

Laidlaw Memorial United Church

✉ 155 Ottawa Street North at Cannon Street
Hamilton, Ontario L8H 3Z2

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Easter Sunrise Service

March 27, 2005, 9:00 a.m.

Ministers: All who follow Jesus Christ!

Gordon Zanity-Donn at the Organ and Keyboard

Rev. Douglas C. Moore, B.Th., B.A., (Phil), M.Div., Pastor



Prelude

We will gather in the dimness, seeking the light of God.

Welcome and Announcements

God Gathers Us Together

Call to Worship

📖 Psalm 118, Acts 10, Colossians 3

The Lord be with you! And also with you!

It's early in the morning—most people are still sleeping.

But we have come—because of duty—because of hope.

Look—the stone is rolled away—the tomb is empty!

We came to deal with death—but Christ is alive!

What can these things mean?

Hymn in Darkness

The Strife is O'er

Words: 17th Century Latin Hymn Music: Giovanni Palestrino 1715

1. The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun, hallelujah!
2. The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their
legions has dispersed; let shouts of holy joy outburst, hallelujah!
3. He closed the ancient gates of hell, the bars from heaven's high
portals fell; let songs of praise his triumph tell, hallelujah!
4. On the third morn he rose again, glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain, hallelujah!

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Prayer of Approach *(Unison)*

Living God, this morning begins in darkness. In silence and darkness, life begins, but then bursts forth in joy with praise. Your mysteries bring light and life to all.

We thank you for the rituals of light and water that connect us to you and to each other. We thank you that we are made new every morning by your refreshing Spirit at work in us.

Let your love warm us like the rising sun. Let the light of Christ guide our hopes and prayers. Let your Spirit refresh our spirits, that we may share with joy the mysteries of life, Amen!

Anthem

By Sylvia Campbell

Joy Comes with the Dawn

Words and Music: Gordon Light

Liturgy of Light

The Light of Christ Readings

📖 Isaiah 42:1-4, 6b-9 *(Old Testament, page 670)*

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

📖 John 12:27-36a *(New Testament, page 106)*

The Gospel of Christ. Praise to you, O Christ!

Meditation

Becoming Children of Light

Celebrating the New Christ Candle

God of Light, your love and care for your creation is steadfast.

As we light this candle, help us remember your eternal care.

By creating us in your image, you care for us.

By leading Abraham and Sarah, to a new life, you care for us.

**By leading your people out of slavery, through the sea, to freedom,
by leading your people with a pillar of fire, you care for us.**

In Jesus Christ walking with us, we see light and peace.

In raising Jesus Christ from death to life, you call us to believe.

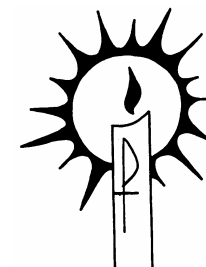
In making Christ our Morning Star, we become children of light.

Let this candle be a symbol of the Light of Christ shining for all.

The Lighting of the New Christ Candle

As the chimes play, the new Christ Candle is lit.

A prayer of thanks will follow.



Christ is Risen!

Hymn Celebrating Light

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Jesus Bids Us Shine

Words: Susan Warner Music: Edwin O. Excell

1. **Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,
like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world is darkness, so let us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.**
2. **Jesus bids us shine first of all for him;
well he sees and knows it when our light grows dim:
Jesus walks beside us to help us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.**
3. **Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;
many kinds of darkness in the world are found:
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.**

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Liturgy of Water and Healing

The Renewal of our Baptism Readings

📖 *Hosea 6:1-3 (Old Testament, page 838)*

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

📖 *Matthew 28:6-10, 16-20 (New Testament, page 33)*

The Gospel of Christ. Praise to you, O Christ!

Meditation

On the Third Day He Will Rise Up

Renewal of our Baptism

Sisters and brothers, on this day, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, let us gather at this font and renew our baptism, which is the sign and seal of the new life God is giving us in Jesus Christ. Let us remember the promises we made at our baptism, to turn from the powers of darkness, accepting Christ as our Light.

The Water will be poured into the font.

A prayer of thanks will follow.

I ask you now, are you prepared to renew your faith in Jesus Christ?

We are.

I ask each of you now, desiring freedom of new life in Christ, do you turn away from the forces of evil and renounce their power?

We do, by God's grace.



*Do you turn to Jesus Christ, and accept Christ as Lord and Saviour?
We do, by God's grace.
Do you commit yourself to the mission and ministry of Christ's
Church?*

We do, by God's grace.

Remembering and Renewing our Baptism

All who wish to do so are invited to come to the font.

A blessing will be given to those who come.

Baptism Hymn

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I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry

Words and Music: John Ylvisaker 1985

1. **I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptised, to see your life unfold.**
2. **I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well, in a blaze of light
you wandered off to find where demons dwell.**
3. **When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise
the living Lord, to whom you now belong.**
4. **If you find someone to share your time
and join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make
your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.**
5. **In the middle ages of your life, not too old,
no longer young. I'll be there to guide you
through the night, complete what I've begun.**
6. **When the evening gently closes in and you shut
your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.**
7. **I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there
when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptised,
to see your life unfold.**

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We Respond to God's Word

Invitation to Christian Life and Generosity

Offertory Anthem

By Sylvia Campbell

This Is the Day that God Has Made

Words and Music: Natalie Sleeth

Doxology 537

1. Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.
2. Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

Prayer of Dedication

The Lord's Prayer (*unison*)

In Jesus' Name We Go to Serve

Closing Hymn

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Thine Is the Glory

Words: Edmund Lois Bundy 1884 Music: George Fredrick Handel 1747

1. **Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:**
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.
Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.

Refrain: **Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son:**
endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

2. **Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!**

Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.

Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,
for the Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting.

3. **No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life;**
life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife;

make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

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Commissioning, Benediction, Choral Amen

Postlude

Please join us for Easter Breakfast!

