

Montague Pastoral Charge

Sunday March 31, 2024

Hillcrest United Church

Ministers: All of Us

Student Minister: Timothy Wisnicki BSc. MDiv.

Minister Emeritus: Rev. Sheila Mallory

Director of Music: Anne White

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Bulletins are in thankfulness for

John Matheson

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude Piano and Organ duets by Sara and Anne
"Crown Him With Many Crowns" arr. H. P. Hopkins
"The Strife Is O'er" Tune: Victory arr. Lani Smith

Greeting

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Processional Hymn VU #155 "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"

**1) Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss, Hallelujah!**

**2) Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!**

**3) But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured, hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!**

**4) Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love, hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!**

Return of the Christ Candle Candle-bearer: Ashlyn MacDonald

Call to Worship

The light of Christ:

Thanks be to God!

The light shines in darkness,

And the darkness has not overcome it.

Weeping may linger for the night,

But joy comes with the dawn!

Youth Choir Anthem "Hallelujah"

Anna Laura Page/Jean Anne Shafferman

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Trembling and amazed, like the women at the tomb, we approach the joy of this new day, O Lord. We can only wonder at this grace: a light that refuses to be extinguished, a song that will not be silenced, a life that is stronger than death. Risen Christ, reveal yourself to us today. You have gone ahead of us: bear with us as we try to catch up, and be patient as we try to understand this miracle. Fill us with the hope and the power of your resurrection, that we may follow you boldly into your new creation. We pray in your name and with your own

words: **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, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

Children's Hymn VU #175 "This Is the Day That God Has Made"

REFRAIN This is the day that God has made!

Rejoice! Rejoice, and be exceeding glad!

This is the day that God has made!

Rejoice! Rejoice! Hallelujah!

**1) Christ has conquered death at last,
left the tomb that held him fast!
Gone the sorrow, gone the night,
dawns the morning clear and bright! R**

**2) Jesus lives who once was dead,
lives forever, as he said!
Risen now our Saviour, King,
songs of gladness let us sing! R**

Children's Time

Children's Prayer

Good News

**We celebrate you, in all that you do,
We love you; God bless you. We celebrate you.**

(Children may go to Sunday School.)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

God of life, no tomb can hold back the power of your love. Your Word lives still and breaks every chain. Open our ears today and roll away our resistance. Let the news of resurrection fill us with hope and free us for new life, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 25:6-9 Reader: Wendy Watts

Psalm 30 (VU #757)

Response Though tears flow for a night, the morning brings new joy.

I will extol you, O God, for you have lifted me up;

You have not let my enemies triumph over me.

O God, my God, I cried to you for help, and you restored my health.

**You brought me back from the dead;
you saved my life as I was going down to the Grave.**

Let all your servants sing praises to you, and give thanks to your holy name.

Your anger is but for a moment, but your kindness is life eternal. R

In my prosperity I said,

**"I shall never be shaken; your favour, O God,
has made me as firm as any strong mountain."**

You turned your face away from me, and I was greatly dismayed.
I called to you; I made my appeal:

"What profit is there in my death, in my going down to the Grave?

Will the dust give you praise? Will it proclaim your faithfulness?

Hear, O God, and be gracious to me; O God, be my helper."

You turned my mourning into dancing;

You stripped off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

So that my heart will sing your praise without ceasing.

O God, my God, I will give thanks to you forever. R

Mark 16:1-8

The Gloria Patri – *Music by Alan Coffin*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever
shall be. World without end. Amen.**

Senior Choir Anthem “Christ Is Arisen, Indeed!” Natalie Sleeth

Sermon “A White Robe”

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Hymn VU #173 “Thine Is the Glory”

1) 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.

2) 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 has lost its sting. R

3) 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. R

Minute for Mission Reader: Kathy Crane

Invitation to Offering

Offering Dedication VU #161 – based on verse 3
**Author and sustainer, source of life and breath;
You for our salvation trod the path of death;
Jesus Christ is living, God for evermore!
We will share our blessings, thank Him and adore!**

Offering Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Life & Work of the Church

Closing Hymn VU #158 “Christ Is Alive”

1. Christ is Alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

2. Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.

3. In every insult, rift, and war,
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,
and lives, where even hope has died.

4. Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

5. Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Benediction

Closing Blessing VU # 164 verse 3

Now let the heavens be joyful,
Let earth its song begin,
The round world keep high triumph,
And all that is therein;
Let all things seen and unseen
Their notes of gladness blend,
For Christ indeed is risen,
Our Joy that has no end.

Postlude “Joyful, Joyful!” Beethoven arr. Smith

***We extend a warm welcome to guests visiting with us today. Please
join us for coffee after church.***

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

Office Hours are Mon. through Thurs. 9 a.m. to noon.

Clergy Visiting - Please let the office (838-2698) or Timothy (905-269-7381) know if anyone in hospital, long-term care or at home requires a visit or Pastoral Care.

Puzzle Exchange – there are a number of beautiful puzzles on our Puzzle Shelves by the offices. Please feel free to take one, leave one and/or borrow one.

Lost and Found – please take a look in our lost and found box at the front of the church. It is overflowing with gloves, scarves, bottles and much more.

THANK-YOU/GOOD NEWS

-thank you to our Youth and Senior Choirs for their special music for this Easter season

-thank you to all who helped/attended Thursday's monthly Community Lunch

- thank you to all who are donating to our first Online Auction which kicks off this Tuesday, April 2 at 8am and continues until 5pm on April 12.

Starting Tuesday, you will see a great variety of items at **Hillcrest Spring 2024 On-line Auction on Facebook.** To bid, click on "Comment" under the picture, type your dollar amount and post with the arrow. New items will be added during the auction so visit often.

(You will be contacted if your bid is the highest then you may pick up your purchases on Saturday, April 13 from noon to 3 pm.)

THIS WEEK AT HILLCREST

Wednesday

2-4 pm Bridge group – New and experienced players welcome. For more information call Sandra at 388-8844

Thursday

Men's Meditation Group meets in the Schaffelburg Room at 9:30 for a time of contemplative conversation. All welcome.

7 pm Senior Choir practises on Thursday, April 4, for this week only.

Thank you

Sunday

Youth Choir Practice – at 10:00. New youth are most welcome to join. Contact Anne 838-2681 or just join us.

UPCOMING AT HILLCREST

Tuesday, April 9 – 1:00 UCW meets. All welcome.

Wednesday, April 17 – 10 am Hillcrest Book Club meets to discuss “Pluck” by Donna Morrissey.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA INFORMATION

Seeds of Hope Applications are due April 15. Grant money is available new, unique projects that: provide innovative seniors’ ministry, celebrate and encourage children and youth, address environmental and social justice issues, look at new ways to provide ministry and support during transition periods, and facilitate experiencing faith and spirituality. If your committee is interested in applying for a grant - check the office for more information on how to do this.