

**Welcome and announcements,
Concerns & celebrations**

Holy Week and Easter services

March 28, 2021: Palm Sunday

* If you are able, please have a sprig of cedar or other evergreen for the service

9:30 a.m. In-person worship @ Inkerman United Church

11:00 a.m. In-person worship @ Hallville United Church

12:30 p.m. Online worship on FaceBook Live (12:20 p.m. virtual choir practice)

April 2, 2021: Good Friday

11:00 a.m. CrossWalk @ South Mountain United Church Parking Lot

- Physical Distancing is required, but we will safely walk through the village
- Due to EOHU requirements, there will be no shared lunch this year.

7:00 p.m. Good Friday online service on FaceBook Live

April 4, 2021: Easter Sunday

7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service @ 7:00 a.m. at Hallville UC in front of Church steps

- Physical distancing and masks are required.

9:30 a.m. Easter Sunday @ South Mountain United Church

11:00 a.m. Easter Sunday @ Heckston United Church

12:30 p.m. Easter Sunday online workshop (12:20 p.m. virtual choir practice)

Warm-up song: I can see God's face!
(Key of D)

1

I can see clearly now, the rain is gone,
I can see all obstacles in my way.
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind.

Refrain

It's gonna be a bright, bright, sun-shiny day. (2x)

2

I think I can make it now, the pain is gone,
All of the bad feelings have disappeared.
Here is the rainbow I've been praying for.

Refrain

It's gonna be a bright, bright, sun-shiny day. (2x)

Look all around, there's nothing but blue skies.
Look straight ahead, there's nothing but blue ski-i-i-es.

3

I thought love was only true in fairy tales,
meant for someone else but not for me.
Love was out to get me, that's the way it seemed. Disappointment haunted all my
dreams.

Refrain

Then I saw God's face, now I'm a believer.
Without a trace of doubt in my mind.
I'm in love, I'm a believer,
I couldn't leave God if I tried.

4

I thought love was more or less a giving thing,
it seems the more I gave, the less I got.
What's the use in trying, all you get is pain.
When I needed sunshine I got rain.

Refrain

Then I saw God's face, now I'm a believer.
Without a trace of doubt in my mind.
I'm in love, I'm a believer,
I couldn't leave God if I tried.

5

I can see clearly now, the rain is gone,
I can see all obstacles in my way.
Gone are the dark clouds that had me blind.

Refrain

It's gonna be a bright, bright, sun-shiny day.
It's gonna be a bright, bright, sun-shiny day

Call to worship: The 10 Commandments

(With additions from the Epistles)

Leader: You shall have no other gods before me.

People: For from him and through him and to him
are all things. To him be the glory forever! (*Romans 11:36*)

Leader: You shall not make for yourself an idol.

People: In Christ we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn over all creation. (*Colossians 1:14*)

Leader: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God,
for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

People: Let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--
the fruit of lips that confess his name. (*Hebrews 13:15*)

Leader: Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Six days you shall labour and do all your work,
but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God.

People: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly
as you teach and admonish one another
with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms,
hymns and spiritual songs
with gratitude in your hearts to God. (*Colossians 3:16*)

Leader: Honour your father and your mother,
so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

People: Children, obey your parents in everything,
for this pleases the Lord. (*Ephesians 6:1*)

Leader: You shall not murder.

People: Be kind and compassionate to one another,
forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.
(*Ephesians 4:32*)

Leader: You shall not commit adultery.
People: You are not your own; you were bought at a price.
Therefore honour God with your body. (*1 Corinthians 6: 19-20*)

Leader: You shall not steal.
People: He who has been stealing must steal no longer,
but must work, doing something useful with his hands,
so that he may have something to share
with those in need. (*Ephesians 4:28*)

Leader: You shall not give false testimony against your neighbour.
People: Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things
grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ.
(*Ephesians 4:15*)

Leader: You shall not covet your neighbour's house or anything
that belongs to your neighbour.
People: I am not saying this because I am in need,
for I have learned to be content
whatever the circumstances. I know what it is
to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty.
I have learned the secret of being content
in any and every situation, whether well fed
or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.
I can do all this through him who gives me strength.
(*Philippians 4: 11-13*)

Prayer and confession

Assurance of pardon

The Lord's Prayer Song

Invitation to the offering

Dedication of the offering

Hymn: As comes the breath of spring
(VU 373; Key of D [chords found in VU])

1

As comes the breath of spring
with light and mirth and song,
so does your Spirit bring
new days brave, free, and strong.
You come with thrill of life
to chase hence winter's breath,
to hush to peace the strife
of sin that ends in death.

2

You come like dawning day
with flaming truth and love,
to chase all glooms away,
to brace our wills to prove
how wise, how good to choose
the truth and its brave fight,
to prize it, win or lose,
and live on your delight.

3

You come like songs at morn
that fill the earth with joy,
till we, in Christ newborn,
new strength in praise employ.
You come to rouse the heart
from drifting to despair,
through high hopes to impart
life with an ampler air.

4

You breathe and there is health;
you move and there is power;
you whisper, there is wealth
of love, your richest dower.
Your presence is to us
like summer in the soul;
your joy shines forth and then
life blossoms to its goal.

A time for all God's children

Children's hymn: Come to my heart (VU 661; Key of F [chords found in VU])

1

Come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
teach me to walk in your way.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus,
Teach me to walk today.
Give me the peace and joy
That only you can bring.
Come to my heart, Lord Jesus.
Give me a song to sing.

2

Fill me with love, Lord Jesus,
teach me to walk in your way.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus,
Fill me with love today.
Give me the peace and joy
That only you can bring.
Fill me with love, Lord Jesus,
Give me a song to sing.

3

Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus,
teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus,
Answer my prayer today.
Give me the peace and joy
That only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, Lord Jesus,
Give me a song to sing.

Scripture: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Gospel hymn: Whiter than snow

By James Nicholson (c. 1828-1876)

(Key of G)

“Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.”
(Psalm 51:7)

God’s people have been placed in their particular circle of influence so they can demonstrate purity and a concern for righteousness. If we do not fulfill this role, who will? It is easy, however, to become so accustomed and hardened to the lust and sin all about us that we lose that fine edge of our Christian witness. In fact, without God’s daily cleansing and renewal, we are easily infiltrated with and influenced by the very lifestyle that we reject in others.

This is another fine hymn text written by a Christian layman. James Nicholson spent his entire life as a clerk in the post office in Philadelphia, yet he was always active in the work of the Wharton Street Methodist Episcopal Church. The hymn was first published in a pamphlet titled “Joyful Songs” in 1872.

1

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want thee forever to live in my soul.
Break down every idol, cast out every foe
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Refrain

Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

2

Lord Jesus, look down from your throne in the skies
And help me to make a complete sacrifice.
I give up myself and whatever I know.
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

3

Lord Jesus, for this I most humbly entreat;
I wait, blessed Lord, at thy crucified feet.
By faith, for my cleansing I see your blood flow
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

4

Lord Jesus, You see as I patiently wait;
Come now and within me a new heart create.
To those who have sought you, you never said no
Now wash me and I shall be whiter than snow.

Sermon: Learning by heart: broken or otherwise

"Memorization is a function of duty; knowledge comes only from love."

MacUser magazine

In Meditatio, the Christian monk committed the divine words of his Lectio to memory as he pondered their meaning and, as he did so, he recited them aloud. This was not a dreary exercise: rabbinical students feel that chanting the sacred words reveals the inner music to the soul, and learning something 'by heart' — a revealing phrase — helps one interiorize it and make it one's own."

Visions of God by Karen Armstrong

Pastoral prayer

Benediction

Closing hymn: O love that wilt not

(VU 658; Key of G)

1

O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.

2

O Light that followest all my way,

I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.

3

O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain
that morn shall tearless be.

4

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.