

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinabek Nations, and the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation. This territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

This territory is also covered by the Toronto Purchase, Treaty 13 of 1805, and the Williams Treaties of 1923. Today, our community is home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

We gather by these territorial lands and waters to worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RICHMOND HILL

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024

PRELUDE *Ethan Kwan*

GATHERING

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

HYMN ELW # 836 JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

**Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,
Praising thee their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!**

**All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,
All who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.**

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism,
as the presiding minister begins*

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font as the presiding minister gives thanks.

We thank you, risen Christ,

For these waters where you make us new,

Leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us
in the grace-filled waters of rebirth,

like rains to our thirsting earth, like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.

Clothe us with mercy and forgiveness.

Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.

Cleanse our hearts.

Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God, now and forever.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

You are gracious and merciful, O God, slow to anger, rich in love. Receive our prayers as you have promised and uphold us by your Spirit, until all things, mended by your mercy, are made whole and well in you, through Jesus Christ, our healer and hope.

Amen.

WORD

ACTS 4:5-12 **Brian**

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 23 **Brian**

The Lord is my shepherd,

I shall not be in want.

The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures;
and leads me beside still waters;

You restore my soul, O Lord.

And guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; **for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;

you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

1 JOHN 3:16-24 **Brian**

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Jesus says, I am the good shepherd.

I know my own and my own know me. **Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

JOHN 10:11-18

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN: ELW # 502 THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS

**The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am his, and he is mine forever.**

**Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth;
and where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.**

**Perverse and foolish, oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me;
and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.**

**In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me;
thy rod and staff my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.**

**Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth;
and oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!**

**And so through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.**

THE CELTIC CREED

**We believe in God above us, maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon, of water and earth, of male and female.**

**We believe in God beside us, Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,
born of a woman, servant of the poor, tortured and nailed to a tree.
A man of sorrows, he died forsaken.**

He descended into the earth to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb.

**He ascended into heaven, to be everywhere present,
and His kingdom will come on earth.**

**We believe in God within us, the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church, Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of eternal life.**

Amen.

PRAYERS FOR THE EARTH IN HONOUR OF EARTH DAY **Brian**

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

A brief silence.

Holy Spirit, you move through all creation with sighs too deep for words. Open our hearts to listen to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. Speak through your church to rebuke the forces that seek to exploit your planet. Join our human prayers with the voices of all creation and move us to honour you by preserving the gifts of nature that reveal your glory.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God, whose Spirit moved over the deep: we thank you for the gift of water- the waters on the earth and under the earth, the water above us, and within us. Make us mindful of the care of all the planet's water, that it may richly sustain life for us and for those who come after us, through Jesus Christ, source of living water.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, who set the stars in their places and directs the course of the planets; who robed this earth with a thin garment of air, making it a haven of beauty and life; who breathed into each of us the breath of life: We thank you of the gift of air. Create in us such a sense of wonder and delight in this and in all your gifts, that we receive them with gratitude, care for them with love, and generously share them with all your creatures.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creator God, who lifted up the mountains and formed the dry land; whose hands shaped us; out of the dust of the earth who formed the soils and made this earth a place of beauty and abundance: we give you thanks for the for the land.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God, creator of all living things, you fashioned a world in which lands and waterways, plants and animals, together meet the needs of all that you made. We pray that such vitality may flourish around the globe. Bless those who work the soil and who manage animals. Uphold their towns and villages. Nurture bees and the pollinators. Protect farmlands and ranches from drought and flood. Free children from forced labour in the fields. Grand an economy that can sustain those families who treasure a rural life. Teach us how to share with everyone the benefits of each harvest, and accept our gratitude for all sustenance you provide.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Stir up your power, O God, and save your good creation. The earth groans in travail. Forests fall, oceans rise, crops fail. The air is thick with so much burning. Free us from the powerful who destroy the air, water, and land. Pour out over the earth justice that rolls down like water to nourish the life of the world. Restore the choir of your creatures and let us sing for joy. Gather us at your river, under the tree of life. Send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth; in the name of the one who from a wounded tree birthed a new creation, Jesus, our redeemer.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.....

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.**

**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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING

The offering will now be received and may God bless the gifts of your life

OFFERING PRAYER **Brian**

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us and what we gave gathered in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith,

as we are being rooted and grounded in love,
strengthened by the Spirit,
and filled with all the fullness of God.
Amen.

HYMN: ELW # 536 GOD BE WITH YOU TIL WE MEET AGAIN

**God be with you till we meet again,
By His counsels guide, uphold you,
With a shepherds care enfold you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

***Refrain:* Till we meet, till we meet,
Till we meet at Jesus' feet;
Till we meet, till we meet,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again,
Holy wings securely hide you,
Daily manna still provide you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

**God be with you till we meet again,
When life's perils thick confound you,
Put unfailing arms round you,
God be with you till we meet again.**

DISMISSAL **Brian**

Alleluia! Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!
You are the body of Christ raised up for the world.
Go in peace. Share the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Ethan Kwan*

