

All-Ages Worship Service for the Week after Easter

Call to Worship

Leader: Easter is more than just one day. Easter is a season! For this reason, we can say again, “Christ is risen!” Say it with me:

All: Christ is risen!

Leader: He is risen, indeed! The news is so good we can say it again and again! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen, indeed! Alleluia, Amen!

Opening Song:

[Christ the Lord is Risen Today](#)

Responsive Prayer of the Day:

Leader: What are the signs of resurrection you see in the world?

People: We see sunlight, rainbows, and flowers on trees!

Leader: What else do you see?

People: We see people helping, caring, and doing good deeds!

Leader: We are God’s people! We believe in resurrection.

People: Thank you, God; thank you, Jesus; thank you, Holy Spirit. Amen and Amen.

Assurance of God’s Grace:

Leader: Friends, hear the good news. In Christ, you are a new creation: the old is gone, the new has come! Let us greet each other with the peace of Christ, saying, “May the peace of Christ be with you.”

People: **And also with you!**

All Ages Children’s Message: Butterfly Prayer

For the children’s message we’ll teach a very simple practice found in the book *Faithful Families: Creating Sacred Moments at Home*. Here’s how to do it in a children’s message setting.

Props: A printed picture of a butterfly or a butterfly cutout.

The leader holds up the picture and says, “Today I brought with me a picture of a butterfly. Butterflies are symbols of resurrection and new life. We find them in the Spring, brightening up our gardens. They are also a symbol of transformation because they start as caterpillars and become butterflies. Today I’m going to teach you a very simple prayer called the ‘Butterfly Prayer.’ There are no words; just a simple action. If your hands don’t want to make this shape today, you can simply rest them on your heart or in your lap and breathe with us. Here’s what you do: gently cross your hands and touch your thumbs together to make a butterfly shape, like this:[Demonstrate. Palms facing you.] This is your butterfly! Then place the butterfly’s wings on your collarbones like this: [Demonstrate] Finally, tap the butterfly’s wings slowly. Tap. Tap. Tap. As you do, you can close your eyes and take a deep breath, or you can just sit quietly as you tap. Tap. Tap. Tap. Let’s try it together for about 15 seconds. Tap, tap, tap. When you’re done, you can just say ‘Amen!’ I like doing the butterfly prayer anytime I need to take a minute and be still! Let’s pray, “God, thank you for the gifts of Spring and new life, for the butterfly and its calming wings, and for the risen life you are growing in us. Amen.”

Lessons and Songs

Lesson One: We See the Empty Tomb

Reading: Matthew 28:1-2, 5-6 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.

Song: [This is the Day](#)

Lesson Two: We See Jesus in the Garden

Reading: John 20:11-16 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher).

Song: [Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks!](#)

Lesson Three: We See Evidence of New Life and Resurrection in the World

Reading: Isaiah 55:12-13 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Song: [All Things Bright and Beautiful](#)

Lesson Four: We Bring the Good News Into the World

Reading: Matthew 28:16-20 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Song: [Rejoice the Lord is King!](#)

Prayers of the People/Interactive Response

Three Alleluias for the World The leader instructs the congregation that after the words “we say” are spoken, the people will respond with “Alleluia, alleluia.”

Leader: Let us pray. Creator God, we give you thanks for all that you have made. For the sun and the moon, the stars and the planets. With hearts full of wonder, we say

People: Alleluia, alleluia

Leader: For those who are hurting, or anxious, or afraid, we pray with hope, O God. We ask for your healing, your grace, and your presence. Knowing you hear all our prayers, we say

People: Alleluia, alleluia

Leader: For the season of resurrection we are now beginning, we ask for your presence, O God. May we notice the things that are growing in our lives — mercy, kindness, and love — each day. With grateful hearts, we say

People: Alleluia, alleluia

Affirmation of Faith:

A New Creed

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

Created by Traci Smith (www.tracismith.com). You are welcome to use or adapt this liturgy in your congregational context; please include attribution.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Source: United Church of Canada – united-church.ca

Offering and Prayer

After the offering is taken, the leader says, “God you have given us so many gifts. Use them, we pray, along with these gifts of time, talent, and treasure, that the resurrection may be known throughout the whole world. Amen.”

Benediction

Leader: May we go into the world remembering the very good news we have been told: Christ is risen!

People: Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, amen.