah! Praise eternal as his love; hallelujah! Praise him, all ye  
heavenly host, hallelujah! Father, Son and Holy Ghost, hallelujah!

### **Holy, holy, holy #299**

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty! early in the morning our song shall rise to thee. Holy, holy,  
holy, merciful and mighty, God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy  
sea, cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee, who wert and art and evermore shalt be.  
Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee, though our eyes in sinfulness thy glory may not  
see, only thou art holy; there is none beside thee, perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty! all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and  
sea. Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty, God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

### **Amen #766**

Amen x 4

### **Holy, holy, holy #623**

**Refrain** Holy, holy, holy, God almighty, Lord! Holy, holy, holy, everywhere adored!

God without beginning, God, eternal One reigns and rules forever all beneath the sun. **Refrain**  
Power and love and wonder circling round God's throne, praise our God most holy, Lord of Life  
alone. **Refrain**