

**St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Perth
Sunday, April 9th, 2023
Rev. Gerry Gallant**

**Christ is Risen
Easter Sunday
Matthew 28:1-10**

Welcome

Loving God,
on this celebrative day, many may join us for worship
who do not regularly join with your people.
We pray for the gift of hospitality today,
that our community will welcome them with open arms.
May each worshiper sense the power of the gospel today
and be drawn closer to you, by the power of your Spirit. Amen

Announcements

Call to Worship

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

In our anguish we cried to the LORD,
and he answered by setting us free.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

The LORD is our strength and our song;
he has become our salvation.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

We will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.
Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

The stone the builders rejected
has become the capstone;
**The LORD has done this;
and it is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

God, worker of wonders,
 you made this day for joy and gladness.
 Let the risen Lord abide with us this day,
 opening the Scriptures to us
 and breaking bread in our midst.
 Set our hearts aflame and open our eyes
 so that we may see in his sufferings
 all that the prophets foretold
 and recognize him at this table
 as the Christ, now entered into his glory,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Opening Hymn #243: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
 Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
 Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
 Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!
 Unto Christ, our heavenly king, Alleluia!
 Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!
 Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!
 Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!
 Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!
 Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!
 Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!
 Praise him, all you heavenly host, Alleluia!
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

Call to Confession

Prepare the way of the Lord!
 Let us make our confession to God.

Prayer of Confession

Loving and life-giving God,
 you raised Jesus from the grave
 and shattered the powers of sin and death.
 But we confess that we remain captive to fear,
 resisting the hope that new life is possible for us.
 We hide in tombs of indifference,
 seeking comfort rather than justice in this world.
 We cling to resentment and disappointment,
 refusing the freedom that comes with forgiveness.
 Forgive us, O God,
 and restore us to joy and wholeness through your great mercy. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

God, who is rich in mercy,
 out of the great love with which he loved us
 even when we were dead through our trespasses,
 made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—
 and raised us up with him and seated us with him
 in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
 so that in the ages to come he might show
 the immeasurable riches of his grace
 in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the Evil One.
 For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory,
 Forever and ever. Amen.

Music Ministry: "This Day of Resurrection" Choir**Responsive Reading****Psalm 118:14-24**

*14 The LORD is my strength and my song;
 he has become my salvation.*

**15 Glad songs of salvation
 are in the tents of the righteous:**

“The right hand of the LORD does valiantly,

*16 the right hand of the LORD exalts,
the right hand of the LORD does valiantly!”*

**17 I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the LORD.**

*18 The LORD has disciplined me severely,
but he has not given me over to death.*

**19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.**

*20 This is the gate of the LORD;
the righteous shall enter through it.*

**21 I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.**

*22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.*

**23 This is the LORD’s doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.**

**24 This is the day that the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Children’s Hymn #260: “Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks to the Risen Lord” (V 1,2,4)

Chorus

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord;
alleluia, alleluia, give praise to his name.

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
He is the King of creation. (Chorus)

Spread the good news o'er all the earth,
Jesus has died and has risen. (Chorus)

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

Children’s Lesson

Prayer for illumination
(Congregant Prepared)

Scripture

Matthew 28:1-10

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."

Sermon

'Did you know that the word 'come' occurs 1,528 times in the ESV Bible. Come is a common word both in the Bible and in Life, however, it can be a very powerful and meaningful word in some places and some situations. It is most powerful and meaningful when it is spoken by our Lord Jesus Christ to men and women who have been trapped in a life of sin. 'Come' is indeed a very powerful word when spoken in the context of the Good News of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

Come is such a powerful word because of what we learn from the book of Genesis. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they were told 'Go' by God. Go out of the Garden of Eden, go away from the life of Eden, Go live in your fallen, sinful, nature.

Like Adam and Eve, we all have gone astray, we all want things in this world our own way, under our control, because of our sinful nature. Like Adam and Eve, we do not deserve to be in the presence of God. We deserve to be told 'Go'.

However, God laid all of our iniquity and transgressions on His Son, Our Lord, when he was crucified. God did it because of His grace, His mercy, and His love. And now, God reaches out to all of His people with the invitation of the Good News, 'Come!'

Jesus was Crucified, died, and was buried in the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea in Jerusalem. This was the end of his ministry in the minds of many, the man who had been considered the Messiah by some, a prophet by many and a heretic by the religious leaders was gone.

So, three days later, the day after the Sabbath, a Sunday morning, when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb of Jesus they were following Jewish custom. They were going to anoint the body with the spices, much in the same way that Lazarus had been anointed at his burial.

It is important for us to remember they were going there expecting to find his body laying inside the tomb, they were not at all expecting to find an empty tomb and especially not a resurrected Jesus.

When they get to the tomb, they do not find the body of Jesus. Instead, they find an angel of the Lord, who tells them, **'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.'** Here is the first invitation of God to see the revealed Good News, given to two women at the tomb, 'Come, and see the place where he lay.' The angel wanted the women to come forward into the tomb and witness that Jesus was no longer in the tomb, that he had indeed risen.

Jesus's tomb was empty and in that empty tomb there are many important lessons for Christians.

The first is that in the tomb we see the true humility of Jesus. Jesus did not have to die. Jesus had never sinned, he did not share in our fallen nature, so the curse of death that is attached to sin was not laid upon him, he had never done, said, or thought anything that was deserving of His death. Yet, Jesus set all of that aside, he set aside all the glory and deity of God, and humbled Himself, taking on human flesh in order to bear the sins of sinner like all of us upon the cross. Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, set aside all that he was to take on humanity, to live a life of suffering, to suffer a death in humiliation, to save sinners just like you and me. When we see the tomb of Jesus, we see the depth of his humility.

The next thing that we see is the truth about sin, and how it placed Jesus in the tomb. Jesus had never sinned in deed, in word or in thought, he had never once done anything to be deserving of death, he was completely and utterly sinless. The reason he died was because of sinners like us. The prophet Isaiah told of this in Isaiah

Isaiah 53:5 ESV

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

When we look upon the tomb of Jesus we should see our sins there, it was our sins, our iniquities and our transgressions that were taken on by Jesus when he went to the cross and died. It was our death that he died.

The third truth of the tomb is that we all will all also die, some for eternity, some until the second coming of Christ. Everyone must die, unless Jesus comes before your death, a time will come when we are separated from all of our earthy things, our homes, our friends, our families, all of our loved ones.

Billy Graham said that one time when he was at a gathering, a university student asked him, 'What is the greatest surprise you have found in life? And without hesitation Billy Graham replied, 'The brevity of it. Time moves so quickly, and no matter who we are or what we have done, the time will come for us when our lives are over!' Our time on earth is limited, life is limited, but eternity is forever!

When we see the tomb we see mortality, our own death, this is why so many people feel uncomfortable in graveyards or funeral homes, it reminds them of their own mortality, how they own time is ticking away. It is a reminder that we need to know our time is limited and we should be thinking not about this life and this world, instead we should be focused on eternity.

And it is that eternity that is the fourth lesson we learn from the tomb of Jesus Christ. Jesus's tomb was empty, his body was no longer there. This is the most important lesson from the tomb. We look upon the tomb of Jesus to see how we should live our lives in humility, to see how our sin, our rebellious nature against God and his commandments is what placed Jesus there in our place, to see that death comes for us all, but the most important reason that we come to the tomb is that he is not there, for he has risen. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ successfully paid the debt we all out for our sins, for all of our iniquities, all of our transactions, everything we do, everything we say and even everything we think.

That empty tomb that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary spoke of that day is one of the most compelling arguments that we have for the Resurrection. However, proof of the resurrection of Jesus does not end with the testimony of those two women.

Look at the change in the apostles. Prior to his resurrection they were full of fear and anxiety, hesitant to stand with him at the cross. Then after the resurrection they are bold and fearless proclaimers of the cross, of the Good News and the saving work of Jesus Christ. They were so convinced of the truth of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ that all of them, with the exception of the Apostle John, died for their conviction at the hands of people who opposed the Gospel and Christianity Men do not die for lies.

Another proof of the Resurrection of Jesus is the change in the early church in the day of worship. Prior to the Resurrection, and still today in the Jewish tradition, worship takes place on the Sabbath, on Saturday. However, after the Resurrection of Jesus, the day of worship became Sunday, the day on which he rose from the dead! The only reason for the Jews who followed Jesus, that all observed the Sabbath on Saturday, the same way

that Jesus did, to change the day of worship to Sunday is because of Jesus's resurrection.

Then there is the truth that there is still a lot of evidence in the empty tomb of Jesus's resurrection. The first being that the tomb was in fact not empty, the grave cloths were there, it was only Jesus's body that was missing. When the guards that were at the tomb told the chief priests that the body of Jesus was missing, they instructed the guards to tell everyone that Jesus's followers had come in the night like thieves and stole the body.

If this was true, that they had stolen and hidden the body, ask yourselves, 'why would the apostles be willing to die to carry on the ministry of Jesus?' And if the enemies of Jesus had been the ones who had stolen his body, all they would have needed to do was to publicly display his body when the rumors of His Resurrection started, and Jesus's ministry would have ended.

Even the fact that the clothes were left behind proves His Resurrection. Who would take the time to remove the burial cloths from the body, lay them out to make it appear as if the body had disappeared and then remove the body? No one! the only reasonable explanation for the empty tomb is the Resurrection of Jesus.

And because of the empty tomb, because of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, all that believe in him shall rise with Him when His kingdom returns. Jesus did not come to earth to teach, die and rise again just to prove he was God. He came for His people, he came to save those who believe in Him, repent, and obey Him. True Christians are saved, not just in spirit so that we can live in fellowship with God, not just so that the Holy Spirit can transform us during our walk here on earth. We are saved in body as well! Jesus Christ's Salvation is one of completeness. The empty tomb should serve as a lesson and a reminder for every Christian that we too one day will rise with Christ and be with him for eternity in the Holy Kingdom.

That message given to Mary Magdalene and the other Mary by the angel of the Lord, **'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.'** is one of the greatest messages mankind has ever been given. That message has been given to all mankind, Jesus Christ is risen, it is the whole message of Easter, everyone has been invited to come and see the empty tomb, to learn of the truth of His Resurrection, and to respond in faith, by trusting in God and obeying His Word.

However, the message of the empty tomb does not end there, the women went in and saw the place where Jesus's body had been lain. Then the angel of the Lord continued, **'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.'**

And that is exactly what these two women did, they departed from the tomb with a mixture of fear and of great joy! They ran back to tell the disciples of the angel of the Lord, the empty tomb and the message they had been given. But as they were on their way back to the disciples, Jesus greeted them. They came up to Him and took hold of His hands and His feet as they worshipped Him. He too said to them, **‘Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.’**

The truth that Jesus has risen was the Good News, and the Good News must be passed on to any who will listen. If the women had not rushed from the tomb to tell the apostles, it would show that they did not believe the truth of Jesus’s Resurrection. However, they do rush back, in great joy, because they know the significance of the empty tomb.

Every Christian share in the sharing of the Good News. This is the Great Commission, to share the importance of the empty tomb with anyone who will listen, to share the complete Salvation that comes from Christ alone with anyone we meet. Christians are called to give the same message that the angel of the Lord delivers, **‘He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.’**

All Christians know the importance of following Christ in our lives, of answering that call to ‘Come’. There are two great biblical examples of this.

The first is the disciples of John the Baptist. When John saw Jesus approach him as he was baptizing, he said.

John 1:29 ESV

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

Two of John’s disciples heard him say this, so they choose to go and follow after Jesus, trying to figure out who he is that the prophet John the Baptist would call him the Lamb of God.

John 1:38–39 ESV

38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39 He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So, they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour.

These disciples of John did ‘come’ they went with Jesus to ‘come and see’ in the same way that the women accepted the invitation of the angel of the Lord. They spent a day and a night with Jesus and Andrew was convinced that he had found the Messiah, so he went out and brought his brother Simon Peter, to join in following Jesus.

They next day, Jesus met Phillip, who then went and brought Nathanael.

John 1:45–46 ESV

45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

Jesus told John’s disciples to ‘Come and See.’ Phillip told Nathanael to ‘Come and See’. This invitation to Come and see was shared first by Christ and then by those who followed him to invite more people into fellowship with Jesus and this is the same invitation that we are called to share with the world. You do not have to convince people to believe in God, you just need to invite them to ‘Come and see.’

The second example of this comes later in Jesus’s ministry. It is a story you should know. When Jesus met the woman at the well in Samaria. Jesus treated this woman who was an outcast of society with love, with mercy and with respect. He did not leave her to live in her life of sin, instead he confronts her with her sinful nature, he invites her to discover the meaning of the living water. Remember she had not come to the well to meet Jesus. He had gone there to meet her; he had come to save her. Once she recognized her Savior, what was her first reaction, not to fall at his feet in praise and worship, not to set about making her life better, not to dive into the Scriptures and try to be a perfect disciple. No, her first reaction was on learning who Jesus was, on learning about his complete Salvation. She ran back to the town where she was an outcast, where people ridiculed her, where people treated her poorly, she ran back to town and said,

John 4:29 ESV

29 “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”

Come and see.

As soon as she knew who Jesus was, she invited others to come to Jesus. She invited people and they came. They came to see this man who was called Jesus, they came to see for themselves what he said, what he taught. They came because she had invited them, but they believed when they discovered that he was the Messiah, the king of kings, the Lord of lords and the Saviour of His people.

They responded to the invitation to come, and because of that simple invitation to ‘come and see’ their lives were changed for eternity.

The word ‘come’ occurs 1,528 times in the ESV Bible. It is both a simple and common word, but when you look at that word in the light of the empty tomb it becomes one of the most potent and powerful words in the human language. ‘Come’ is the invitation of

the Gospel, it changes people's lives. 'Come and see' has change the lives of million upon millions of people, it has brought peace of heart and satisfaction to those seeking, it has brought countless people back to spiritual life in fellowship with God.

If you are here today and you have never responded to Jesus's call to come, today is the day, come and see the empty tomb and all that it can mean in your life. Today is the day of Salvation, so come!

If you have already responded to the invitation to 'come and see'. If you are a brother or sister of Christ, a son or daughter of God, then you have the great privilege of inviting other to 'Come and See' what God has done in your life and what he can do in theirs. You have the privilege of inviting other to come to know Jesus and to know the complete Salvation that is found when you trust and obey His Word.

Let us Pray,

Raise Us to Eternal Life

Lord God, heavenly Father,
 you gave up your Son for our offenses
 and raised him again for our justification.
 Give us your Holy Spirit,
 that he may rule and govern us
 according to your will,
 graciously keep us in the true faith,
 defend us from all sins
 and after this life
 raise us to eternal life;
 through your beloved Son,
 Jesus Christ our Lord,
 who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
 one true God,
 now and forever.

Source: Veit Dietrich, d. 1549, Quinquagesima

Hymn #352: "And Can it Be That I Should Gain" (V 1,2,5)

And can it be that I should gain
 God's riches through the Saviour's blood?
 Died he for me, who caused his pain?
 For me, who him to death pursued?
 Amazing love! how can it be
 that thou, my God, should'st die for me?
 Amazing love! how can it be
 that thou, my God, should'st die for me?

'Tis mystery all! the immortal dies:
 who can explore his strange design?
 In vain the firstborn seraph tries
 to sound the depths of love divine.
 'Tis mercy all! let earth adore;
 let angel minds inquire no more.
 'Tis mercy all! let earth adore;
 let angel minds inquire no more.

No condemnation now I dread;
 Jesus, and all in him, is mine;
 alive in him, my living head,
 and clothed in righteousness divine,
 bold I approach the eternal throne,
 and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.
 Bold I approach the eternal throne,
 and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

Communion

Invitation to the Table

Jesus invites us to this table and now we do as Jesus did.
 We take this bread and this wine, ordinary things of the world.
 In these, Jesus has promised to be present.
 Through these Christ can make us whole.
 Come all of you this is the joyful feast of the people of God.

As Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth,
 let us also bless God with great thanksgiving.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you;
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father,
 and to give you thanks,
 for you alone are God, living and true,
 dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever.
 Fountain of all life and source of all goodness,

you made all things and fill them with your blessing;
 you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.
 Countless throngs of angels stand before you
 to serve you night and day,
 and, beholding the glory of your presence,
 they offer you unceasing praise.
 Joining with them,
 and giving voice to every creature under heaven,
 we glorify your name
 and lift our voices in joyful praise

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.**

We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power;
 your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love.
 You formed us in your own image,
 giving the whole world into our care
 so that, in obedience to you, our creator,
 we might rule and serve all your creatures.
 When our disobedience took us far from you,
 you did not abandon us to the power of death.
 In your mercy you came to our help,
 so that in seeking you we might find you.
 Again and again you called us into covenant with you,
 and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.
 Almighty God, you loved the world so much
 that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior.
 Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
 he lived as one of us, yet was without sin.
 To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation;
 to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.
 To fulfill your purpose, he gave himself up to death
 and, rising from the grave, destroyed death
 and made the whole creation new.
 And that we might live no longer for ourselves
 but for him who died and rose for us,
 God sent the Holy Spirit,
 God's first gift for all who believe,
 to complete God's work in the world,

and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.
 When the hour had come for him to be glorified
 by you, his heavenly Father,
 having loved his own who were in the world,
 he loved them to the end.

**We praise you, we bless you,
 we give thanks to you,
 and we pray to you, Lord, our God.**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us, we pray,
 that the sharing of the bread that we break
 and the cup that we bless
 may be for us the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
 Grant that, being joined together in him,
 we may attain to the unity of the faith
 and grow up in all things into Christ, our Lord.
 And as this grain has been gathered from many fields into one loaf,
 and these grapes from many hills into one cup,
 grant, O Lord, that your whole church
 may soon be gathered from the ends of the earth
 into your kingdom.
 Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

**Through him, with him, in him,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all honor and glory are yours,
 Almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.**

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. AMEN.**

The Story of the Last Supper

The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread,
and when he had given thanks for it, he broke it, and said,
'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying,
'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in
remembrance of me.'

Congregation of Jesus Christ,
the Lord has prepared his table for all who love him
and trust in him alone for their salvation.
All who are truly sorry for their sins,
who sincerely believe in the Lord Jesus
as their Savior,
and who desire to live in obedience to him as Lord
are now invited to come with gladness
to the table of the Lord.

Take and eat.
This is the body of Christ, which is given for you.
Do this, remembering him.

This cup is the new covenant
sealed by Christ's blood,
which was shed that the sins of many
might be forgiven.
Drink from it, all of you

Prayer after Communion

We thank and praise you, Jesus Christ,
for these gifts of bread and wine,
signs of your great sacrifice for us
and, by your Spirit's presence and power,
a means for us to commune with you.

We eat this bread and drink this cup
 to refresh our hearts,
 to strengthen our faith,
 and to rouse our hope
 that soon we shall take our places at your heavenly banquet
 to eat and drink with you and all you have redeemed.
 For all your gifts, we bless you, Lord.
 Above all, your heavenly food,
 pardoning grace, and life-giving Word
 motivate us to sing that you are good. Amen

Invitation to Offering

Offering

Presenting our tithes and offerings is an act of worship. I want to encourage you to write a cheque and drop it in the mail to the church using your envelope, if you have one. (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, PO Box 161, 1 Drummond St W, Perth, ON K7H 3E3). We also have another option for you for giving and that is you can make an e-Transfer. This note from our treasurer:

E-transfers are now accepted. Please note the new email address for this purpose only. standrewspert offering@gmail.com If you have an Offering Envelope #, please include it in the message section of the INTERAC transfer page you fill in. If you wish any part of your donation to go to a specific fund (e.g., Presbyterian Sharing) please mention this in your message.

Offertory Prayer

(Congregant Prepared)

Closing Hymn #211: "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus"

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
 Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,
 rolling as a mighty ocean
 in its fullness over me.
 Underneath me, all around me,
 is the current of thy love;
 leading onward, leading homeward,
 to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
 Spread his praise from shore to shore;
 how he loveth, ever loveth,
 changeth never, nevermore;

how he watches o'er his loved ones,
 died to call them all his own;
 how for them he intercedeth,
 watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
 Love of ev'ry love the best:
 'tis an ocean vast of blessing,
 'tis a haven sweet of rest.
 O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
 'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
 and it lifts me up to glory,
 for it lifts me up to thee. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

God of power and possibility,
 you broke open the tomb that held our Lord.
 Now break open your church,
 tense and tired after months of pandemic restrictions,
 worried over differences and disagreements,
 uncertain about the way ahead in mission and service.
 Guide us with your wise and creative Spirit.
 Resurrect, renew, and revive your church!

God of resurrection and new life,
 you broke into the hearts of Jesus' fearful friends.
 Now break into our relationships with one another.
 Where they are vibrant and life-giving, nurture them.
 Where they are strained by misunderstanding or neglect, reconcile them.
 Heal us with your merciful and engaging Spirit.
 Resurrect, renew and revive our life together!

God of might and mercy,
 you broke open the schemes of those who stood in the way of your love.
 Now break open the governance of your world.
 Stir the minds and hearts of leaders to work for peace and justice.
 Where laws are corrupt, where deceptions masquerades as truth,
 and where people suffer under the schemes of those who lust for power,
 confront people with your Spirit of truth and compassion.
 Resurrect, renew and revive the community of nations!

God of healing and hope,
 you broke the bonds of death which tried to shackle new life.

Now break into situations of illness, pain, grief, and loss.
Wherever people are sick in body, mind, or spirit,
and wherever people mourn the loss of a loved one or a cherished future,
embrace each one with your Spirit of comfort and courage.
Resurrect, renew and revive our lives!

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!

We pray these prayers as well as all of the unspoken prayers that are in our hearts this
day in the name of the one who has died and risen, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Benediction

Grace to you and peace
from him who is and who was and who is to come,
and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead,
and the ruler of the kings of the earth.
To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood,
and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen