



SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED

St. James' United Church Christian Education Committee Newsletter

Welcome

From Pamela Norman, Chair of the Christian Education Committee

We have made it through Winter, that time of year when many of us retreat to a form of hibernation, made necessary by the shorter days and inclement weather but exacerbated this year by the need to "Bubble." The days are a now a little longer and brighter, hopefully a little warmer. Signs of life begin to emerge all around us. Songbirds are beginning to return and once again grace our gardens with gentle melody. Bulbs lovingly planted as just a figment of future life near the end of the last growing season are finding their way out of the dark, morphing into new blossoms.

Our Lord has written the promise of the Resurrection,
not in books alone, but in every leaf in Springtime!

- Martin Luther

We have also travelled through the season of Lent, that time of year in which we prepare our souls and our selves for the Good News of Easter. Faith formation is a journey that propels us forward with each silent reflection, each spiritual encounter that encourages us to grow in our beliefs.

We encourage you to browse our newsletter over the Easter holidays and reflect upon anything that inspires you. There is a contribution from many of our regular groups for you to ruminate over when you have time. Pick away at a craft or pluck away at a song. Bake a treat or read a passage. Enjoy!

Pamela

Resurrection

[rez-uh-rek-shuhn]

1. *Origin:* Middle English from Old French, from late Latin resurrectio(n-), from the verb resurgere 'rise again'
2. *Noun:* the act of bringing something that had disappeared or ended back into use or existence.
3. In the Christian religion, the Resurrection is Jesus Christ's return to life on the third day after his death, or the return of all people to life at the end of the world.



The Easter Blessing of Hope

From Rev. Ettie Gordon-Murray, Member of the Christian Education Committee

Hello Friends,

As our Lenten journey takes us closer and closer to Good Friday and Easter Day when we commemorate the hope-filled Resurrection of Jesus and its meaning in our lives, it is my pleasure to share some thoughts on Easter with you.

Easter is a spring festival – a time in nature when we witness new growth all around us – trees sprout leaves, bulbs reveal their diverse secrets of colour, scent, and shape; in daily living we experience new beginning places in our many relationships at work, at play, amongst family and friends.

At the loss of a dear friend or a loved one we also experience new beginnings that might not seem apparent at the time. We, like the first disciples who discovered Jesus' empty tomb, may doubt the possibility that death's sting is not the final word in our relationships with those we love. As the first disciples experienced the risen Christ in their midst and the continuing bond of love's power to transcend all barriers we can, in a phrase, a familiar gesture, or a vision to know the bonds we share have not gone forever.

Mary Magdalene learned this on the first Easter Day [what do you think of a capital 'D' Here?] when she mistakenly took Jesus for the gardener (John: 20:14-20). While they did not recognize Jesus walking beside them on the Road to Emmaus, Cleopas and another follower recognized him in the familiar action of the breaking of bread as they shared a meal together (Luke 24: 30-31),

As 21st century of followers of the Way of Jesus, in the middle of the uncertainty of a worldwide pandemic, let us go into the future with hope of resurrection while we continue to share our story with conviction.

With that in mind, I leave you with the words of June Boyce-Tillman's inspirational song "We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection" to ponder as impetus for action even in pandemic times.

We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection

VU 586 (Londonderry Air)

We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.

We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,
we'll dream our dream of hurts that can be healed,
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.

We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.
We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story
including all within the circles of our love.

*Jesus the Christ is risen – Hallelujah!
This is our Easter joy.
Peace, health, love*

Ettie



Holy Week Readings

Monday

- Isaiah 42:1-9
- Psalm 36:5-11
- Hebrews 9:11-15
- John 12:1-11



Tuesday

- Isaiah 49:1-7
- Psalm 71:1-14
- 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
- John 12:20-36



Wednesday

- Isaiah 50:4-9
- Psalm 70
- Hebrews 12:1-3
- John 13:21-32



Maundy Thursday

- Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14
- Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- John 13:1-17, 31b-35



Good Friday

- Isaiah 52:13-53:12
- Psalm 22
- Hebrews 10:16-25
- John 18: 1-19:42





Season of Easter Weekly Readings

Easter Day - April 4, 2021

Easter Day - We participate in the defining story of our faith, as we witness disciples encounter the risen Christ and begin a new transformational journey.

- Isaiah 25:6-9
- Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- Acts 10:34-43
- John 20:1-18 & Mark 16:1-8

Read both Gospel stories side by side and reflect on the differences. What is your own Easter experience like?

Easter 2 - April 11, 2021

Seen, Heard and Known - We pay close attention to Thomas who, having not seen, heard, nor believed what the other disciples encountered on that first Easter evening, moves from an absent to a joyful participant.

- Acts 4:32-35
- Psalm 133
- 1 John 1:1-2:2
- John 20:19-31

Life is a shared experience. Joy is contagious. Upon experiencing the Resurrection, the disciples are sent out. We, too, are sent to proclaim the good news. But do we still linger within our walls? Make it your mission this week to look for occasions to breathe peace into a situation of fear.

Easter 3 - April 18, 2021

We are Witnesses - We, with the first disciples, are called to proclaim the radical love in the Easter story.

- Acts 3:12-19
- Psalm 4
- 1 John 3:1-7
- Luke 24:36b-48

Here it is again - another story when Jesus encounters the disciples after the Resurrection and greets them with a word of peace. This encounter, however, doesn't seem to calm the disciples but stirs them up. When does being a Christ-like peace bearer stir things up? Search the internet about peace bearers. Explore your own sense of call to be a peace bearer.

Easter 4 - April 25, 2021

Love is a Verb - We imagine God's ultimate care for humankind through the essential qualities of a good shepherd.

- Acts 4:5-12
- Psalm 23
- 1 John 3:16-24
- John 10:11-18

Jesus identifies himself in terms that people of his day could understand. Being a good shepherd is linked to knowing the sheep and laying down one's

life for the sheep. Although this is a metaphor for Jesus caring for his followers, take time to consider how you have done love or had love done to you.

Easter 5 - May 2, 2021

Beloved, Be Loved, Be Love - As we move through the Easter season, we bring our questions "How should we live as Christians? How do we share the good news? What is new life?" and discover the answer is love.

- Acts 8:26-40
- Psalm 22:25-31
- 1 John 4:7-21
- John 15:1-8

Jesus proclaims, "I am the vine." When taking care of a plant, the branches must be pruned for the plant to thrive. The connection, to the source of life and community, is vital to our Christian faith. Consider what aspects of your faith life are bearing lots of fruit...consider what areas might need pruning.

Easter 6 - May 9, 2021

The Joy of Love - As a psalmist sings mightily and joyfully in celebration of the enacted love of God, we consider ways we might weave exuberant expressions of praise with the command to love as Jesus loves.

- Acts 10:44-48
- Psalm 98
- 1 John 5:1-6
- John 15:9-17

"...love one another." These are the words of Jesus to his followers; so simple, and yet not always so easy. Write, blog, draw, Tweet, or post images on your social media page about what love means to you.

Easter 7 - May 16, 2021

Join the Witness - Sustained by the indwelling Holy Spirit, the instruction of scripture within the community of faith, and through a prayerful relationship with God, the Jesus story continues in the lives of his followers.

- Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
- Psalm 1
- 1 John 5:9-13
- John 17:6-19

How do you make decisions? In the story, the followers of Jesus pray and roll the dice as a way of discerning who will be added to the eleven apostles. Reflect on what combination of head, heart, and gut you employ in making your own decisions. How do you invite God into the process?

Handprint Lilies

Easter craft idea! (onelittleproject.com/handprint-lilies/)



Materials

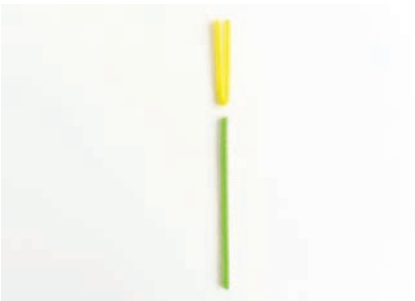
- Pink or white printer paper
- 6 " Green pipe cleaner
- 6 " Yellow pipe cleaner
- Pencil
- Tape
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Trace the outline of your hand onto a piece of paper.
2. Cut out the handprint. Use an eraser to carefully erase any pencil marks that are on the paper hand shape after you cut it.
3. Curl the bottom of the hand shape into a cone, leaving a very small hole at the tip of the cone, just large enough to fit a pipe cleaner through. The pipe cleaner needs to be snug, so make sure the hole is small.
4. Use a small piece of tape to hold it together.
5. Use a round pencil, pencil crayon, or marker to curl each one of the fingers of the handprint outwards.



6. Bend the yellow pipe cleaner in half. Make a small "J" shaped hook on the end of the green pipe cleaner and loop it over the bend in the yellow pipe cleaner. Pinch the "J" shape in the green pipe cleaner so it tightly holds the yellow pipe cleaner.



7. Bend one side of the yellow pipe cleaner in half again, leaving the other side straight. Then take the longer end of the yellow pipe cleaner and wrap it tightly around the shorter bent sides of the yellow pipe cleaner. Keep wrapping tightly until you reach the end of the yellow pipe cleaner.
8. Take the pipe cleaner stem and poke it through the middle of the hand print flower, pulling it all the way through so the green stem is below the flower and the yellow part is in the middle of the flower
9. Repeat all of these steps to make a small bouquet, then tie it together with a ribbon.

Easter Evolution, From Pagan to Christian Festival

Susan Sheppard, DLM

Have you ever wondered why we celebrate Easter with eggs and rabbits? What about the roaming date of the feast day? At first glance these things don't seem to make much sense within the Christian story of Easter. In fact they have their roots in the ancient customs and festivals of Pagan Europe.

Easter actually began as a pagan festival celebrating spring long before the advent of Christianity.

Since pre-historic times, people have celebrated the equinoxes and the solstices as sacred times. People mapped their whole life according to these and other patterns of nature.

In the early centuries after Jesus' life, feast days in the new Christian church were attached to old pagan festivals. Spring festivals with the theme of new life and relief from the cold of winter became connected explicitly to Jesus having conquered death by being resurrected after the crucifixion.

In 325AD the first major church council, the Council of Nicaea, determined that

Easter should fall on the Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. That is why the date moves between March 25 and April 25 and why Easter festivities are often referred to as "moveable feasts".

In most countries in Europe, the name for Easter is derived from the Jewish festival of Passover. So in Greek the feast is called Pascha, in Italian Pasqua, in Danish it is Paaske, and in French it is Paques. But in English-speaking countries, and in Germany, Easter takes its name from Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring and renewal, who was described in a book by the eighth-century English monk Bede. In Germany the festival is called Ostern, and the goddess is called Ostara.

Many of the pagan customs associated with the celebration of spring eventually became absorbed within Christianity as symbols of the resurrection of Jesus.

Eggs, as a symbol of new life and a new dawn, after the chill of the winter months, nature was coming to life again. With the spread of Christianity, eggs became a common peoples explanation of the resurrection, Christ breaking forth from the tomb.

During the Middle Ages, people began decorating eggs and eating them as a treat following mass on Easter Sunday after fasting through Lent. This is actually something that still happens, especially in eastern European countries like Poland.

The custom of decorating hard-boiled eggs or blown eggs is still a very popular folk custom, while eggs of chocolate have become the egg of choice for children.



Rabbits and hares have long been associated with fertility and were symbols linked to the goddess Eostre. The first association of the rabbit with Easter was a mention of the "Easter hare" in a book by German professor of medicine Georg Franck von Franckennau published in 1722. He recalls a folktale that hares would hide coloured eggs that children hunted for, which suggests that as early as the 18th century, decorated eggs were hidden in gardens for egg hunts.

This Easter, remember the deeper roots of our traditions, how their meaning was changed by the spread of the Christian religion but how they continue to be tied to the natural world and its awakening and rebirth around us.

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

Susan Sheppard, DLM

As we probably will be unable to gather for our annual Good Friday Neighbourhood Prayer Walk this year so I have put together a walk you can do in your own neighbourhood or downtown at the sites indicated. These meditations are to remind you of Jesus' story to the cross and can be done alone or with your bubble. Bring with you a copy of this script, a new testament, a candle and lighter.

Station 1

Supreme Court Building on Water Street

"Christ is condemned to death"

Reading: John 19:1-16

Reflection: Sent to death by a crowd. Imagine the chaos of the scene. No judge or jury. No formalities of court. This was a court shouting for blood. Many of them may have welcomed Jesus with Palm branches the week before. Maybe Jesus just wasn't the sort of King they wanted. How do you react?

Prayer: Lord, when you were misunderstood, You silently forgave: but we so often respond in anger, Lord have mercy. Amen.

Activity: Take a moment of silence. Offer forgiveness in your heart to anyone you need to.



Station 2

The Outfitters, Water Street

"Jesus is flogged by the soldiers and the Cross is laid upon Jesus as he begins his journey"

Reading: Matthew 27:27-31

Reflection: Jesus' journey begins with a cross. One made by human hands. A device of human torture.

Prayer: Creator, we too often lay the burden of care for those around us and creation on the backs of others. Help us to shoulder our share of the responsibility as we continue our journey of life.
Amen

Activity: As you walk along Water Street to the next stop, consider in these short steps the journey Jesus took along the streets of Jerusalem.



Station 3

Entrance to George Street at Yellowbelly and NONIA

Christ falls for the first time

Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Reflection: Traditional Stations of the Cross meditations have Jesus falling three times. It's hardly surprising. The weight of the cross. A night of punishment and torture. The pain he has already endured. The agony to come. Look at the cobbles in the street. Imagine carrying a heavy load and falling on them.

Prayer: Lord you embraced and shouldered Your cross, but your body was weak. Your body is still weak; we shrink from the weight of suffering. In our weakness, Lord, we pray. Your will be done.
Amen.

Activity: Stay a moment here. Find somewhere to sit. As you take the weight off your feet, realize Jesus didn't have this option. What a gift rest feels. How do you feel about the perseverance he showed just to get to Calvary?



Station 4

Williams Lane, connecting George Street and Water Street

Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry the cross

Reading: Luke 23: 26-31

Reflection: The streets of Jerusalem were tight and close. Rammed with people. Walk through Williams Lane and imagine how it felt. Simon was given the cross to carry. Here was Jesus needing help, in pain, tortured. His cross carried. We are called to pick up our own cross and to carry others.

Prayer: As Simon took the weight of the cross from Jesus, you have taught us that we must bear one another's burdens, and so fulfil the work of Christ. May we too carry your cross. Amen.

Activity: Find a spot in the alley. Wait in silence. Ask God to speak to you.



Station 5

Chafe and Sons Ltd, 330 Water Street

Jesus is stripped of his garments

Reading: Mark 15: 24

Reflection: He was left with nothing. Naked before the world.

Prayer: The Love that clothes itself in light,
Stands naked now, despised, betrayed,
Receiving blows to face and head
From hands that Love itself has made. Amen. (VU137 v1)

Activity: You are standing in front of a clothing store. One of many in our city. When we need clothes we can get them. How do you feel?



Station 6

Sergeants' Memorial, Queen's Road

Jesus is crucified

Reading: John 19:16-27

Reflection: A man of peace crucified. Read the words. Let them sink in. Shocking. Incredible.

Prayer: Love, helpless, comes to Calvary,
Rejected, scorned and crucified;
Love hangs in shame, and dies alone;
But Love abased, is glorified. Amen.
(VU137, v3)

Activity: Spend some time reflecting on where Jesus' journey has brought him.



Station 7

The National War Memorial, Duckworth Street

Jesus dies on the cross

Reading: Luke 23:44-49

Reflection: Has love died? We live between two eternities. Each birth causes us to wonder where the spark of life comes from. Every death makes us wonder what of that life survives. Another wonder. Another miracle.

Prayer: Be silent.

Activity: If you have brought a candle, light it now. Reflect on the ways of Jesus.



Station 8

HarbourSide Park, Water Street

Jesus is laid in the tomb

Reading: Luke 23:50-56

Reflection: Jesus was laid in a borrowed tomb. It was sealed, with Roman guards ensuring the disciples didn't try anything. The Jewish leaders thought this was the end of the story. We know it as the beginning of a new chapter. To those who loved him it must have felt like the end.

Prayer: Though Love is lost, Love finds us here;
Though Love is absent, Love remains;
Where Love is finished, Love begins;
Where Love is dead, Love lives and reigns! Amen
(VU137 v5)

Activity: Find a spot where you can sit. Reflect on the story. Worship and give thanks.



The Story of the Jelly Beans & Jelly Bean Bark

By Lacy Lynch (catholicicing.com/the-jelly-bean-prayer-free-downlod/)

White is for the bread they broke before the sad event,
 Black is for the dark night in the garden where Jesus went.
 Orange is for the sunrise on the day of His arrest,
 Purple for the robe he wore- a "king" they called in jest.
 Red is for the blood He spilled which was for me and you,
 Pink is for His mother, whose heart broke into two.
 The grass outside the tomb was green when Mary Magdalene arrived,
 And yellow is for her shock to find out Jesus was alive!!!

How To Make Easy Jelly Bean Bark (In The Microwave!)

(catholicicing.com/how-to-make-easy-jelly-bean-bark/)

Ingredients:

- White "candy melts"
- Jelly Beans
- Sprinkles

Supplies Needed

- parchment paper or wax paper
- a cookie sheet
- spatula
- space in the fridge for your cookie sheet

Directions

Melting The White Chocolate

- Follow the directions on the bag of whatever version of white chocolate you are using.

Spreading The Jelly Bean Bark

- When you have your white chocolate melted without any blobs left in it, you're ready to make your bark!
- First, lay your parchment paper across your cookie sheet.
- Spread the white chocolate across your parchment paper with the spatula. You want it to be about half of a centimeter thick, spreading it across the sheet.
- It will never be perfectly smooth, so you may as well make some swirls with the spatula across the top. Everything that looks intentional looks better than something that doesn't!



Adding The Jelly Beans And Sprinkles

- As soon as you're done spreading while your white chocolate is still warm, sprinkle the jelly beans across the top. You don't want to mix them into the white chocolate because then you won't see their beautiful color.
- When you have sprinkled your desired number of jelly beans, gently push each one straight down into the white chocolate to insure it will be held there when the chocolate hardens.
- When you're finished pushing the jelly beans down, sprinkle the top with your rainbow sprinkles- as many as you like!



Hardening The White Chocolate

- To harden your jelly bean bark, place your cookie sheet in the refrigerator for 15-20 minutes.

Break And Serve!

- As you can see here the jelly bean bark is quite sturdy when it's done, and it will be hardened into one large piece. Just break that piece apart into random chunks until they are the desired serving size.

Made with Love

(Image Source: <https://www.gathered.how/knitting-and-crochet/crochet/top-10-free-easter-crochet-patterns>)

Springtime is a time of rebirth, of making anew. We see this reflected in the spiritual world through the Resurrection, and in the natural world with the awakening of new life after the cold of winter. In the spirit of making, why not partake in these Easter-themed projects, and craft something beautiful.



Easter Bunny Bunting

<https://www.gathered.how/knitting-and-crochet/crochet/free-easter-bunny-bunting-crochet-pattern/>



Ragdoll Spring Bunny

<https://spinayarncrochet.com/ragdoll-spring-bunny-free-crochet-pattern/>



Bunny Baby Blanket

<https://www.gathered.how/knitting-and-crochet/crochet/free-easter-bunny-crochet-baby-blanket-pattern/>



Snuggle Bunny Quilt

<https://www.gathered.how/sewing-and-quilting/quilting/snuggle-bunny-free-bunny-quilt-pattern/>



Bunny Ears

<https://www.gathered.how/knitting-and-crochet/crochet/free-easter-bunny-ears-pattern/>



Bunny

<https://www.gathered.how/sewing-and-quilting/sewing/cute-easter-bunny/>

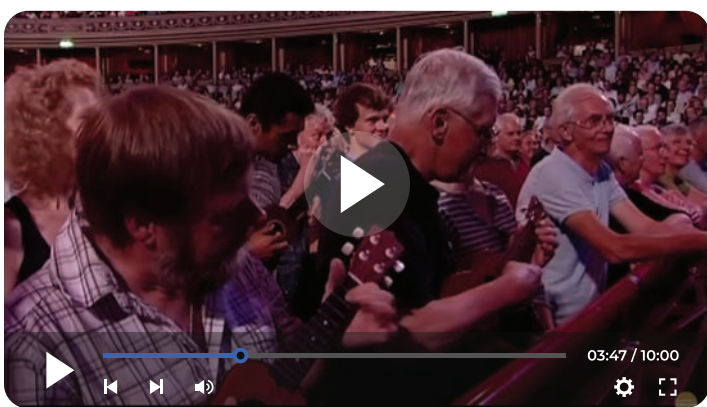
The Sound of the Season

My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you— I whom you have delivered. - Psalm 71:23

Music is a significant part of the human experience. During times of sorrow, times of happiness, or merely a little tune to fill the silence while we work, music is always a part of us.

During this season of resurrection, let us enjoy the music of our hearts and join in praise.

Please enjoy the following music videos.



<https://youtu.be/MJabN8VP8Gk>



https://youtu.be/j_xA026PXks

For those of you who enjoy the Ukulele, we've included a couple hymns for you to try, as well as a link to many more ukulele hymns: music-folk-play-hymns.com/
[Ukulele-Hymn-Tab](https://music-folk-play-hymns.com/)





Jesus Christ is Risen Today

(tabs.ultimate-guitar.com/tab/misc-praise-songs/jesus-christ-is-risen-today-chords-1732816)

[Verse 1]

C **F** **C** **F** **C** **G** **C**
 Jesus Christ is risen today, Al - le - lu - ia!

F **C** **Dm7** **G** **C** **F** **C** **G** **C**
 Our triumphant holy day, Al - le - lu - ia!

G **C** **G** **C** **G** **D** **G**
 Who did once upon the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!

G7 **C** **F** **C** **F** **C** **G7** **C**
 Suffer to redeem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!

[Verse 2]

C **F** **C** **F** **C** **G** **C**
 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!

F **C** **Dm7** **G** **C** **F** **C** **G** **C**
 Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Al - le - lu - ia!

G **C** **G** **C** **G** **D** **G**
 Who endured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!

G7 **C** **F** **C** **F** **C** **G7** **C**
 Sinners to redeem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!



[Verse 3]

C		F		C		F		C		G		C
But	the	pains	which	he	endured,	Al	-	le	-	lu	-	ia!
F		C		Dm7		G		C		F		C
Our	salvation	have	procured;	Al	-	le	-	lu	-	ia!		
G		C		G		C		G		D		G
Now	above	the	sky	he's	king,	Al	-	le	-	lu	-	ia!
G7		C		F		C		F		C		G7
Where	the	angels	ever	sing.	Al	-	le	-	lu	-	ia!	

[Verse 4]

C		F		C		F		C		G		C
Sing	we	to	our	God	above,	Al	-	le	-	lu	-	ia!
F		C		Dm7		G		C		F		C
Praise	eternal	as	his	love;	Al	-	le	-	lu	-	ia!	
G		C		G		C		G		D		G
Praise	him,	all	you	heavenly	host,	Al	-	le	-	lu	-	ia!
G7		C		F		C		F		C		G7
Father,	Son,	and	Holy	Ghost.	Al	-	le	-	lu	-	ia!	

That Easter Morn

MUSIC BY ROBERT CUNDICK

ARR. FOR UKULELE BY M. RYAN TAYLOR

3/4

Measures 1-6 of the piece. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The time signature is 3/4. The notation includes a treble clef and a ukulele tablature below. The tablature shows fingerings for the four strings (T, A, B, C).

7

Measures 7-12. Measure 7 starts with a repeat sign. Measure 12 ends with a repeat sign and a key signature change to two flats (Bb, Eb).

13

Measures 13-18. The key signature remains two flats. The notation includes a treble clef and a ukulele tablature below.

19

Measures 19-23. The key signature remains two flats. The notation includes a treble clef and a ukulele tablature below.

24

Measures 24-27. Measure 24 starts with a key signature change to one flat (Bb). Measure 27 ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to one sharp (F#).

