

Central Queens Pastoral Charge  
United Church of Canada  
March 31, 2024 – 6:30 pm

**Sunrise Service**

Christ has died  
Christ is risen  
Christ will come again.

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

In his great mercy God has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. *1 Peter 1:3*

**We Sing**

Thine Is the Glory

VU #173

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.  
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.

**Refrain:**

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.*

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
For the Lord now liveth; death hath lost its sting.

**Refrain**

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;  
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;  
make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;  
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

**Refrain**

**Reading** Matthew 28:1-10 *The Resurrection*

28 Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb.

2 And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. 3 His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. 5 But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. 6 He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.

Come, see the place where he lay. 7 Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you." 8 So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. 9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, "Greetings!" And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. 10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."

**Prayer**

We celebrate the miracle of Christ's resurrection.

**Risen Lord, open our eyes. Give us a glimpse of your resurrection glory. Wipe away our tears of mourning; fill us with joy in your presence. Take away our spirit of heaviness; clothe us with a garment of praise. Hope has been renewed; joy has been rekindled. Death has been defeated; eternity beckons. In this season of reflection and hope, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ with thankful hearts. Amen**

**Poem – Easter Metaphor** by Joyce Rupp

Creator of springtime,  
how can it be that every year  
I forget the miracles visiting  
the land in the form of fresh leaves,  
laughing flowers, greening grass?  
Winter holds a strong power over me.  
I lose the memory of vibrant vigour,  
the unseen energy raising  
dead earthen things to awakening life.  
Risen One, dwelling within me,  
how can it be that I forget you,  
your passionate grace tending my soul,  
your constant stream of hope  
rising up through the dead ground  
of my brown, barren prayer?  
I turn to you in this season of spring,  
bowing gratefully  
to every growing plant, every flourishing flower,  
for each one sings an Easter metaphor  
full of memory, proclaiming your wild embrace  
of my inner life, a life holding the promise  
of an eternal return to spring.

**We Sing** Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks VU #179

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,  
firstborn of all creation.

**Refrain**

*Hallelujah, hallelujah.  
Give thanks to the risen Christ;  
hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Give praise to God's name.*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:  
Jesus has died and is risen.

**Refrain**

**We Sing** Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks (*Continued*)

We have been crucified with Christ,  
now we shall live for ever.

**Refrain**

*Hallelujah, hallelujah.  
Give thanks to the risen Christ;  
hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Give praise to God's name.*

Come let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Saviour.

**Refrain**

**Closing Prayer**

May we live in the power of the risen Christ, united in hope  
to serve God's world. Amen.

