

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

April 1, 2018

Easter Sunday

Coffee and Tea is ready! Please help yourself at the trolleys located by the Grand Piano.

Large Print Bulletins are always available from our Greeters. Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing assist system. Our Greeters would be happy to bring you a set of earphones.

Lighting the Christ Candle of Easter

They went to the tomb, just as the sun was beginning to rise.
Eyes downcast, hearts heavy.

But what they found there, shone in their lives forever.
Not the shadow of death, but the new Light!

As Easter people

we follow the light of Christ!

(Written by Richard Bott, Dunbar Heights United Church, Vancouver, BC., Gathering L/E 2016, page 38. Used with permission.)

Easter Welcome

Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Processional Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today [VU 155]

Call to Worship:

The women gathered spices together in order to anoint Jesus.
We gather together seeking to be blessed ourselves.

Do not be alarmed.

He has been raised; he is not here.

The women travelled to the place of burial in order to express their grief and sorrow.

We've continued our journey throughout Lent in order to come to this day of hope.

Do not be alarmed.

He has been raised; he is not here.

The women wondered how they would remove the stone in order to be present with the body of Jesus.

We wonder what all of this means.

Do not be alarmed.

He has been raised; he is not here.

The women stopped at the entrance of the tomb,

startled and amazed.

We, too, stop and question when new opportunities are placed before us.

Do not be alarmed.

He has been raised; he is not here.

The women questioned the guard inside the tomb, looking for the body of Jesus.

We, in our day, also have difficulty finding Jesus in the shadows of our world.

Do not be alarmed.

He has been raised; he is not here.

The women were filled with terror at the sight of the empty tomb.

We also face moments of uncertainty and times of fear, but we seek to live on the basis of faith.

Do not be alarmed.

He has been raised; he is not here.

Let us pray,

We are here, Gracious God, aware of new life all around us. Bulbs are bursting forth into majestic flowers, trees struggle to release their buds, and hillsides are ready for the greening of the season. We are here, O God, to receive again the ways in which you transform us. Individual lives are touched with meaning and hope; tears are released and joy is restored; a tomb is emptied and hearts are strangely warmed. Give to us that sense of new life as we awaken our hearts and spirits to the truth of Christ's presence, now and always. Amen.

(Written by Margaret Rabson and Bill Steadman, St. Andrew's United Church, Sudbury, Ont, Gathering L/E 2018, page 40. Used with permission.)

Sung Assurance:

[Tune VU 703]

We have hope and we have promise,
that our paths will be made clear,
let's accept the gift that's given,
when this Easter time is near.

We have sinned, we are forgiven,
that's the message loud and clear,
Christ has died, now Christ has risen,
new beginnings given here.

(Written by Joyce Marsh, Cromer United Church, Pipestone, Manitoba, Gathering L/E/P 2011, page 42. Used with permission.)

Over→

The Lord's Prayer

The Passing of the Peace and the Flowering of the Cross

May the Peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

And also with you.

You are invited to come forward to the Cross and place your flower on the Cross.

Easter Reflection: "The Gardener"

Offering

Dedication: Grant Us, God, the Grace of Giving [VU 540]

Offering Prayer:

Easter Cantata: "The Passion and the Promise"
(by Lloyd Larson and Mark Hayes)

"Hosanna to the King"

"Come to the Feast"

"Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

"All Hail Jesus! Behold the King!"

"Were You There?"

"Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!"

Closing Hymn: Thine is the Glory [VU 173]

Words of Blessing

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!

Go forth with the Risen Christ.

Go and tell all the people back home,

all the people you meet,

that Jesus Christ is risen!

Closing Song: Halle, Halle, Halle [VU 958]

Music to Send Us Out into Our Ministry

Please join us for a Coffee and Conversation in the Davis and Friendship Rooms, through the West Doors.