

Jasper United Church
March 31st, 2024
Easter Sunday

Mission Statement

“Our mission is to worship God and deepen our Christian faith. We strive to seek justice, be an inclusive, caring and accepting community, and to be stewards of God’s world.”

Christ has turned all our sunsets into dawns.
- Clement of Alexandria

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome

Territorial Acknowledgement

Announcements

Celebrations and Remembrances

Settling Moment

Lighting the Christ Candle

Friends, here is the light! Christ is risen!
The Living One is in our midst, now and forevermore!

Call to Worship (Based on Psalm 118)

O, give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.
God’s steadfast love endures forever.
Out of our distress, we called on the Lord.
God answered and set us in a broad place.
This is God’s Day! Let us Rejoice.
With the Lord on my side, I do not fear.
The Lord is on my side to help me.
The Lord is my strength and my might.

God has become my salvation.

I shall sing glad songs of victory in sacred places.

I shall not die but I shall live.

This is God’s Day! Let us Rejoice today!

Open to us the gates of righteousness.

That we may enter through them and give thanks to God.

The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

This is God’s doing and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good.

God’s steadfast love endures forever.

This is God’s Day! Let us Rejoice always! In all places!

Opening Hymn: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*

VU 155

Opening Prayer

God of the resurrected Christ

We have followed the path from wilderness to promise.

And we are here now!

Gathered in celebration of Your day.

Loves redeeming work is victorious.

Through your presence, let our hearts declare.

Amen

Prayer of Reconciliation & Words of Assurance

God of holy mystery.

This day amazes us.

Like the women at the tomb,

we are struck with awe and terror of it all.

Grant us sure and steady feet to run and share this good news.

And should we falter, worry about the practicality of it all,

remind us that tombstones are rolled away when we dare to give

our whole hearts to the anointing of You.

Guide us as your disciples,

Trusting in what we cannot see but can most assuredly know.

Words of Assurance

This is the promise; God's love goes ahead of us.
Surrender your disbelief, and let your hunger be nourished.
This is the resurrection,
The blessing that calls out to you,
It waits for you even as it already embraces you.
Reach out your hands and touch.
It is there. It is here.
This is the resurrection.
Amen

Conversation Time: The Story of Takhi

Greening of the Cross

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

O God for whom there are no barriers,
no stones too big to remove,
roll away our resistance to you.
Let your words fill us with new life
and bring us out from the tomb of indifference,
alive again in you.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.
(Celebrate God's Presence, 197)

Scripture Readings

Acts 10 : 34 - 43

Psalm 118 : 1 - 2, 14 – 24 VU 837 (Part One, Two and Three)

Mark 16 : 1 - 8

This is the witness of the Church.
Thanks be to God.

Reflection:

Hymn: *Hey Now Singing Hallelujah!*

MV 121

GOD NURTURES – WE RESPOND

M&S

Offering Hymn: *This is the Day That God Has Made*
(Refrain Only)

VU 175

Offering Prayer

Easter reminds us of God's generous love for us. With thanksgiving and deep gratitude, we offer our gifts for God's use for the goodness of justice and love in the world. And just as we have offered our gifts, may we too continue to offer ourselves to God's service. Through these gifts and in our lives, we live in resurrection hope. Amen

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

WE GO FORTH

Closing Hymn: *Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks*

VU 179

Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God
Worship Leader: Rev. Linda McLaren
Pianist: John Madeline