

Applewood United Church
An Affirming Community
Sunday, April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday with Communion
*(*please stand in body or in spirit)*
Bold words are for all to share

Music for Gathering: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

Territorial Acknowledgment and Announcements

We understand that the land on which we live, work and worship is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The territory is mutually covered by the "Dish with One Spoon" Wampum Belt agreement. In the spirit of reconciliation, we commit to building relationships with all created beings, those who were here before, those who have settled, and those who continue to settle on this land. We commit to partnering with our Indigenous neighbours in being stewards and caretakers of God's Creation. Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we seek to live as reconciled people through our respect for, and our learning and understanding of, our Indigenous siblings.

Centering Music: "Alleluia, Praise to God" MV 59 verse 1

*** Call to Worship and Opening Prayer:** *(responsive)*

One: From our pews and on our ZOOM screens,
we declare good news!

All: Christ is risen!

One: Putting our fears and anxieties aside in the
light of God's new day, we can shout -

All: Hallelujah! Christ is risen indeed!

One: Gathered as this faith family we share the ageless story -

All: The tomb is empty!
Christ is Risen!
Thanks be to God!

One: Today we mark the beginning of the season of Easter,

All: 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!

One: Let us pray together:

**All: Holy God, you call to us from darkness
and revive us with your light.**

**You call us from doubt and uncertainty
into lives that reflect hope and justice.**

**Remind us that, like Mary Magdalene at the tomb,
we may encounter you unexpectedly,
we may meet you when we least expect it.**

**Fill us with your Spirit and your presence,
lead us to work and witness that celebrates
and renews us all –**

We pray in the name of your Risen One, Jesus. Amen.

*** Opening Hymn: "Christ is Alive" VU 158**

Prayers for Reflection and Rejoicing: Looking for Alleluias

Scripture readings:

Acts 10:34-42 *The Inclusive Bible*

Matthew 28:1-10 *The Inclusive Bible*

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: "Run, Mary, Run"

Reflection: "Awe and great joy"

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

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Music: "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

*** Hymn of Dedication: "Behold, Behold" MV 115**

*** Offering Prayer (*together*)**

All: You, O God, are the Easter One.

You are the holy source of renewal.

**You are the dancing spirit of life.
We offer these gifts in gratitude
for hope returned,
for the mystery of your love and presence,
and for the promise of new life to come. Amen.**

Sacrament of Communion

One: Christ is risen!

All: He is risen indeed!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Two: Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.
With your breath, you formed all that we are
and all that is beyond us;
the heavens tell your glory.

One: Through fear-filled days and aching nights
when the powers of death have done their worst,
your love has never deserted us.

Two: Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;
your presence never fails us,
and your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

One: We praise you for Jesus Christ,
risen to life, eternal as your love.
With the women at the tomb,
we raise the strain of gladness.
Hallelujah! Life is stronger than death!

Two: The day of resurrection has come,
scattering fear and gloom,
and so we rejoice with all your people
of every time and place, and with angels and archangels,
to proclaim the glory of your name:

All: (sung) TLUS 16

Two: We do what Jesus did the night before he died.
He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread,
and gave it to his friends, and said,
“Take, eat; remember me.”
Then he took the cup, and said,
“Take, drink; remember.”

One: Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith,
as we break bread and share the cup,
giving thanks for your love in Jesus, the Christ.
We spread your table with these gifts of the earth
and of our labour.
We present to you our very lives,
committed to your service
on behalf of all people.

All: (sung) TLUS 17

One: We pray you, God of Love,
send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here,
that we, and these gifts,
touched by your Spirit,
may be signs of life and love to each other,
and to all the world.

Two: At this time, we also remember all those
with whom you would have us share your feast.
We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain . . .
all who are ill or alone . . .
all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger . . .
all whom the world counts as last and least
We pray for your church and its varied ministries . . .
for the nations as they strive for peace and justice . . .
for the earth, and the fragile web of life we share . . .
for our families and friends

The Lord's Prayer (*said, ecumenical version*)

**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.**

All: (*sung*) TLUS 18

Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup

(Please come forward to receive the elements – you may wish to respond to the words “Jesus Christ the True Vine” and “Jesus Christ the Bread of Life” with the words “amen” or “thanks be to God”. If you are worshiping with us on ZOOM, now would be the time to consume your bread and juice.)

Prayer after Communion

One: Gracious God,
may your gifts of love transform and enliven us
that we may live lives of thanksgiving.

**All: May your presence among us
provoke such longing for your realm,
that we will never be satisfied
until the whole earth knows
your justice, your peace, and your love.**

One: In the name of Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

*** Closing Hymn:** “Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks” VU 179

*** Commissioning/Benediction**

*** Sung Amen:** "Grand Amen" TLUS 15

Amen! Amen! Alleluia!

Amen! Amen! Alleluia!

Music for Scattering