

KNOX STRATFORD "Where Friends Meet"

Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024

Interim Minister: The Reverend Dr. David Thompson

Music Director: Suzanne Strahan

Treasurer: Shannon Archer

142 Ontario Street, Stratford, Ontario. N5A 3H2

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We welcome children to our service and have activities to do in the Narthex or in their seat.

PRELUDE

HYMN: #243 Jesus Christ is Risen today! Verses 1-4

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: "He is Risen!"

Congregation: "He is risen indeed!"

INTROIT: "The Power of the Cross"

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (Together) God of Resurrecting power, You lift our hearts with joy when we see the tomb really is empty. God of Resurrecting hope, You fill us with excitement when we hear from eye witnesses that Christ is risen. God of Resurrecting love, You have embraced us, giving us courage especially when we start to trust in the power of new life. We offer you all glory, honour and praise with hearts overflowing, in the name of The Resurrected One. Amen.

HYMN: #256 Now the green blade riseth Verses 1 and 3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together) God of Resurrecting Joy, we confess it's not easy to sustain Easter hope throughout the year. Instead we let discouragement, fear and frustration settle in. We let anger and anxiety turn our hearts away from You. Resentment and disappointment cling to us and we forget all about Your great mercy and love. Forgive us. Restore within us the joy and hope that You promise us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Minister): Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ – And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free for new life by God's resurrecting grace.

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you

Congregation: **And also, with you.** Please greet one another

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Jesus is Lord"

STORY

HYMN: #248 At the Dawning of Salvation Verses 1 and 2

Fanfare for the Gospel Procession

Please stand if able

GOSPEL: St. John 20:1-17a.

Fanfare for the Gospel Recession

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Glorious Risen Christ"

SERMON: "What Easter really means!"

OFFERING-DOXOLOGY #457 Now thank we all our God V 1
Offering is brought forward.

The offering can be placed in the offering plates at the back of the church before or during the service, or at the front after the service. Offering envelopes are available in the pews or chairs.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Together) God of courage and compassion, we bring our gifts to You in Jesus' name. This year the world badly needs both His courage and compassion. Bless our gifts so that they bring hope to others in these challenging times. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Trespases)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:

(Minister and Congregation together)

**God of new beginnings,
break into your Church with resurrecting power.
Where congregations are challenged to rethink outreach in
changing times, inspire new approaches and renewed
commitment for today's ministry.
Where gathering resources and finding new leaders
present challenges, renew our trust in your faithfulness.
It is our Hope that remembers the empty tomb.
RESURRECT, RENEW AND REVIVE your people, O God.
Renew our hope for the future You will bring us
and our desire to live out the courage and compassion
of Christ our Lord. Amen**

HYMN: #258 Thine be the Glory Verses 1 and 3

BENEDICTION

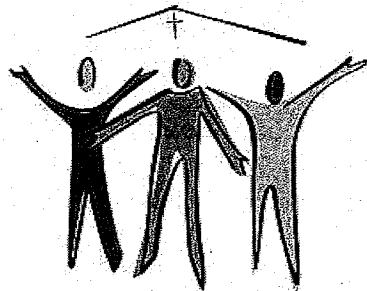
POSTLUDE

Thank you for joining our worship service today.

EPIC (Every Person In Church)

Sunday, April 7 at 10:30am

Chili and Hotdog Luncheon to follow in the banquet hall. Children will be welcome to enjoy a special time in Sunday School in our multi-purpose space.



Welcome!