

KNOX STRATFORD
Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

Minister: Pastor Kelli Berkner

Music Director: Suzanne Strahan **Treasurer:** Shannon Archer

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PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Bolded together)

Hallelujah! O Day of Resurrection, let us shine with joy!

Christ has led us from death to life.

O Day of Resurrection, let us live with hope!

Christ has led us from earth to heaven.

Christ has risen from the dead. Hallelujah!

He has risen indeed! Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF APPROACH (All Together)

O Christ, who lived to show what life is like, who died to show that sin is death, who rose to raise us up to life eternal, help us to follow you and love you forever. Amen.

HYMN #243 Jesus Christ is risen today All Verses

CHOIR ANTHEM: Living Hope

- Phil Wickham, Brian Johnson, arr. Joseph M. Martin

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This Easter Day, God has turned our mourning into dancing! God has taken off our sackcloth and clothed us with joy! We are God's forgiven people. Let us be at peace with God, with one another, and with ourselves, through the undying mercy of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST Take a moment and greet each other

HYMN #248 At the dawning of salvation All Verses

CHOIR ANTHEM: Christ Is Risen - *Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ed Cash, arr. Tom Fettke, Thomas Grassi*

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 16:9-11; Matthew 28

SERMON "Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever"

HYMN #249 The day of resurrection All Verses

PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH

(A Catechism for Today Questions 48 & 49)

MINISTER: What do we confess in saying, "on the third day he rose again from the dead"?

TOGETHER: Jesus was raised by the mighty act of God. The loving Father did not forsake the Son. Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene and "the other Mary" at the tomb, to the disciples in and near Jerusalem and in Galilee, and also to over five hundred persons at one time. The resurrection is God's victory over death, and the core of our faith; "if Christ be not raised, we are of all people most to be pitied".

MINISTER: Why is Jesus' resurrection so important?

TOGETHER: It means that death is not final and that we too will have life after death. In a way beyond our imagining, God will raise us up and care for us eternally.

OFFERING The offering can be placed on the offering plates at the back of the church before or during the service at the sound table, or at the front after the service.

DOXOLOGY #830 Offering is brought forward.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Generous God, we come before you with grateful hearts, recognizing how much you have given us in Christ Jesus. Bless these gifts so that they may spread the hope and joy we feel this day to those who have not yet tasted your kindness. With our gifts, we offer ourselves to you in the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of Easter Renewal and Resurrection, you have broken into our lives again this day. Break into all our moments of celebration and joy. By your Spirit, give us gratitude, generosity and the grace to understand each other. Resurrect, renew and revive our souls and spirits! Now we pray in one voice the words that Jesus gave us: **LORD'S PRAYER**

HYMN #258 Thine Be the Glory All Verses

BENEDICTION and POSTLUDE

The hydrangeas displayed for Easter
are in memory of Ed Rothwell.

Join us for **Café Church** with Daniel Hoogsteen
Development & Outreach Co-ordinator from Camp Kintail
Sunday, April 27 at 10:30am in the Banquet Hall.

NOTE: Pastor Kelli is on Study Leave April 21-27.
We wish her all the best on defending her doctoral thesis and
celebrating her graduation from Western Theological Seminary.

For **PASTORAL CARE** while Pastor Kelli is away,
please call your elder or the office 519-271-0373.