



United Church of Canada
in the Eastern Townships
A service for personal meditations at home
April 12, 2020, 6:12 a.m.
Sunrise, Easter Sunday
We Gather

Set table with cross , two candles

Opening Prayer

O God, you have searched the depths I cannot know, and touched what I cannot bear to name; may I so wait, enclosed in your darkness. Prepare me to encounter the terror of the dawn, with Jesus Christ. Amen.

Lighting of the first candle

As I light this flame I remember Peter's anguish as he stood watching the fire in the courtyard of the Chief priest:

First Reading: John 18: 12-18 (selected verses) Peter knows fear

Then the Roman soldiers under their commander, joined by the Jewish police, seized Jesus and tied him up. ...

Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. That other disciple was known to the Chief Priest, and so he went in with Jesus to the Chief Priest's courtyard. Peter had to stay outside. Then the other disciple went out, spoke to the doorkeeper, and got Peter in. The young woman who was the doorkeeper said to Peter, "Aren't you one of this man's disciples?" He said, "No, I'm not." The servants and police had made a fire because of the cold and were huddled there warming themselves. Peter stood with them, trying to get warm.

Reflection on our places of fear - Silent Prayer of Confession

Take this time to reflect on the moments that your fears have been stronger than your convictions and those times when by your actions or inactions, by your words or your silence , you have denied your calling as a follower of Christ, as an ambassador for the God of Love.

A Moment of Silent Reflection

Words of assurance

The Easter story assures us that fear does not have the last word. Even death need not have the last word. The God of love lives on in our hearts and is continually nudging us towards the ways of compassion and truth. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Second Reading: Mark 16: 1-6a

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so they could embalm him. Very early on Sunday morning, as the sun rose, they went to the tomb. They worried out loud to each other, "Who will roll back the stone from the tomb for us?" Then they looked up, saw that it had been rolled back - it was a huge stone - and walked right in. They saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed all in white. They were completely taken aback, astonished. He said, "Don't be afraid. I know you're looking for Jesus the Nazarene, the One they nailed on the cross. He's been raised up; he's here no longer. You can see for yourselves that the place is empty.

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Easter Proclamation

As we light our Christ candle let us proclaim....

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Prayers of the People

Creative God, you who breathe life into dust and bring new life out of death: despite the anxious times we live in, we are gathered as your Easter people, separated by physical space but united in spirit.

Resurrected with Christ we hold onto resurrection hope. We come with worries of death still clinging to us, worries for ourselves and for our loved ones. Yet you, Lord, invite us to step out into a new way of being in the way of Jesus. We thank you for this great gift; may our whole lives express our gratitude. We pray in the name of our risen Saviour, who has taught us to pray saying...

Lord's prayer

Blessing and Sending Forth

Risen with Christ, may we know the reassurance of God's presence.
Risen with Christ, may we accept the challenge to work in God's way.
Risen with Christ, may we be living proof that God's love will never die.

***Hymn:** VU 703

1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.

United Church of Canada
Beulah United
Georgeville United
Lennoxville United
Plymouth Trinity United
St. Paul's United
Sawyerville United

**A service for personal meditations at home
April 12, 2020, 6:12 a.m.
Sunrise, Easter Sunday**

