

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** I Know That My Redeemer Liveth  
(G.F. Handel arr. Noel Rawsthorne)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE  
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/  
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Martha Bailkowski

**INTROIT** O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing  
(Jean Tisserand trans. John Mason Neale, Airs sur les  
hymnes sacrez arr. F.R.C. Clarke)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the day that God has made!

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Let every day be a day to give thanks to our maker.

**Let every greeting be a chance to share words of love.**

Let every flower be a cause for a song of joy.

**Let every meal be a time to do this in remembrance  
of Christ.**

We are here and in our homes expecting the risen Christ  
in our midst.

**Let us celebrate divine love and grace.**

**Let us worship God!**

**\*HYMN** Now the Green Blade Rises p. 7

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL & LORD'S PRAYER**

**God of grace, you are able to transform our lives by  
your holy presence. Refresh our spirits in this time of  
worship. Move us from frustration to purposeful  
engagement. Bless us that we might become a  
blessing to others. Open our eyes to the strength we  
have to make a difference in our homes and in the  
world. We pray in the name of Jesus, who turns the  
ordinary into a time of celebration. Amen.**

**WORDS OF GRACE**

Believe the good news! Christ is risen, and is at work in  
the world. Life is more than living. We are more than  
our old selves. Renewal is ours through God's  
forgiving love.

**Thanks be to God for the gift of new life in the  
risen Christ!**

**SUNG RESPONSE** Halle, Halle, Halle (VU 958)

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (repeat)

**TIME FOR ALL AGES**

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 16 pp. 7-8  
Paula Hanna

**ANTHEM** Lord of the Dance (Sydney Carter)

**GOSPEL READING** John 20:19-31

**SERMON** Is It Too Soon to Laugh?  
The Reverend Tim Dayfoot

**\*HYMN** Give To Us Laughter p. 8

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked  
(Geoffrey O'Hara) Bob McRoberts, Bass

**\*DEDICATION** Grateful (MV 182)

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy  
Son, joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of  
Love. Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for  
your Holy Word, joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

**PRAYER PRELUDE** Spirit of Life (VU 381)

Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart all the  
stirrings of compassion. Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**\*HYMN** You Tell Me That the Lord Is Risen p.9

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

**\*SUNG BLESSING** Go Now in Peace (Besig/Price)

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you  
each hour of every day. God now in faith, steadfast,  
strong and true. Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to  
others so all the world can see. God will be there  
surrounding us with love. Go now in peace, in faith,  
and in love.

**POSTLUDE** An Easter Fanfare (David Paxton)

### Mission and Service Anchored in Every Season



In Tobermory, Ontario, the town pulses with the seasons. Summer brings busy roads, kayaks on the harbour, and lively streets. Winter brings quiet and long stretches of stillness. Through it all, Tobermory United Church remains a steady, welcoming presence at the northern edge of the Bruce Peninsula.

The building is more than a church. It hosts drumming circles, Tai Chi, bridge games, and poetry gatherings. Worship is shared with St. Thomas the Apostle Mission. Outside, the annual thrift shop turns donations into care, offering affordable items to the community and giving freely to those in need. Hospitality here is intentional, welcoming 2S and LGBTQ+ people with courage and care. Even the building reflects this spirit, with cedar-lined walls and clear windows framing the surrounding forest. Through Mission and Service, Tobermory United Church is connected to a wider movement of faith, creativity, and resilience.

We can keep this welcome strong. When we give to Mission and Service, we help ensure that churches like Tobermory stay open, connected, and full of care for everyone. Give today and be part of sustaining this vital community.



### Moderator's Easter Message 2026

From Heartbreak to Hope: An Easter Message from  
The United Church of Canada ~ Transcript of Video Message

Shortly after the resurrection, Luke's gospel tells us about two disciples walking to Emmaus. A stranger joins them and asks, "What news?" They answer, "About Jesus of Nazareth. Our chief priests and rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death. They crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel." That line breaks my heart. *But we had hoped.* We could all fill in our own version. But we had hoped the war would be over. But we had hoped things would be different by now. But we had hoped they'd still be here. Life is full of dashed hopes and bad news. The disciples had hoped for a redeemer. Instead, they experienced trauma and heartbreaking loss. And then came confusing news. News they were pretty sure was fake news. Propaganda isn't new. Empires have always used it. But today, with AI and deep fakes, it's even harder to know what's true. It's good to be skeptical and to defend good journalism. That's exactly where the disciples were when the women came with the news that Jesus was risen. The scripture says it seemed to them nonsense, an idle tale, fake news. The good news begins with the least credible sources in the eyes of the world. Women and then biased followers. Not Caesar, not Pilate—no official report, just testimony. So Easter—bad news, confusing news, maybe even fake news—that doesn't naturally add up to hope. So where does the good news come from? Not from dark chocolate Easter bunnies, as much as I feel like that might help. The good news came because a small community encountered the risen Christ and believed that death was defeated, that injustice was not the last word. The Good News came from a group of believers whose lives were so radically changed from the inside out, they began to transform the world around them. Today, as followers of Jesus the risen Christ, we continue to be and share that good news. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

*The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberley Heath*



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.



## AURORA UNITED CHURCH



An Affirming Congregation

Church Office 905-727-1935  
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

Rev. Tim Dayfoot & Rev. Linda Wheler  
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



*Easter 2/Holy Humour Sunday*

April 12, 2026  
11:00 AM

**Now the Green Blade Rises** VU 186

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been: love is come again, like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never wake again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen; love is come again, like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; love is come again, like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; love is come again, like wheat arising green.

**Psalm 16** VU 738

**Refrain: Protect me, God: I trust in you.**

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I have said to God, "You are my God; from you alone comes all my prosperity."

**All my delight is in the faithful who dwell in the land, and in those who excel in virtue.**

But as for those who run after other gods, their troubles shall be multiplied.

**Libations of blood I will not offer to those gods, nor will I take their names upon my lips. R**

You, God, are my allotted portion and my cup, **you yourself have cast my lot.**

My boundaries enclose a pleasant land;

**indeed I have a noble heritage.**

I will thank you, God, for giving me counsel;

**at night also you teach my heart.**

I keep you always before me;

**you are on my right hand, therefore I shall not fall. R**

So my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; for my body shall also rest in safety.

**For you will not surrender me to the Grave,**

**nor suffer your beloved to see the Abyss.**

You will show me the path of life.

**In your presence is fullness of joy;**

**and from your right hand flow delights for evermore. R**

**Give To Us Laughter** VU 624

Give to us laughter, O Source of our life. Laughter can banish so much of our strife.

Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.

Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.

Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy; let us in laughing find Christian employ,

joining with stars and with bright northern lights,

laughing and praising and sharing delights.

Why do we worry that we will lose face? Why act like king for the whole human race?

Often in family, and often with friend, laughing at pride causes anguish to end.

Even in sorrow and hours of grief, laughter with tears brings most healing relief.

God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,

joys of your presence among us increase.

You Tell Me That the Lord is Risen **VU 185**

You tell me that the Lord is risen, that you have seen his face.  
Then tell me why you crouch in fear and hide within this place.  
You say that he spoke words of peace and stood just as before.  
But 'til I touch his very flesh I will not trust your joy.

You claim a resurrection here, that God has broken death.  
No easy words like these will soothe the pain that tears my breath.  
How well do I recall his face, compassion, strength in fear.  
How deep my grief that he should die. Spare me your words of cheer!

“Now peace be with you. Come, my friend, my wounded body see.  
Let the rich courage of your doubt bring you to fresh belief.  
Fear not to wonder at the Word, to search the depths of grace.  
Reach out and touch, here is my hand. Receive the gift of faith.”

“How blest are they, how fortunate who know without the sight.  
But Thomas, you are favoured too, for searching yields its light.”  
So may each pilgrim in the Way, each road to Christ be blest,  
'til lips declare, 'My Lord and God!', Christ's body one at last.