

Easter: A Place at the Table for New Life

An Easter Letter from Growth Animator Jordan Cantwell* Dear friends in ministry and community, Easter is God's great yes to life—spoken into places of fear, grief, uncertainty, and waiting. The stone is rolled away not so the story can end, but so new life can begin. Once again, we are invited to step into resurrection hope together.

At Easter, we remember that the risen Christ meets people not only in sanctuaries, but on roads, in gardens, around tables, and in ordinary conversations. Resurrection is relational. As we work together, building connections, collaboration and cooperation, it is experienced as belonging. It is discovered as we share stories, share hope, and try new things together.

“But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.” — John 20:31 (NRSVUE)

Across the prairies, communities of faith are living Easter in courageous and creative ways— strengthening invitation, widening welcome, and making room for honest questions and shared experiences. These are resurrection practices. They nurture resilience, deepen connection, and remind us that the church is not closed in by walls, but opened up by love.

As we look ahead together, we are grounded in the shared vision of Toward 2035: Inspired, resilient, and diverse contextual communities of disciples seek to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world. The church is present and deeply connected coast-to-coast-to coast in rural and urban settings, and in ecumenical and global relationships. Guided by

hope-filled, adaptive and effective ministry leaders, the denomination is increasingly multigenerational, multiracial, and intercultural. — Toward 2035 Vision Statement

Easter invites us to keep saying yes to small acts that build connections, to relationships that deepen belonging, and to the courage to try something new. Each table expanded and each connection nurtured becomes a sign of resurrection life among us.

As you celebrate Easter, may you know you are not alone. You are part of a wider movement of communities committed to belonging, renewal, and hope. May God grant you joy in this season and confidence that stones are still being rolled away.

May we continue to make room at the table— for neighbours, for questions, for hope, and for the risen Christ among us. Grace and peace this Easter season,

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*adapted from an article written by Sharon Ballantyne, Growth Animator for Atlantic regions