

# Christ Church Gabriola

A Collaborative Anglican – United Church  
Open to All



*Jesus said to her, "Mary."  
She turned and said to him in Hebrew,  
"Rabboni!"  
John 20:16*

**Hybrid Worship**  
**Easter**  
**April 5, 2026**  
Rev. Mona Smart  
Music: Frances Armstrong

*We acknowledge that these lands upon which we worship are the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!*

## *Words for Worship*

*Words of response are in bold & italics*

### Prelude

### Gathering Words

Today's gospel story, "Mary Magdala at the Tomb of Christ," is from the gospel of John. It is a version of the story where the feminine is given importance since it is Mary Magdala who is the first person to arrive at the tomb. She comes at dawn to symbolically signal a new day in the life of humanity, a new consciousness has come into the world.

### Acknowledgement of the Land

***We prayerfully acknowledge with thanksgiving that we gather on the unceded territories of the Snuneymuxw people. Gracious God, help us to seek a new relationship with the first peoples here, one based in honour and respect. Amen***

### Call to Worship or The Collect

Vanderbilt University, Episcopal Prayer Collection

Living God,

***long ago, faithful women proclaimed the good news of Jesus' resurrection, and the world was changed forever. Teach us to keep faith with them, that our witness may be as bold, our love as deep, and our faith as true. Amen***

### Lighting of Candle

Vanderbilt University, Episcopal Prayer Collection

Creator of the universe, you made the world in beauty, and restore all things in glory through the victory of Jesus Christ.

***We light this candle in prayer, that wherever your image is still disfigured by poverty, sickness, selfishness, war, and greed, the new creation in Jesus Christ may appear in justice, love, and peace, to the glory of your name. Amen.***

*(candle is lit)*

**Opening Hymn: Now the Green Blade Rises**

**VU#186**

## Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O people of God,

***The Lord our God, the Lord is one.***

***Love the Lord your God with all your heart,  
with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.***

***This is the first and greatest commandment.***

***The second is like it:***

***Love your neighbor as yourself.***

***There is no greater commandment than these.***

## Peace of Christ

May the peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

## Prayer Before the Reading of Scripture

ACC & UCC Sources

O God, your Word is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path.

Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love.

**Psalm 118:** (part one & three, sung refrain)

**VU #837**

**Refrain: Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

Reader: Mona Smart

Let Israel now say:

***“God’s love endures for ever.”***

Let the house of Aaron say:

***“God’s love endures for ever.”***

Let those who fear God say:

***“God’s love endures for ever.” R***

Open to me the gates of the temple,  
that I may enter and give thanks to God.

***This is the gate of God;  
through it the righteous shall enter.***

I thank you for you have answered me;  
you have become my salvation.

***The stone which the builders rejected  
has become the chief cornerstone.***

This is God’s doing, marvellous in our eyes.

***This is the day that God has made,  
let us rejoice and be glad in it! R***

## Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:1-6 (NRSV)

Reader: Paddy Waymark

*The Joyful Return of the Exiles*

At that time, says the Lord, I will be the God of all the families of Israel,  
and they shall be my people.

Thus says the Lord:

The people who survived the sword

found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,

the Lord appeared to him[a] from far away.

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Again I will build you, and you shall be built,

O virgin Israel!

Again you shall adorn yourself with your tambourines

and go forth in the dance of the merrymakers.

Again you shall plant vineyards

on the mountains of Samaria;

the planters shall plant

and shall enjoy the fruit.

For there shall be a day when sentinels will call

in the hill country of Ephraim:

“Come, let us go up to Zion,  
to the Lord our God.”

## Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18 (NRSV)

Reader: Paddy Waymark

*As is your custom, please stand or sit for the reading of the gospel.*

## The Resurrection of Jesus

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. 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). Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

The Good News of Jesus the Christ according to John  
**Glory to you, Christ Jesus.**

### Reflection: An Easter Story

Hymn of Response: Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing VU#169

### Life & Work of the Church

#### Prayers of the People

Loving God

**Hear our Prayers.**

Lynette Jackson

#### Lords Prayer (*sung*)

VU #959

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

**Offering** (*offering now to be collected*)

#### Offering Prayer

**Praise God the Source of life and birth,  
Praise God the Word, who came to earth.  
Praise God the Spirit, holy flame.  
All Glory, honour to God's name.**

CP #669

### *Holy Communion*

#### Invitation

United Church adaptation of a contemporary composition  
of the Anglican Church based on a 4<sup>th</sup> century liturgy

Here is the table of the Lord.

We joyfully gather at the Lord's table, open to all.

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

God be with you all.

**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 our thanks and praise!**

It is indeed right that we should praise you,  
Holy God, source of life and goodness,  
all creation rightly gives you praise.

**At your command all things came to be:**

**the vast expanse of interstellar space,  
galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,  
and this fragile earth, our island home;  
by your will they were created and have their being.**

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race,

**And blessed us with memory, intelligence, reason, and skill;  
You formed us in your own image:  
male and female you created us.  
You made us the stewards of creation.**

**You made a covenant with Israel,  
and through your servants Abraham and Sarah  
gave the promise to a blessing to all nations.  
Through Moses you led your people from bondage to freedom.  
Through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation.  
Therefore, we give you thanks.**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord** *(sung)*

VU #942

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

In the fullness of time, you sent your child Jesus Christ.  
to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us.

***He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners;  
He opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the Good News to  
the poor and to those in need. In all things, he fulfilled your will.***

**Breaking of the Bread**

Loving God,

***as we break bread and share the cup,  
we give thanks for the bread and the wine,  
fruits of your earth and of our labour.  
We commit ourselves to your service  
and that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith.***

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 to you.  
Do this in 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 all for the forgiveness of sin.  
Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me."

**Sharing of the Bread and Cup**

We offer you, O God, this bread and this wine.  
Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,  
That all who eat and drink at this table may be one body,  
one holy people.

*(Bread and wine to be served)*

**Prayer after Communion**

Gracious God,

***May our participation in the sacramental gifts transform us that  
we may live lives of thanksgiving and be faithful to your will.***

**Closing Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today**

VU#155

**Blessing & Sending**

God of all consolation, in your unending love and mercy  
you turn the darkness of death into the dawn of new life.

***May we who wait at Christ's tomb trust in your power to  
restore all things through your Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to all creation. Amen.***

**Postlude**

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