

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020
10:30 A.M.**

*Crescent Fort Rouge is a safe place for all people to worship regardless of race, creed, age, ability, cultural background, sexual orientation or gender expression
Our mission is to invite all who would join us, to celebrate the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, through worship, music, fellowship and outreach, to help us build a fairer and more joyful world*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF TERRITORY

We gather for work and worship on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, and Dakota nations, and the homeland of the Metis people. Long before adventurers, colonizers, settlers, refugees, or immigrants from other places came to the place we call Manitoba, the people of Canada's first nations held this land as a sacred trust from the Creator. They offered assistance to the first travelers to this place and shared their knowledge for survival in what was at times a harsh climate. May our relationships as settlers and Original Peoples be based in honour and deep respect.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Marc: Christ is risen. The light shines in the darkness--
and the darkness can never overwhelm it.

LIGHTING THE DIVERSITY CANDLE

Voice 2: Christ is our peace.
Christ is our hope.
Christ is our joy!

Marc: With fragments of hope and scraps of courage,
we have gathered together in this sacred time,
to remember the past,
to embrace the future,
to live in the present...

Voice 3: Once we were no people,
now we are God's people.
And in all our rainbow diversity,
Christ's light shines through us,
making us one.

AN INVITATION TO REMEMBER

A VIDEO TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS IN THE NOVA SCOTIA TRAGEDY

A READING—Washington Irving

Marc: There is sacredness in tears.

They are not the mark of weakness, but of power.

They speak more eloquently
than ten thousand tongues.

They are messengers of overwhelming grief...
and unspeakable love.

A READING "Because We Love, We Cry," Sheree Fitch

Marc: Sometimes there is no sense to things my child
Sometimes there is no answer to the questions why
Sometimes things beyond all understanding
Sometimes, people die.

When it hurts like this, my child
When you are scared, suffering, confused
Even if we are not together
Together, let us cry

Remember there is so much love
Because we love, we cry.

Sometimes the sadness takes away your breath
Sometimes the pain seems endless, deep
Sometimes you cannot find the sun
Sometimes you wish you were asleep.

When it hurts like this, my child
When you are scared, suffering, confused
Even if we are not together,
Together, let us cry

Remember there is still so much love
Because we love, we cry.

Pray that I had answers, child
Pray this wasn't so
There are impossible things, child
I cannot bear for you to know .

When it hurts like this, my child
When you are scared, suffering, confused
Even if we are not together
Together, let us cry

Yes, there is still so SO So much love
Because we love, we cry.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Marc: When fear and doubts stroll through our doors:
God stands beside us, whispering of peace.

- Voice 2:* When we toss and turn late at night:
God sits by our beds, singing lullabies of love.
- Voice 3:* When we stumble through the shadows of sin:
God illuminates the paths of goodness and joy.
- Voice 4:* When we are blinded by anger,
God pours out God's love for all to see;
- Voice 5:* When we wonder
what tomorrow will bring, God calls us to trust.
- Voice 6:* When sadness fills our hearts,
the God of Easter plants gladness in our hearts.
- Marc:* Christ shows us his hands,
so we may reach out
to mend the broken;
- Voice 2:* Christ shows us his feet,
so we may walk with
those the world passes by;
- Voice 3:* Christ shows us his face,
so we may know what our sisters and brothers
look like.
- Voice 4:* Christ opens our eyes,
so we may see God's love;
- Voice 5:* Christ opens our minds,
so we may welcome God's Word;
- Voice 6:* Christ opens our lips,
so we may be God's witnesses.

PRAYER

Richard Bott, adapted

Marc: Let us pray.

Spirit of Hope: touch us with your peace.

When pain and loss surround,
when fear and want abound,
God give us grace,
to know we're not alone,
our lives are Spirit-blown,
let us your love enthrone,
all to embrace.

Jesus the Christ is here,
challenging all our fear,
a breathing space;
then to the world we go,
kindness and hope to show,
through us your peace will flow,
all to embrace.

Blessed divinity,
dance with the world we see,
help us keep pace!
Give to each moment soul,
making creation whole,
your love our lives' own goal,
all to embrace.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Marc: God in Community, Holy in One,
open us to your presence in our midst
as we lift the prayer Jesus has taught us,

**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.**

WE HEAR AND REFLECT ON THE GOOD NEWS

INTRODUCTION TO READING

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 24:36b-48

Voice 3: While they were saying all this, Jesus appeared to them and said, "Peace be with you."

Voice 4: They thought they were seeing a ghost and were scared half to death.

Voice 3: He continued with them, “Don’t be upset, and don’t let all these doubting questions take over. Look at my hands; look at my feet—it’s really me.

Touch me. Look me over from head to toe. A ghost doesn’t have muscle and bone like this.”

Voice 4: As he said this, he showed them his hands and feet. They still couldn’t believe what they were seeing. It was too much; it seemed too good to be true.

Voice 3: He asked, “Do you have any food here?”

Voice 4: They gave him a piece of fish they had cooked.

Voice 3: He took it and ate it right before their eyes.

Then he said, “Everything I told you while I was with you comes to this: All the things written about me in the Law of Moses, in the Prophets, and in the Psalms have to be fulfilled.”

Voice 4: He went on to open their understanding of the Word of God, showing them how to read their Bibles this way.

Voice 3: He said, “You can see now how it is written that the Messiah suffers, rises from the dead on the third day, and then a total life-change through the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed in his name to all nations—starting from here, from Jerusalem!

Voice 4: You're the first to hear and see it. You're the witnesses. What comes next is very important: I am sending what my Father promised to you, so stay here in the city until he arrives, until you're equipped with power from on high."

Voice 3: Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

WE REFLECT

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

VIDEO "Setting Out Once Again"

Written by Kelly Hall and Phuc Luu, this reflection/poem is inspired by the text from Easter Day in the church calendar.

Out of the stale darkness,
he rises into the light,
bright rays of sun split the tops of trees,
and clouds depart and blue fills sky
the smell of angels lingers in the air—
his hair feels the cool breeze again

This was not the garden,
but a new world
made from the eruption of hope
and a life that could not be held down.

We were witnesses to the life
that rose from the dead
God's relentless love,
who comes close to us
moving stones from tombs
opening the heart to another possibility
death no longer stands

My heart races in my chest
as I step forward to face the future
my future
that I grasp with open hands
with new naïveté
a child toward a mother
to be held and lifted up,
and cradled with care.

At times I hesitate
and I grasp onto memories of what once was
but I know that I am not alone in my apprehension
I feel the hands of others holding me.

These are my sisters, my brothers
who are not strangers to my fears and frailties
who have also confronted a hope that frightens them
who can feel their own scars, both fresh and old

They step in pace with me
the weeping women at the gravesite
the scared disciples waiting in the upper room
This is our future
where we walk together
toward our new home
built by the hands of a wounded king
the new Zion

forsaking the kingdoms marked by borders and divides
where all our settlements are only temporary shelters
sanctuaries of rest for the wounded and weary

Then the Christ returns to visit us,
as Galilee's boats pull to shore
these places seem familiar—
the lapping water and the sand
but we are not to return to these lands
nor those dreams
but become pilgrims
to set our belongings in another home
to wash our sandy feet in some other place,
I to lay down our tired souls on a distant promise,
quilted from both the today and the tomorrow.

And we dine as a day sees another setting sun
sitting across from each other once again
seeing each sweet face laughing deeply
feeling whole once more

And we see the Savior's smile,
he knows our journey's end
and pours us another cup
full of his own love
and this time,
our eyes tell him
that we understand.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Marc: Sisters and brothers, all evil and death have been
overcome.

Jesus lives among us to redeem and to heal.

PRAYER OF AFFIRMATION “Responding to Life” *John van de Laar*

- Voice 2:* There is nothing that can destroy or contain your life,
O God, life is always slipping through
the cracks of the world and of our lives,
always sending out its shoots
and scattering its seeds,
giving birth to new promises and possibilities.
- Voice 3:* We need eyes and ears, hearts and minds
that are attuned to the signs and songs of life
that respond automatically
to life’s rhythms and reasons.
- Voice 4:* Teach us, O God, to respond to the life
that flows in tears of joy
and that stumbles through tears of grief.
- Voice 2:* Teach, O God, to respond to the life
that resists even the harshest violence
and the most cataclysmic disaster,
and that slowly rises from ashes
of destruction and death.
- Voice 3:* Teach us, O God, to respond to the life
that dances in the untamed places of the planet,
and that walks gently in cities and technology.
- Voice 4:* Teach us, O God, to respond to the life
that sings in the cry of the infant,
and that whispers in the sigh of the dying.
- Voice 5:* Life - your life – is always slipping through the cracks
of the world and of our lives, O God.

Marc: We need only to recognise it and respond,
and in this moment, insofar as we are able,
we do.

AN INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

Voice 2: There is no evening tiredness
that Christ will not share;

Voice 3: No anxious day that can dawn,
without Christ being first there.

Voice 4: There is no road to travel, no Christ-empty space,
no enemy to face, without Christ's grace.

Voice 5: There is no joy to celebrate without Christ's grin,
no sorrow to bear without Christ's spirit within.

Marc: Let us offer to God, the Source of resurrection life,
our lives, along with our prayers
so that our prayers and our deeds
may bring new life to all.

PRAYERS OF CONCERN—*Bruce Prewer and others, adapted*

Marc: Let us pray.

Holy One, we give thanks
for the caring communities
of your church
where you are present
with encouragement
and profound healing.

We give thanks
for those special, holy times
when for a few seconds or hours
this world's shrouds split open
and we glimpse your glory.

Most of all we give thanks
for the gift of Christ Jesus
who makes himself known
in all our journeys.

Be with those who need you this day--

Those who are suffering
from storms within and without...

Be with those who seek you this day--

Those who cry from depths of heart
soul longing...

Be with those who do not know You--

Those who are lost or, reject your love or doubt you,
or cannot feel your ever-present spirit.

Gracious One, you love us as
mother, father, sister, brother, friend.

Startle us, beckon, guide, push, awaken us...

Gentle One gift us with love like a mother--
the one we had,
the one we wish we had
the one we hope to be
the one we find
like the women at the foot of the cross--
a love that never ends

Gracious One, reveal yourself to us
be with us
live in us. Amen.

WE GO INTO THE WORLD

WORDS OF BLESSING AND SENDING

Marc: Christ has brought us together:
together in faith, together in hope,
together in love.

We have gathered together to be sent out again:
sent out with the welcome message
of hope and love!

Though we are scattered, let us go forth together,
to be living testimonies of Christ's love!