

Today's bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of
Nina and Cyril Fraize
 From Carol & Geoff Pike and family

St. James United Church

April 8, 2012
 11:00 a.m.



Minister:	Rev. Bill Bartlett
C.E. Lay Minister:	Susan Sheppard
Minister of Visitation:	Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Organist/Sr. Choir Director:	Philip Roberts
Assistant Organist:	Allan Morgan

Theme:
 In the story of Easter, God raised Jesus from death to life, the women from fear to witness, and his disciples from scattering to home-gathering. In our Celebration of the resurrection, we also celebrate life's promise. Thanks be to God!

Organ Prelude:

Welcome:

Introit:

Call To Worship: (responsive)

L: She stood at the empty tomb dumbfounded. It is possible that:

P: Christ is risen?

L: They heard it from Mary later that morning, but was it really true that:

P: Christ is risen?

L: We stand beside the empty tombs of our broken dreams, our shattered plans, and our frayed hopes, and we wonder if it can really happen again that:

P: Christ is risen.

L: Yes, it is not only possible, it is true:

All: Christ is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

P: let us go forth with faith.

L: Like fishers pulling heavy nets,

P: let us go forth with abundant life.

Benediction:

May the blessing of the garden be yours. May the presence of the Gardener call you by your name, infusing you with wonder and gratitude. May the new day's dawning speak to your soul of all that lies waiting for you in fulfillment and unfolding of life's beauty. May the hope of this day bring you to a new beginning, that all your days will be filled with Christ. Amen.

Organ Postlude:

Resources for the worship service taken from GATHERINGS & Celebrate God's Presence.

Head Ushers: Jack and Florence Head

Greeters: Eric and Betty Patey

Ushers: Albert and Vickie Styles
 Cecil and Audrey Templeman
 Oliver Wellon
 Bruce Hunt

We wish you the spiritual blessings of Easter. May the Risen Christ find a place in your life this Easter season.



Prayer Of Approach: (unison)

God of amazing grace, on this joyful Easter morning we come to be given new life. Some of us need new life in our aching bodies; some of us need new life in our skeptical minds; some of us need new life in our fearful hearts. Renew us; resurrect us, O God, as you resurrected Jesus. We want to be an Easter people with an Alleluia for our song. Amen.

Hymn: Thine is the Glory 173

Time with Our Children and Youth

Hymn: Joy Comes With the Dawn 166

Prayer of Confession: (responsive)

L: For all who have come this day seeking a risen Lord, for all who have come looking for a peace they thought they lost, for all those who have come wanting to be set free from the things that bind you, rejoice!

P: **This is Easter Day, the centre of our lives as Christian people. On this day we celebrate by an empty tomb, an empty cross, and a God who is full of love and compassion.**

All: **Let us continue on this Easter road knowing the risen Christ walks with us. Thanks be to God!**

Words of Assurance:

As the sun melts the ice in spring, as blossoms burst forth on dry branches—so God’s warmth heals and transforms the deadness and brokenness within us. In Christ we are a forgiven people! Thanks be to God!

Offertory Invitation:

L: God raised Jesus to say “YES” to life. In our culture we often dance gingerly around the story, being hung up on logic, rationally dissecting it. Instead, this morning let us dance with the Resurrected Lord of Easter. Let us live as Easter people and offer our very lives to God.

Offertory:

Offertory Hymn: I Danced in the Morning vs. 5

Offertory Prayer:

Life-giving God, our very being is transformed this Easter. We have encountered the living Christ! It is in gratitude that we express our faith, offered in commitment and resources. May the joy of the blessed day continue through these gifts. Amen.

Life and Work at St. James:

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 25: 6-9 Kirsten McDonald
God provides a rich feast.

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
An account of Jesus’ resurrection appearances.

Anthem: Easter Celebration

Gospel: John 20: 1-18
The resurrected Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene.

Hymn: Rejoice the Lord is King 213

Sermon: The Freedom of Easter

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer:

Hymn: Christ the Lord is Risen Today 157

Commissioning: (responsive)

L: Like the woman who ran to share the Good News of the empty tomb,

P: **let us go forth with joy.**

L: Like the travelers walking on the Emmaus Road,

P: **let us go forth with opened eyes.**

L: Like the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit,

P: **let us go forth with peace.**

L: Like Thomas, filled with doubt,

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