

NEW HOPE UNITED CHURCH

**A Christian Community growing together in
Faith, Service and Love.**



April 20, 2025

New Hope United Church

**Sunday, April 20, 2025
Easter Sunday**

Bold print indicates a congregational response.

*** indicates when the congregation is standing, if they are able.**

We Gather as God's People

Gathering Meditation

(We invite you to silently meditate prior to the service).

Prelude: *"Every Morning is Easter Morning"*

Passing the Peace of Christ

Grace and peace from God our Father, the Saviour Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit be with you!

And also with you!

Words of Welcome/Life and Work of Our Church

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Music for the Lighting of the Candle

Call to Worship

***Opening Hymn: : *"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"* (#155 VU)**

**1 Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!**

**2 Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah!
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!**

**3 But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!**

**4 Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!**

Opening Prayer

**Sung Response: "*Come Touch Our Hearts*"
(#12 MV - v.1 – sung twice)**

**Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts.**

Words of Assurance

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and accepted.
Thanks be to God!**

**Response: "*Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ*" (#166 MV)
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, Son of God among us,
thank you for ev-ery sign showing that you love us.**

***Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed**

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

**to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Ministry of Music: "*Sing and Rejoice*" (Traditional English Carol)

We Listen for the Word of God

For the Young at Heart

Response: "*Draw the Circle Wide*" (#145 MV)

**Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stand alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide!**

Prayer for Illumination

Living God, by your Holy Spirit, open our eyes to see the new light of this day; open our lips to tell of the empty tomb; open our hearts to believe the good news; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

Luke 24:1-12

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in

Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sung Response: "God Says" (#172 MV – vs. 1 – sung twice)

**God says, "Be still so you may hear
the words I whisper in your ear.
If you will listen, you will know
I'm with you always where you go."**

Reflection: "Leading Seekers 2"

Rev. Padre Andrew K

Music for Silent Reflection

We Respond to God's Word

The Offering of our Gifts and Ourselves

Invitation

***Offertory: "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"
(#541 VU)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

***Offertory Prayer (*altogether*)**

**We praise you, O God, and give you thanks
that you have given us such joy,
such grace, and such hope,
in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Let our lives be proof of that good news.
Let all our words and actions, our love and service
bear witness to your resurrection power;
for the sake of our living Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*): (#959 VU)

**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.**

We Go Forth to Love as Christians in the World

***Closing Hymn: "*Christ Is Alive*" (#158 VU – vs. 1,2,4, & 5)**

**1 Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.
The cross stands empty to the sky.
Let streets and homes with praises ring.
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.**

**2 Christ is alive! No longer bound
to distant years in Palestine,
but saving, healing, here and now,
and touching every place and time.**

**4 Women and men, in age and youth,
can feel the Spirit, hear the call,
and find the way, the life, the truth,
revealed in Jesus, freed for all.**

**5 Christ is alive, and comes to bring
good news to this and every age,
till earth and sky and ocean ring
with joy, with justice, love and praise.**

***Blessing and Sending Forth**

***Choral Blessing: "I, The Lord of Sea and Sky"
(#509 VU – vs. 1)**

**1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

Postlude

*** * * * ***

New Hope United Church

Rev. Andrew Lee, Minister

Cell: 416-999-5615

leeky3@mcmaster.ca

9100 Jane Street, Bldg. "E", Units 37-42

CONCORD ON L4K 0A4

905-738-6446

e-mail: newhopeunited@bellnet.ca

website: www.newhopevaughan.com

Announcements

Home Coming Day

Rev. Andrew is planning a Home Coming Day on May 4th at New Hope. Please share your thoughts and ideas for that day.

Visitation

Rev. Andrew is available to members who want pastoral visitation at your house, at the church or to meet at another place such as a coffee shop. Please email Rev. Andrew to leeky3@mcmaster.ca to arrange a time and place.

Offering

Collection plates can be found on the table in the entranceway or at the back of the Sanctuary. Please consider joining PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) mailing a cheque to the church or setting up an e-transfer. Your support is much appreciated.

Worship Schedule

Date	April 27	May 4	May 11	May 18
Preacher	Rev. Evelyn McLachlan	Rev. Andrew K. Lee	Catherine Hions	Rev. Andrew K. Lee
Church Year	Second Sunday of Easter	Third Sunday of Easter	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Fifth Sunday of Easter
Liturgical Colour	White/Gold	White/Gold	White/Gold	White/Gold
YUM/UCC Calendar		Home Coming Sunday	Mother's Day	

Mission & Service Stories

Renewing Hope and Growing Love

Easter is a time of renewal and reflection—a reminder of the boundless grace and love that flow through the world. It is also a time to celebrate the ways that you put love into action through Mission and Service.

For 100 years, the faithful generosity of compassionate people like you has helped The United Church of Canada answer Jesus' call to love and serve. Across Canada and around the world, this support has empowered, and continues to empower, life-changing work. In El Salvador, rural farmers are getting the resources to grow enough food for their families. In Zimbabwe, women are learning skills to build sustainable livelihoods. And these are just two of the countless stories of transformation made possible by Mission and Service partners.

As the church looks toward the next century, this legacy of compassion and justice continues. The impact of every gift, every prayer, and every act of service will echo far into the future, ensuring the church remains a source of love and hope for generations to come.

Thank you for the love you show through [Mission and Service](#). With your help, we will move together with compassion into the next 100 years.