



# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026 | 10:30am

## Gathering in the FBCH Sanctuary

Prayer candles are available in the north transept if you would like to light one as part of your prayer this morning.  
For more information about the life of FBCH, visit our website: [fbchalifax.ca](http://fbchalifax.ca) or like us on social media.

\*Stand as you are able

Wifi Password for FBCH Guest: [youareloved](#)

### Prelude

**Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ**

*Open Our Eyes - arr. Schrader*

### Welcome

**Paula Zanello Antunes**

*If joining on Facebook Live or YouTube we invite you to say hello to everyone by posting a comment to the live stream.*

### Ringing of the Trinity

*We Gather in the presence of God - Creator, Christ, and Spirit*

### \*Call to Worship

**Malachi Wilchcombe**

*From A Wee Worship Book by Wildgoose Resource Group*

Way beyond all journeying,  
Truth behind all mystery,  
Life within all living:

**We praise you.**

Salve for every soreness,  
mender of every brokenness,  
midwife of a better future:

**We praise you.**

Ground of all being,  
judge of all nations,  
conscience of the universe:

**We praise you.**

Marker, Redeemer, confessor, companion, befriender, inspirer,  
God beyond all names:

**We praise you.**

### \*Prayer of Approach

**Creator God, as you called Saul and Ananias, so may we hear you summoning us to live the Way of Jesus. Teach us to open our arms to strangers. Help us trust the Spirit stirring within and among us. Amen.**

# \*Processional Hymn

ADORATION

## 641 When in Our Music God Is Glorified



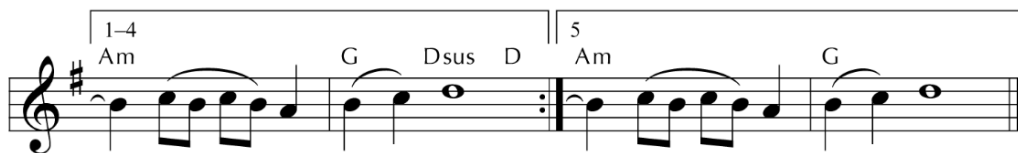
1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied,  
2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found  
3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song,  
4 And did not Je - sus sing a psalm that night  
5 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise!



and ad - o - ra - tion leaves no room for pride,  
a new di - men - sion in the world of sound,  
in faith and love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong,  
when ut - most e - vil strove a - gainst the light?  
Let all re - joice who have a voice to raise!



it is as though the whole cre - a - tion cried:  
as wor - ship moved us to a more pro - found  
borne wit - ness to the truth in ev - ery tongue:  
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight:  
And may God give us faith to sing al - ways:



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

*Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.*

Written to supply this tune with words suitable for occasions celebrating music, this text explores how human song gives voice to creation, how music can convey new insight, how sung faith has kept the church authentic, how Jesus relied on the psalms, and how sound can be praise.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1972, alt.  
MUSIC: Charles Villiers Stanford, 1904, alt.  
Text © 1972 Hope Publishing Company

ENGELBERG  
10.10.10.4  
(this tune in a lower key, 485)

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

### Gospel Reading: John 8:31-32

Elena Mason

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

8:31 Then Jesus said to those who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,<sup>32</sup> and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

### \*Children’s Hymn

## God Welcomes All 399

The musical score is written for a four-part setting (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has the lyrics: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;". The second system has the lyrics: "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends." The music is a simple, welcoming hymn with a steady rhythm.

This “short song,” as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008  
MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008  
Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN  
4.4.9

## Children’s Story

Rusty Edwards

### \*Blessing of the Children

**Beloved children of our church family: may God’s Spirit be with you as you enter into the stories of our faith; may your imaginations be opened to encounter God’s love for you and all the world; and may you be formed to care for others as you discover the Way of Jesus. Amen.**

*Children going into Primary-Grade 6 are invited to go to Godly Play.  
Today’s formation activities: Godly Play Story and Response*

## \*Doxology - OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ, all people here below, Praise Holy Spirit evermore;  
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

### Donations

*All contributions to FBCH support our mission and ministry and are greatly appreciated. Offering boxes are located at the side doors at the back of the Sanctuary. You can also go to our website [fbchalfax.ca](http://fbchalfax.ca) and click on the Ways to Give link for information about how to financially support the ministries of FBCH, including e-transfers or setting up recurring donations.*

## New Testament Reading: Acts 9:1-19a

*New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*

<sup>9:1</sup>Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest <sup>2</sup>and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. <sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup>He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. <sup>6</sup>But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." <sup>7</sup>The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. <sup>8</sup>Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. <sup>9</sup>For three days he was without sight and neither ate nor drank.

<sup>10</sup>Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." <sup>11</sup>The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, <sup>12</sup>and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." <sup>13</sup>But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." <sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; <sup>16</sup>I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." <sup>17</sup>So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." <sup>18</sup>And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, <sup>19a</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

*Reader* For the Word of God in Scripture,  
for the Word of God among us,  
for the Word of God within us.  
*All* **Thanks be to God.**

**Spoken Reflection**

*A Place of Calling*

**Rusty Edwards**

**Anthem**

*Make Me a Channel of Your Peace* -arr. Fettke

**Sr. Choir**

**Prayers of the People**

**Dawn Friedrich**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Our Creator, 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

**\*Recessional Hymn (next page)**

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## O Lord My God

How Great Thou Art

1 O Lord my God, when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er  
 2 When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the  
 3 And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to  
 4 When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me

all the \*worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I  
 birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from  
 die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my  
 home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then \*I shall bow in

hear the \*roll-ing thun-der, thy power through-out the  
 loft-y moun-tain gran-deur and hear the brook and  
 bur-den glad-ly bear-ing, he bled and died to  
 hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion, and there pro-claim, "My

\*Author's original words are "works," "mighty," and "shall I bow."

This tuneful retelling of the salvation story began in Swedish and was translated into German and then into Russian before reaching its English form. Despite such linguistic and musical revisions, it continues to be a meaningful source of comfort to many people.

TEXT: Stuart K. Hine, 1953; Spanish trans. Arturo W. Hotton Rives, alt.; Korean trans. anon.

HOW GREAT THOU ART

MUSIC: Swedish folk melody; adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1949

11.10.11.10 with refrain

Text and Music © 1949 and 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust (U.S.A. print rights admin. Hope Publishing Company.

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*Refrain*

u - ni - verse dis - played:  
 feel the gen - tle breeze: Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to  
 take a - way my sin: God, how great thou art!"

thee: How great thou art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my

Sav - ior God, to thee: How great thou art! How great thou art!

**Benediction**

**Rusty Edwards**

**Amen**

**Postlude**

**Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ**

*Allegro Maestoso fr. Organ Sonata no. 2 -Mendelssohn*

## THE WEEK AHEAD AT FBCH

### Sunday, April 26

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary  
1pm - Youth Group @ Ronald MacDonald House

### Monday, April 27

1pm - Auxiliary Meeting ; Parlour

### Thursday, April 30

7-9pm - Choir Practice; Sanctuary

### Saturday, May 2

2-4pm - "Spring Shuffle...Cards That Is" -  
an afternoon of cards or games; Parlour  
*Tickets still available -  
See Peggy or Gwendolyn at the back of the sanctuary*

### Sunday, May 3

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary  
11:45am - Just Lunch; Parlour

*\*For details go to [fbchalifax.ca](http://fbchalifax.ca) or read News Notes\**

## CONNECT WITH FBCH STAFF

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## Special thanks to today's worship leaders:

Malachi Wilchcombe  
Elena Mason

## FIND OUT MORE

**fbchalifax.ca** 

## CONNECT ONLINE

First Baptist Church Halifax 

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FIRST  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
HALIFAX

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## Breaking Stereotypes Since 1827

The story of the early church in the New Testament is a story of the ever-expanding circle of those included in the community of Jesus. We believe that circle expands to include all people.

Because we are followers of Jesus, First Baptist Church Halifax welcomes all people into the full life of the church community. This means we will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or economic circumstances.

We really do want you to join us. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.

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