

Beaverlodge-Wembley-Hythe Pastoral Charge

United Church of Canada

403-10<sup>th</sup> Street, Beaverlodge, AB T0H 0C0



**EASTER SUNDAY**

**March 31, 2024**

**MINISTER:** Rev. Dr. Dorcas Kanana Muketha

**PIANIST:** Shirley Preuss

### **WELCOME**

Leader: "Jesus said, I am the living One; I was dead, and now I am alive forevermore." Rev. 1:18

Christ is risen!

**All: Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah!**

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LIGHTING OF CANDLES**

Leader: As we light the candles, we are reminded of our long journey throughout the wilderness, the suffering, loneliness, and betrayal, yet we rejoice in the joy of the dawn that comes with Easter morning.

**All: Christ has been raised from the dead. We died with Christ and were raised with him. Hallelujah!**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We gather in a semi-circle in solidarity to grieve Christ's death, our own and our painful experiences in our lives.

**All: With the light of Easter, in the joy of resurrection, we have hope for the future.**

Leader: Let us empty ourselves of grief, anger, depression, and frustrations to experience the presence of the risen Lord.

All: **We joyfully sing and shout Hallelujah! The strife is over, and the tomb is empty. Christ is risen indeed!**

### OPENING PRAYER

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us join in the Lord's Prayer:

**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 and the power and the glory**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*\*OPENING HYMN:** VU # 175 "This is the Day That God has Made."

#### CHILDREN'S TIME:

**\*\*CHILDREN'S HYMN:** MV # 121 "Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!"

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION [in unison]

Loving God, through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus you have taught us there is nothing too big for you. You rolled the stone on the tomb of Jesus, you can roll away all that impedes us from worshiping wholly with open hearts, minds, and souls. Open us to meet the resurrected Christ and fill us with your Word to give us courage to proclaim the resurrection story. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen!

In scripture God speaks to each of us. Listen for the voice of God.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** MARK 16:1-8

The word of God to us, God's people.

**REFLECTION:** "WHO WILL ROLL AWAY THE STONE?"

**\*\*HYMN:** VU # 155 "Jesus Christ is Risen Today. "

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:** An Easter Message on Education

#### INVITATION FOR OFFERING

We are invited to gather your gifts acknowledging the price that Christ paid on the cross for the world's brokenness. Let us manifest his love in our giving as a sign of our sacrifice and love for the world and the people around us.

**\*\*OFFERING HYMN:** MV # 162 "Christ, within us Hidden."

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION [in unison]

**Providing God, today we celebrate the miracle of resurrection which reminds us of your unconditional love for all people. As we dedicate these gifts and our Lent savings from those who gave up their luxury, may these gifts effect change to those who will receive them for the glorification of your name. Bless the givers and those who are willing to give but they can't. We pray this through Christ. Amen!**

#### PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

"On My Father's Side" gifted by Clarence Hanson

## **CONFIRMATION**

### **Statement about Renewal of Baptismal Faith**

At various moments on the journey of our life in Christ, we reaffirm and renew the faith proclaimed in baptism.

As those who have been baptized profess for themselves the faith of the Christian community in which they have been nurtured, we gather to reaffirm the power of the holy spirit and to celebrate the place of Myles Ryan Lacey in the people of God.

We give thanks for his gifts as witnessed in this community of faith and promise to continue walking with him.

With joy and thanksgiving, we celebrate the faith we all share—and rededicate ourselves to the life and work of the body of Christ.

**SCRIPTURE READING:** 1 Peter 2:9

**Presentation of Candidate** (Brent Cage - BUC Board Chairperson)

I invite Myles Ryan Lacey, who seeks to confirm the faith proclaimed in his baptism to come forward.

**Sponsor** (Brent Cage)

On behalf of the congregation of Beaverlodge United Church, we present Myles Ryan Lacey—who seeks to confirm the faith proclaimed in his baptism.

**Profession of Faith and Promises**

Do you believe in God, the source of love; in Jesus Christ, love incarnate; and the Holy Spirit, love's power?

**Candidate: I do, by the grace of God.**

Will you follow in the way of Jesus Christ, resisting oppression and evil, seeking justice, and witnessing God's love for all creation?

**Candidate: I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join with your sisters and brothers in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

**Candidate: I will, God being my helper.**

**Commitment of Sponsor**

As a sponsor of this candidate, will you continue to support and encourage him in his Christian life and discipleship?

**Sponsor: I will, God being my helper.**

**Laying on of Hands** (the congregants and minister say the words together as hands are placed on the candidate's head—as a symbol of the bestowal of the power of the Holy Spirit in his life.)

**Myles Ryan Lacey, The power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may continue to be a faithful witness of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Commissioning and Presentation of Gift/Certificate**

Myles Ryan Lacey, receive this Gift/Certificate, and with your sisters and brothers in Christ, continue to grow in faith, trusting in God's love.

**\*Congregational Commitment** (responsively)

People of the church let's pledge our continued support and care to Myles.

**We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God's help, we will live out our baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in God's work.**

**Reaffirmation of Faith**

*Congregation members who wish to reaffirm their baptismal faith.*

By our baptism, we are made members of Christ's church. We exercise this membership in the denomination to which we belong, which for us is The United Church of Canada, and within the context of a local community of faith.

We now welcome those who are already members of the church of Jesus Christ—already members of Beaverlodge-Wembley United Church—who've chosen to reaffirm their faith on this day.

**A NEW CREED: VU # 918** [in unison]

**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.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**



**Hymn: VU # 343** "I Love to Tell the Story." (verse 1 only)

## **COMMUNION**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Leader: Lord God, we gather at your table to celebrate your victory over death rejoicing in the light of your resurrection. We share in your grace recalling your love for all the people in the world. And so, we raise our voices to proclaim your name saying:

**Holy, Holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night he was betrayed our Lord Jesus Christ took bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to his disciples. And said,

"Take, eat this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and after giving thanks, gave it to them, and said,

"Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Gracious God, by the death of your child you have destroyed the power of death, and by raising him to life you have given us life for evermore.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come Again.**

We share at this table to denote unity, love, and God's grace for all. All are welcome!

**Communion HYMN:** MV # 194 "Bread of Life, Feed my Soul."

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** [In unison]

**God of Easter sunrise, you gather us at your table to share your unfathomable love, unity, and grace. We thank you for your nourishment through the body and blood of Jesus your Son. May this sharing have a lasting significance in our faith to live resurrection. We pray through Christ the risen One. Amen!**

**\*\*CLOSING HYMN:** VU # 433 "Day is Done."

**BENEDICTION & SENDING FORTH**