

Silver Falls United Church

Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010

Minister: Rev. Angela Cory, BA M.Div

Director of Music: Ann McAllister, B. Mus, B.Ed

Duty Team April: Rosemary Day, Wendy Bennett,
Murray Ewart, Barb Woollven

Congregational Responses are in **Bold** print.

* **Please stand if able.**

Welcome to worship on this special day.

Our liturgy begins with the liturgy of light and the blessing of the Paschal Candle, which symbolizes Christ's breaking of the darkness of sin and death to bring us all the Easter victory. The Paschal Candle will shine as our symbol of the resurrection throughout the Easter season, at all baptisms and at all funerals. After the blessing, the day is proclaimed with the ancient Easter shout, joyous songs and, festive musical offerings and the word of God that proclaims the victory of Christ for us all. All are invited to take part in the bread and the wine of Holy Communion.

Thank you for joining us on this special day. We hope the blessings of the Risen Lord are yours this day and always.

Gathering

Organ Prelude

Procession of Choir

Introit The Strife is O'er
VU 159 verses 1 & 2

Liturgy of Light: All stand
 One: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

One: Let us pray. O God, you are like a refiner's fire, and your Spirit kindles the hearts of your faithful people. Bless this flame and those who keep this Easter celebration so that, burning with desire for life with you, they may be found fit to take part in that festival of Light which has no ending, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

One: Jesus Christ, yesterday and today, the beginning and the ending, Alpha and Omega; all time belongs to him, and all ages; to him be glory and dominion forever and ever.

All: Amen

One: By his holy and glorious wounds, may Christ our Lord guard and keep us.

All: Amen

The Paschal Candle is lit

One: May the light of Christ who rises this day in glory scatter the darkness of our hearts and minds.

One: Let us pray. Almighty God, pour out your abundant blessing on this lighted candle, so that all who share in your holy mysteries may be filled with your grace and spiritual blessings. Once we were in darkness, but since we have become the Lord's people, we are in the light. Help us to live as people who belong to the light, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

One: (boldly) Christ is Risen! (3x)

All: (boldly) He is risen indeed! (3x)

Opening Hymn

Jesus Christ is Risen Today

VU 155

Easter Dialogue:

One: (boldly) Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: (boldly) He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

One: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain!
Alleluia!

All: He gives us new life and hope through his resurrection! Alleluia!

One: Rejoice then, even in your distress.

All: We shall be counted worthy when Christ appears.

One: God has claimed us as his own.

All: God has called us from our darkness into the light of his day.

One: (boldly) Alleluia! Christ is risen!

All: (boldly) He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

One: Early this morning our eyes were barely open, the sky had yet to brighten, the morning had just begun and yet we saw that you had already done a new thing. Praise be to you, O God. Your ways are beyond our understanding, your mystery is too vast for words, yet on this day we dare to believe that you are making us into new creations. Alleluia!

Call to Confession

One: We need forgiveness, God, for we are not the people you would have us be—forgive us and set us free as we say our prayer:

Prayer of Confession (responsively)

One: Sovereign Christ, we are your disciples—your wounded hands and feet in the world today.

All: At times we have been the frightened ones, staying at a distance, worried about our status or our reputations.

One: But you come close to us, bringing peace and challenge, unlocking our potential and setting us free.

All: At times we have been the weeping ones, filled with grief and lost hope we are unable to see your presence in our midst.

One: But you come close and speak our names and we discover that we are fully known and loved and our hearts reach out to embrace you.

All: Now we come close to you in worship. We come with our fear, our confusion and our tears—

One: and we find ourselves liberated and united by the love of the resurrected one.

Words of Assurance (responsively)

(based on Isaiah 65)

One: "Look," says God, "I am making a new heaven and a new earth." Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: "The events of the past will be completely forgotten, they will never come to mind." Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: "Wolves and lambs will eat together, there will be no harm or evil on my holy mountain." Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

One: This is the same God who raised up Jesus Christ and whose spirit is making all things new. Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed!

Faith in Action

Children's Hymn This is the Day That God Has
 Made
VU 175, Refrain & Verse 1

Theme Conversation

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 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 Refrain & Verse**
2

Introit for the Word

One: You come to us in the living Word we call
 scripture. Thank you for coming to us in
 worship, where we can praise you in song and
 dance and listen for your Spirit in prayer. We
 pray that our speaking and living will reach out
 to the world and bring your Word honor and
 gratitude. Amen

Scripture Readings:

First Reading:

Isaiah 65: 17-25Reader: These are our sacred
stories**All: Thanks be to God**Psalm: **VU 837 Psalm 118 parts 1,2,3**Epistle: **1 Corinthians 15: 19-26**

Reader: The Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to GodGospel Reading: **Luke 24: 1-12**

Reader: Glory be to you, O

God

All: Praise be to you,**O Christ****Ministry of Music**Low in the Grave
by J. Peterson**Sermon**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place,
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace!**Solo:** The Holy City by S. Adams
Sung by, Paul Bustin,
baritone

Offertory Invitation

One: We present ourselves and our gifts today with the hope they will be used to further the coming of your kingdom here and around the world. Let us receive our Easter offering:

Receiving our Offerings and Par Cards

Offertory Hymn Midnight Sharpness, Starfields,
Fading

VU 181

Dedication of Offering

Bless Thou the gifts of our hands have brought
Bless Thou the work our hearts have planned
Ours is the faith, the will, the thought
The rest, O God, is in Thy hand. Amen.

Offertory Prayer (unison)

God, we come today with many different feelings—JOY that Jesus has risen from the dead, GRATITUDE that he died for our sins, HOPE for eternal life, SUPPLICATION asking your guidance in all we do, SURE KNOWLEDGE that God’s redeeming love is with us now and forever. Let our gifts be a symbol to those who receive them of the new life you share with us. Amen

Communion Hymn Let Break Bread Together
VU 480

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (see insert)

Distribution of Communion

Prayer after Communion (in unison)

For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, for the life we have received, we thank you God. Grant that what we have done and have been given here may so put its mark upon us that it may remain always in our hearts. Grant that we may become better Christians, that ours may be the faith which issues action; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Commissioning and Benediction

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

One: Go to live as the Body of Christ resurrected by love and empowered by the Spirit to continue God's work in this world. Happy Easter! Christ is risen!

All: Amen

Closing Hymn Thine is the Glory **VU 173**

Recessional

Choral Blessing (tune-Edelweiss)

May the Lord, gracious Lord,
Bless and keep you forever,
Grant us peace, grant us grace,
Courage in ev'ry endeavour

Glory to God, may He hear our song
Guide and guard us ever,
May the Lord, gracious Lord,
Bless and keep you forever.

Organ Postlude

If you are a visitor with us, we give you **special welcome** in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ. If you are a regular worshipper, do you know the person in front of you, or even beside you? If not, why not introduce yourself?

**Today's Service and Bulletin are dedicated in loving memory of husband Jim by Verna Thompson and family.
In loving memory of father Donald Watson, nephew Allen Maguire and Uncle George and Aunt Doris Beyea by Donna and John Melanson.**

Scripture for Sunday, April 11th – **Nancy Doucette**
Acts 5:27-32
Psalms 118:14-29
Revelation 1:4-8
John 20:19-31

Greeter for April 11th – **Audrey Shillington & Lacey**

Thank you goes out to last weeks
Readers & Greeters for all your help!!

Prayer Corner This information is given so that you may “Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.” (Rom. 12:15) Please pray for them.

**Kayla Daigle, Tashia Phillips, Hartley Biggs,
Marion Stackhouse, Marguerite Gault & Betty
MacDougall**

CHURCH & COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

A **Flea Market/Book Sale/Bake Sale** is taking place on **Saturday, May 8** from **8:30am to 12:30pm** in the C.E. Hall. Book your table now for only \$10 by contacting Barbara Mahaffy at 696-6269, Pam Carter at 696-5221 or by calling the church office at 696-1410.

For the church tables, we are **unable** to accept large appliances, furniture or tires. Save those novels! We will be accepting donations of **hard and soft cover novels only**. We would ask that any items for the church or book tables **not** be left at the church until **after** May 1. Thanks.

The **UCW** will be holding their monthly meeting on Tuesday evening, April 6th at 7:00pm in the Parlour. Everyone is encouraged to attend to discuss the upcoming Ham Supper.

Youth group is taking part in the **30 hour famine** April 16 & 17. If you would like to sponsor the youth there will be one of the youth or leaders at the back of the church each Sunday to receive your donations. Thanks in advance--the Youth Group!

Come and join us for our Youth Retreat, "**Risk Taking Faith Retreat**". It will be held on May 14 to 16 at Camp Wegesegum (Chipman NB). This retreat is open to youth grades 9 – 12 of all denominations. We look forward to exploring the theme "Risk Taking Faith" in many ways; worship, games, reflection and discussion. Come and enjoy a weekend full of "F" words. Fun, Friends, Faith, Food and Fellowship, that is. See Victoria or Andrew for more information or visit www.risktakingfaith.webs.com

It's what you've been waiting for!! The UCW will be holding a **Ham, Beans & Scallop Dinner** on **Saturday, April 17th at 5:30pm**. Tickets are \$8 per person (\$4 children under 8). Tickets can be purchased from any UCW member or from the office at 696-1410. Hope to see everyone there!!

Members of Portland United Church Men are having their Annual Banquet on Wednesday, May 12 at 6:30pm at Portland United Church. As in past years, we are extending a friendly invitation to members of the United Church of Canada, in our area, to be with

us. Come and enjoy an evening of food, devotions, fellowship and hear an interesting and informative message from our guest speaker Bruce Smith, Chaplain of the Saint John Seadogs. The cost is \$12 at the door. Please reserve you place by advising Paul Potter 645-7235 on or before Friday May 7th, 2010

Rebels With A Cause Dinner and Silent Auction, May 6, 2010 6:00pm at the Lily Lake Pavilion.

Tickets are \$65 (with a \$35 tax receipt).

Honouring Phyliss Beckingham (Romero House), Arlene Brawley & Mary Beth McCurdy (Sophia House), Elizabeth Weir (Efficiency NB) for their outstanding contributions to the Greater Saint John Community. Hosted by the Elizabeth Fry Society of Saint John, NB Inc. For information, contact Marian Perkins at 696-4017.