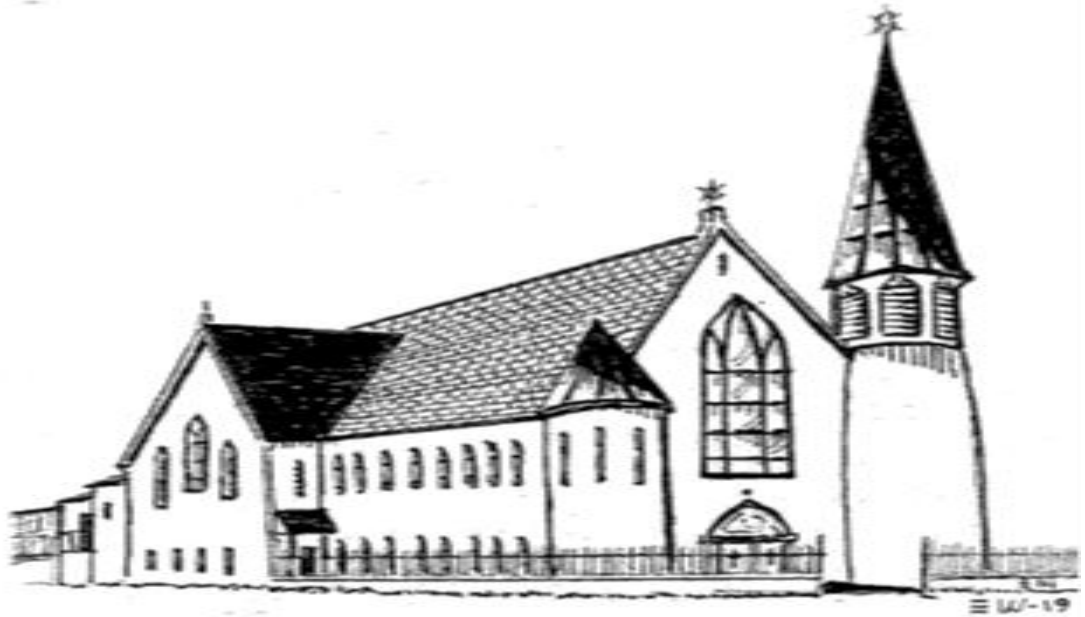


**GEORGE STREET UNITED
CHURCH
ROOTED IN THE ROCK:
TRANSFORMING FOR TOMORROW**



April 17th, 2022

Easter Sunday, Baptism, and Holy Communion

Worship Leader: Rev. John Maich B.C.S M.Div.

Assistant Organist & Choir Director:

William Green.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Organ Prelude

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome, and Announcements:

Sharing The Peace of Christ:

*Call To Worship:

ONE: Come all you that have hid and mourned in darkness!
Come and see the grave is empty and the dead have
been raised. Come embrace the fruits of Christ's labour
on the cross. Come and rejoice for what the Lord has
done!

ALL: In the light of day, we find the grave empty! Under
the warmth of God's love, we find sin and death
defeated and tossed aside as trash. In the light of
the resurrection, we feel aches and fatigue fall away
and life welling up within us. All hail the Son of
Righteousness and blessed be the Holy One of
Israel forever and ever!

***Hymn:** VU 155 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Opening Prayer: (in unison)

ALL: Blessed and glorious are you O Lord of life and
light! All praise to you Almighty God who from the
beginning has called out to us to join you. All
honour be to you Redeeming Christ who has
triumphed over sin and death! Praise be to you O
Holiest of Spirits for the work you accomplish in
our hearts. May we praise you, Triune God, this day
and forever. Amen.

***Hymn: VU 450 Here At This Font vv. 1-2**

Celebrating The Sacrament Of Baptism

***Hymn: VU 450 Here At This Font vv. 3-4**

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination (in unison):

ALL: Thank you God, for the ways that you have chosen to reveal yourself to us. Thank you for the whole of Creation and her testimony. Thank you for the words of your servants and their witness. Thank you for the gift of Jesus, your word made flesh and for his commandments. Touch our hearts and our ears that we may hear you anew.

Hebrew Lesson: Isaiah 25: 6-9 *Treva Aberle*

Epistle Lesson: Acts 10: 34-43

Anthem

Gospel Lesson: Luke 24: 1-12

Responsive Sermon:

The Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom

ONE: The Lord is risen.

ALL: **The Lord is risen indeed!**

ONE: If there are any devout and God loving people here, let them enjoy this beautiful, radiant

festival. If there are any prudent servants, enter joyously into the Lord's joy. Whoever may be spent from fasting, enjoy now your reward. Whoever has toiled from the first hour, receive today your just settlement. If any of you came after the third hour, celebrate gratefully. If any of you arrived after the sixth, have no misgivings, you have lost nothing. If some have been as late as the ninth, come forward, do not be at a loss. If any of you have arrived only at the eleventh hour do not be dismayed for being late. The Master is gracious. He accepts the last even as the first, He gives rest to those of the eleventh as well as to those who have laboured from the first. He is lenient with the last while looking after the first. To the one he gives to the other He gives freely; He accepts the labours and welcomes the effort; honours the deed, but commends the intent.

So, all of you, enter into the joy of our LORD: first and second share the bounty. Rich and poor alike, celebrate together. Sober or heedless, honour the day. Those who fasted and those who did not, rejoice today. The table is full, everyone fare sumptuously. The calf is fatted; no one go away hungry. Everyone, savour the banquet of faith; relish the riches of his goodness. No one need lament poverty for the Kingdom is seen as universal. No one need grieve over sins; forgiveness has dawned from the tomb. No one need fear death; the Saviour's death has freed us from it. He despoiled Hades as He descended into it; it was angered when it tasted his flesh. Foreseeing this, Isaiah proclaimed: "Hades," he said, "was angered

when he met you below.

ALL: It was angered.

ONE: Because it was abolished.

ALL: It was angered.

ONE: Because it was mocked.

ALL: It was angered.

ONE: Because it was slain.

ALL: It was angered

ONE: Because it was shackled. It received a body and encountered God. It took earth and came face-to-face with heaven. It took what I saw and felt by what it could not see. Death where is your sting? Grace, where is your victory?

ALL: Christ is risen.

ONE: And you are overthrown

ALL: Christ is risen.

ONE: And demons have fallen.

ALL: Christ is risen.

ONE: And the angels rejoice.

ALL: Christ is risen.

ONE And life rules.

ALL: Christ is risen.

ONE: And not one dead remains in the tomb. For Christ, having risen from the dead, has now become the first fruits of those that slept. To Him be the glory and the dominion, forever. Amen.

***Hymn: VU 173 Thine Is The Glory**

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Minute For Mission:

Invitation to the Offering:

ONE: Mindful of all that God has done for us from the founding of the universe we bring forward the fruits of our labour and our being. We offer our time, talents, and our treasures, for the furthering of God's Holy Kingdom with joyful hearts.

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

ALL: Thank you, gentle Saviour, for accepting our gifts. Thank you for using them to serve your children near and far. Thank you for allowing us to be your agents of grace in the world. Amen.

***Hymn: VU 469 We Gather Here vv-1-2**

Celebrating The Sacrament Of Holy Communion

***Hymn: VU 469 We Gather Here v.3**

***BENEDICTION:**

ONE: As people of God, you form a community of faith within
The United Church of Canada

ALL: Within this community of faith, we are both blessed and blessing.

***COMMISSIONING (in unison):**

ONE: Go now and proclaim the good news of Christ's gospel.

ALL: We will testify to God's creative caring and to the Spirit's empowerment and encouragement of our community. We will use our many and varied gifts to reach out to our neighbours and embody God's love for them in the world.

Postlude