

Easter Sunday | April 5 2026 | 10:30am



Image: The Resurrection by Iconographer Kelly Latimore, printed with permission



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 or like us on social media.

If you are looking
for a blessing,
do not linger
here.

Here
is only
emptiness,
a hollow,
a husk
where a blessing
used to be.

This blessing
was not content
in its confinement.

It could not abide
its isolation,
the unrelenting silence,
the pressing stench
of death.

So if it is
a blessing
you seek,
open your own
mouth.

Fill your lungs
with the air
this new
morning brings

and then
release it
with a cry.

Hear how the blessing
breaks forth
in your own voice,

how your own lips
form every word
you never dreamed
to say.

See how the blessing
circles back again,
wanting you to
repeat it,
but louder,

how it draws you,
pulls you,
sends you
to proclaim
its only word:

Risen.
Risen.
Risen.

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Risen
For Easter Day

by Jan Richardson

Prelude

Blue Engine String Quartet

Jennifer Jones, violin, Anne Simons, violin,
Alexandra Bates, viola, Hilary Brown, cello

Allegro from Divertimento in D major -Mozart
Rosamunde -Schubert

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.*

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen, indeed!

Ringing of the Trinity

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

***Call to Worship:**

Arla Johnson

Yesterday we thought death had won.
Yesterday we thought all was lost.
Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.
But not today.
Today we know that love has won.
Today we know that hope is real.
Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope!

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

***Prayer of Approach**

**God of the empty tomb, open our minds that the mystery and joy
of Easter might feel within reach. Open our hearts that we might
believe the unbelievable. Like Mary the Tower who was the first to
arrive at the tomb and the first to proclaim the good news of
Easter, may we encounter signs of resurrection and be amazed!
Amen.**

***Processional Hymn (next page)**

232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um-phant ho - ly day,
 un - to Christ, our heaven-ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
 praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise our God, ye heaven-ly host,

It seems likely that this beloved Easter text began in Latin and moved through German before reaching English, where it combined with the present tune in the emerging English evangelical style, a reaction to the restrained one-note-per-syllable psalmody that preceded it.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–3, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740
 Spanish trans. Juan Bautista Cabrera, alt.; Korean trans. The Christian Literature Society of Korea
 MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica*, 1708; adapt. from *The Compleat Psalmist*, 1749
 Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

EASTER HYMN
 7.7.7.7 with alleluias

suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing.
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Choir Anthem with Blue Engine String Quartet

Hallelujah -Handel (Messiah)

New Testament Reading: Acts 10:34-43

John Dalton

The Inclusive Bible Updated Edition

^{10:34}So Peter said to them: ‘I begin to see how true it is that God shows no partiality—³⁵rather, that any person of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to God. ³⁶This is the message God has sent to the people, the Good News of peace proclaimed through Jesus Christ, who is Saviour of all. ³⁷You yourselves know what took place throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee with the baptism John proclaimed. ³⁸You know how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how Jesus went about doing good works and healing all who were in the grip of the Devil, because God was with him. ³⁹We are eyewitnesses to all that Jesus did in the countryside and in Jerusalem. Finally, Jesus was killed and hung on a tree, ⁴⁰only to be raised by God on the third day. God allowed him to be seen, ⁴¹not by everyone, but only by the witnesses who had been chosen beforehand by God—that is, by us, who ate and drank with Christ after the resurrection from the dead. ⁴²And Christ commissioned us to preach to the people and to bear witness that this is the one set apart by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³To Christ Jesus all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes has forgiveness of sins through this Name.’

*Children's Hymn

God Welcomes All 399

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;
God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems. The first system has a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;". The second system also has a treble clef and a bass clef, both in 4/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.".

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: Goldy 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 fbchalifax.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.

Gospel Reading: John 20:1-18

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{20:1}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. ²So 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." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus's head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, ¹²and 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. ¹³They 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." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus 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." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended to the Creator. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Creator and your Creator, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

Rusty Edwards

Living Tears

Choir Anthem **Joseph Goodwin soloist, Blue Engine String Quartet**

"Easter" -Ralph Vaughan Williams (fr. Five Mystical Songs)

Text by George Herbert: "Rise Heart, thy Lord is risen; sing His praise without delays.

Who takes thee by the hand, that thou likewise with Him may'st rise. Awake, both heart and lute;

O let thy blessed Spirit bear a part, with His sweet art."

Invitation to the Resurrection Feast

John Dalton, Rusty Edwards

Prayers of the People

Arla Johnson

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.

Music during Communion

Blue Engine String Quartet

Sheep May Safely Graze -J.S. Bach

***Closing Hymn (next page)**

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! 248

1 Christ is ris - en! Shout Ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
 2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
 3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.

Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
 Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
 Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.

In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
 Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend.
 Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"

Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
 Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
 God the First and Last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!

In commenting on this late 20th-century text, the author has stressed his intention to affirm the social implications of an Easter faith: "Christian peace and justice action finds its wellspring, not in moral zeal or guilty conscience, but in the resurrection."

Benediction

Rusty Edwards

Amen

Postlude

Blue Engine String Quartet

Hornpipe -Handel (fr. Water Music)

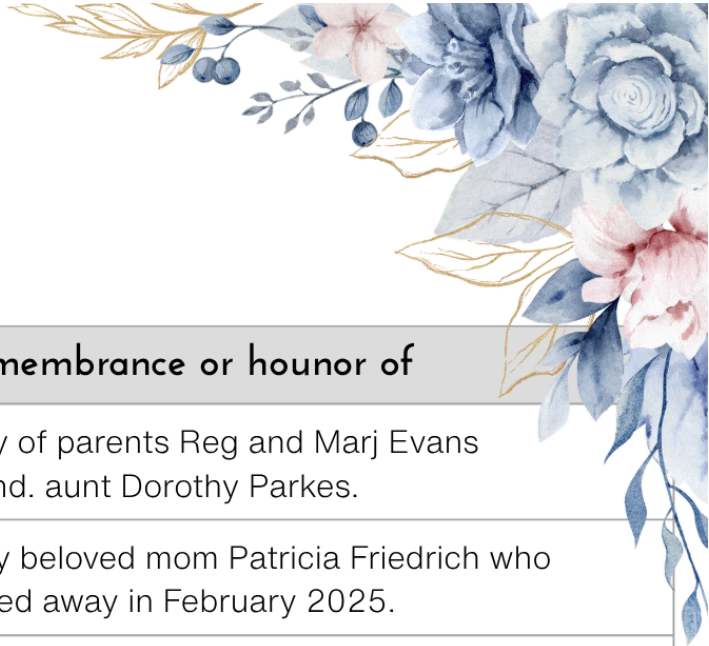


Easter Flowers

placed on the chancel in remembrance

Given by	In Celebration of
Barry and Grace Corkum (Proud Grandparents)	Grand daughter Celeste

Given by	In remembrance or honor of
The Auld Family	In loving memory of my sister Marsha Hurshman, parents Alice and Benson Auld, and grandmother Sarah Trites.
Fredrick Barrow	In Memory of Joyce and Irvine Barrow
Laurie & Alan Cruess	In memory of Loved Ones
Donna & Bryan Darrell	Our Parents: Alex and Alice Darrell and Lois and Charles Smith Brothers: Colin Darrell, Keith Darrell and Woodrow and wife Cynthia Darrell Son: Ojayaba Jones-Darrell
Dexter Families	Susan, Reid & Bernice, Betty & Earl, Vincent & Irva, Carl & Jean Dexter, Shirley Moir (Aunt)
Ted, Marion & Peter Doane	In loving memory of Greg Doane (son of Ted and Marion and brother of Peter) and Larry Doane (Father of Ted and grandfather of Greg and Peter) and Wayne Wile (Brother of Marion) and Ron Wile (Father of Marion and grandfather of Greg and Peter).
Mary Anne and Ray Eisener	In loving memory of parents Ralston and Vivian Eisener, Harold and Betty Veinot and son-in-law, Andrew Robar.



Given by	In remembrance or hounor of
Owen and Clyde Evans	In memory of parents Reg and Marj Evans and. aunt Dorothy Parkes.
Dawn Friedrich	In memory of my beloved mom Patricia Friedrich who passed away in February 2025.
Catherine Fry, Susan Duncan, Ron and James Isnor and Families	In memory of Clyde, Barbara, Gordon and Jane Isnor.
Dianne and Bill Kokesh	In memory of parents Phyllis and Jack McMahon.
Lois MacGibbon, daughter, son-in-law Hugh and grandchildren Olivia and Isabella.	In loving memory of Georgie MacGibbon
Linda Macintosh and Family	In loving memory of Dan Macintosh and John Avis
Frank & Sharon McGill	In loving memory of our parents Murray and lola and Milton and Lillian
Johanne McKee and Family	In memory of husband Ian, their son Christopher and parents and Grandparents Henry and Mabel Zwicker, and Clarence and Helen McKee.
Heather McNeil and Family	In memory of parents Bill and Doris (Boots) Smith and grandmother Ida Smith.
Sandra, Jill, and Tim	In loving memory of Terry Murphy
The Stevenson and Margeson Families	In loving memory of loved ones.
Thomas Family	In loving memory of Arch and Betty Thomas, and Lynn Baechler. Forever in our hearts, the Thomas girls and their families.
Diane and Alex Young	In loving memory of Nelson & Winniefred Chow(Diana's Parents), Peggy Yeung(Alex's Mother), and Pauline Wan(Sister), Joseph Chow(Brother), Denny Yeung(Alex's Brother)
Whitney Family	Remembering loved ones forever in our hearts.

THE WEEK AHEAD AT FBCH

Easter Sunday, April 5

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary

Easter Monday, April 6

Church Closed

Tuesday, April 7

7:00pm - Leadership Team Meeting;
Community Room

Thursday, April 9

7-9pm - Choir Practice; Sanctuary

Sunday, January 19

10:30am - Sunday Worship; Sanctuary
11:45am - Orange Shirt Beading Workshop;
Hall
11:45am - PMC Meeting; Community Room

For details go to fbchalifax.ca or read News Notes

CONNECT WITH FBCH STAFF

Paula Zanello Antunes | **Community Engagement Lead**

paulaantunes@fbchalifax.ca

David Bourque | **Lay Minister**

davidbourque30@gmail.com

John Dalton | **Lay Minister**

johndalton.hfx@gmail.com

Rusty Edwards | **Senior Minister**

rustyedwards@fbchalifax.ca

Jean Ferguson | **Congregational Coordinator**

office@fbchalifax.ca

Arla Johnson | **Minister of Inclusive Community**

arlajohnson@fbchalifax.ca

Lynette Wahlstrom | **Director of Music**

lynettewahlstrom@fbchalifax.ca

Special thanks to
today's worship leaders:

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First Baptist Church Halifax 



FIRST
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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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