

**EASTER SUNDAY  
FIRST UNITED CHURCH, MOUNT PEARL  
March 31st, 2024 – 8 am**

**Easter Greeting**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!  
**Christ is risen indeed. Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

***Blessing of New Fire and Lighting of the Christ Candle***

**Hymn:** Alive, Alive

**Call to Worship:**

This is the season of Easter:  
**the celebration of resurrection,**  
the festival of hope,  
**the promise of new beginnings,**  
the dance of faith,  
**the song of joy,**  
the music of gladness,  
**the hymn of love.**

Let us worship our life-giving God!

**Prayer of Approach:**

**O God, we celebrate this wonderful day! We celebrate that you conquered death and invited us back into a right relationship with you. You became human, one of us, and took upon yourself our experiences of pain and suffering. You have shown us that life cannot be defeated by death, and through our faith in you we do not have to fear. We thank you and praise you as we celebrate Jesus alive again and with us forever. Amen.**

**Hymn:** Joy Comes with the Dawn **VU 166**

**Prayer of Confession:**

Christ, you shed light into our darkened world.

**Yet we choose to walk in shadows of indifference and fear: forgive us, Risen Christ.**

From the cool, refreshing waters of a deep well, you offer us a drink of life-giving water.

**Yet we choose to drink from wells of bitterness and anger: forgive us, Risen Christ.**

As life emerges from fertile soil, you invite us to newness and growth.

**Yet we choose the parched soil of hatred, materialism, and greed: forgive us, Risen Christ.**

With songs of celebration, you invite us to join the dance of God's tomorrow.

**Yet we choose to sit, ignoring the music.**

Take our hands, O Christ,  
**and lead us in the dance of your tomorrow.**  
*(silent confession)*

**Assurance of Pardon:**

The stone is rolled away-we are released! The tomb is empty-we can be free! Christ is risen-life can be full! Thanks be to God.

**Hallelujah! Amen!**

**Offering Hymn:** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow  
**VU 541**

**Offertory Prayer:**

**Loving God, we respond to your gift of Jesus, risen and alive. With joy and thanksgiving our hearts sing Alleluia! Bless these offerings that make our service within this church compassionate and effective. Bless too the portion that enables our love to be felt across this nation and in many parts of the world. We pray in the name of your blessed Risen One. Amen.**

**Hymn:** Jesus Christ Is Risen Today **VU 155**

**Sharing Easter's Good News**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 25:6-9  
**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 28:1-10

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Hymn:** All Who Hunger **VU 460**

***Prayer of Thanksgiving***  
***Sharing the Bread and the Wine***

**Hymn:** I Danced in the Morning **VU 352**

**Blessing and Sending Forth**