



# Silver Falls United Church

**Sunday, April 18th, 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.**

## **Personal Prayer of Preparation**

Show us the way forward, O Christ. Send us the Spirit, that we might perceive you in the words and deeds of others. Journey with us while we are becoming faithful witnesses to your wise and transforming ways. Amen

## **Organ Prelude**

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

**Call to Worship** (responsively)

One: The songs of Easter joy are still on our lips and the desire to witness is fresh in our hearts.

**All: From this place of delight, we will be given new visions of the way forward.**

One: The Spirit of Christ calls us out of the familiar and sets us on daring adventures for the sake of love.

**All: We enter this time of worship with courage. May our hearts be opened to receive the Spirit's call.**

**Prayer of Approach** (in unison)

**The way forward, O Spirit of Christ, is with you. We meet you in that which is familiar as well as in surprising and unexpected ways. May we hear your voice, trust your call, and live with others in your way. Amen**

**Opening Hymn** Christ is Alive  
**VU 158 vs 1, 2, 3 & 5**

**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: By the Spirit of Christ, we are gathered into this beloved community.

**All: Here, it is God's desire to encircle us in gracious love and unconditional welcome.**

One: Give thanks for the ways you personally experience this love. Yet unconditional grace and welcome are not always evident.

**All: We leave behind those parts of ourselves that we believe are unacceptable or of which we are ashamed.**

One: Speak to God now of that which we have yet to acknowledge within ourselves and welcome into community.

**All: Just as we do not bring every part of ourselves to the beloved community, at times we exclude others.**

One: Your welcome extends beyond what we can imagine.

**All: Allow the Spirit to enlarge our hearts so we can be graced with new possibilities.**

### **Words of Assurance (responsively)**

One: We receive the gracious love of God.

**All: We receive the gracious love of God.**

One: We are made whole in God's presence.

**All: We are made whole in God's presence.**

One: We welcome all into God's community of love.

**All: We welcome all into God's community of love.**

**Faith in Action**

Youth Group

30 Hour Famine presented by

**Life and Work of the Church**

**Children's Hymn**

Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!

**Chorus:****Hey now! Singing hallelujah! Hey now! The morning  
has come!****Hey now! Singing hallelujah! The tomb was empty at  
the rising sun.**

Jesus loved people and he made them friends.

Hey now, the tomb was empty

They called to the children and the women and men

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

**(Chorus)**

Jesus healed people and he helped them be well

Hey now, the tomb was empty

He taught about God in the stories he'd tell.

Hey now, the tomb was empty.

**(Chorus)****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**

**Hey now! Singing hallelujah! Hey now! The morning has come!**

**Hey now! Singing hallelujah! The tomb was empty at the rising sun.**

Jesus had power and they took him away  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty  
 They nailed him to a cross and they killed him one day  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty.

**(Chorus)**

Jesus loves people and he lives again!  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty  
 Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty

**(Chorus)**

## **Introit for the Word**

One: Open our eyes and hearts, God of sacred story. Speak to us through these words. Show us the way and give us strength to live in faith. Amen

**Scripture Readings:** (to be read by Nancy Doucette)

First Reading:

**Acts 9:1-6**

Reader: These are our sacred stories

**All: Thanks be to God**

Psalm: **VU 757 Psalm 30**

Epistle: **Revelation 5:11-14**

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

Gospel Reading: **John 21:1-19**

Reader: Glory be to you, O God

**All: Praise be to you, O Christ**

**Ministry of Music** Chariot's Comin'  
by D. Besig and N. Price

## **Sermon**

## **Offertory Invitation**

One: Let us give from our abundance because the Risen Christ has called us and claimed us. Let us receive our morning offering.

## **Receiving our Offerings and Par Cards**

**Offertory Hymn** Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

- **VU 216**

## **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)

**Freely you give to us, dear God, and freely we would give to you. Open our hands and hearts to your way of generosity, and accept what we bring. We dedicate these gifts and ourselves to your loving purposes, trusting that with your blessing, we will become the people you would have us be. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen**

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and 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!

**Closing Hymn** All the Way my Savior Leads Me  
**VU 635**

## **Commissioning and Benediction**

One: The Spirit of Christ says, "get up and go.  
 Go and extend God's circle of love, go and offer  
 a healing touch to the world, go and celebrate  
 the Spirit's presence in all.

**All: Our eyes have been opened and we are  
 filled  
 with new visions of the way. We will go  
 where  
 the Spirit of Christ leads. Amen**

## **Choral Blessing** (tune-Edelweiss)

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

Glory to God, may He hear our song  
Guard and guide you 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 parents Clarence and  
Hazel Sherwood by daughter Marion.  
In loving memory of Allen W Bustin by  
Ethel and Ken Roach**

**Scripture** for Sunday, April 25th – **Katrina Richard**  
**Acts 9:36-43**  
**Psalm 23**  
**Revelation 7:9-17**  
**John 10:22-30**

**Greeter** for April 25th – **Tammy Kilpatrick**

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.

**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. Tables are still available for \$10 - contact Barbara Mahaffy, Pam Carter or the church office. We would ask that any items for the church tables **not** be left at the church until **after** May 1. We are **unable** to accept large appliances, furniture or tires. Save those novels! We are looking for **hard and soft cover novels only**.

Volunteers are needed to set up the hall on Friday evening, to run the canteen during the Flea Market and to man the church tables on Saturday. Donations for the Bake Sale table and canteen would also be appreciated. There are sign up sheets at the back of the church if you would like to help out on May 8th. Thank you.

**Unified Board Meeting** on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.

If you didn't bring anything for the **food bank** today, April 18<sup>th</sup>, please feel free to bring something in next week, April 25<sup>th</sup>. All donations are greatly appreciated! Thank you!

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](http://www.risktakingfaith.webs.com)

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 your place by advising Paul Potter 645-7235 on or before Friday May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Friends, the triennial "**United Church Men's Rally**" will be held at The **United Church in Amherst, on SATURDAY MAY 1, 2010, 10 A.M. TO 3:30 PM**, an excellent program is planned and lunch/full meal, is served, the **registration fee is \$30**. This is a great opportunity to meet other guys from our United Church family from all across the Maritimes. If you are interested please call me 672-8819 (h) 651-8819 (cell)... I will take your name and register everyone at once....

Come on guys, I always hear "there isn't much for the men

in the church to do, except building projects of repairs...well here is your chance to be part of a meaningful gathering and worship service of like minded individuals...CALLNOW!  
RIGHT NOW!

### **Hampton United Church will be hosting a Spring Violet Tea**

Saturday April 24, 2010, 11am to 1 pm  
Tickets at the door: \$6 adults, \$3 children under 12,  
preschoolers no charge  
Quilt Display

**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

### **For Reflection:**

#### **Life's Loving Gifts**

An inner journey; accepting and calm  
A quieted mind, a healing balm  
Centered awareness; treasures shown  
Timeless wisdom, we've always known  
Smiles of joy, thanksgiving to above  
Trusting in our true source of love ...

**"Life has a wonderful way of guiding us along the highest path; one which serves our greatest good!"**

I understand that some may have difficulty with such a claim, and yet, it has always proven true throughout my life's experiences. Yes, sometimes we may feel that all is in a state of disorder and that everything is stacked up against our efforts ... indeed, along my personal journey, I can divide my life into those events that have gone my way and those that seemed counter to my goals. So, where were the "loving gifts" in all of those challenges?

Dear friends,

There may be times when we feel anxious, all alone and lacking any true wisdom. Yet, when we choose to really look for these "gifts" we will then begin to realize what our higher selves are lovingly calling to our attention. It is helpful to raise our awareness above what may seem to be the constant "mental noise" generated by our daily challenges.

Yes, this may prove difficult, as many of us have been conditioned since birth to use only a small number of the many potential tools at our command. Yet, when we calmly enter into our place of inner wisdom to search out these gifts they will always be given, even during our darkest hours ... just the faith in that alone will help to bring them into our awareness ... in what seems like an instant!

Life's Gifts often come in many different disguises ... sometimes they appear as barriers, blocking our goals or even bringing us pain; but yet, they are actually doorways opening into our greatest dreams ... a place to realize true peace and happiness.

So, try this experiment the next time you feel burdened by what seems like a great weight upon your shoulders ... first, bring acceptance upon the situation ... as it is in your present reality, and then, search out its hidden gems! Soon, you will begin to discover its hidden treasures, which will then prove helpful along your life's journey!

Know that we are all connected to a loving source that always wants to help us, as life was never meant to be a painful struggle. These precious gifts will then help us to get back onto the "right path" towards peace, health and happiness! We need have only a small measure of trust that they exist and are being freely given ... and so, they will soon be brought into our current reality.

This realization will then form an integral part towards our awakening, serving on the journey to reunite in that place where we all originated!

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