

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • April 7, 2023

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www.graceunitedtavistock.com

Easter Sunday we are seeds

*"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"
The sting of death is sin, and the power he gives us the victory through our
Lord Jesus Christ. Corinthians 15:55-57*



Prepare

So many of us are afraid of death. Perhaps because our origin story is a bit scary. We have ended up interpreting the story of the beginning in Genesis as God creating life out of nothing. Genesis 1:2 says, "The earth was a formless void." Well, if the beginning was a formless void, the end is the return to that formless void. Even though we have also believed that God is in heaven and we will go live with God forever, sometimes that promise doesn't seem to appease our fear of death. The formless void haunts us.

We have also learned that history is linear, with one beginning and one end. Our eschaton, our hope, is in the future. There is very little to do here before our death. I wonder if we might start to lose the fear of death if we remember two things.

First, the Psalmist reminds us this: "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). Our beginning is made of awe and wonder; to die is to go back to that same awe and wonder of God. If God made us out of mud, the mud is glorious and filled with God's presence.

The second thing is to think that perhaps there is no death, but life replenishing itself time and again. Death is a passage into another form of living, in God. We will not disappear but live again in God's vastness. We are dust and to dust we shall return. And if we are to return to God's wonder, the soil, the mud, and the dust mean that we become organic life again. Our bodies will resurrect and will become other forms of life for the glory of God. Until God takes us to heaven.

In that way, death has no victory, for Jesus has conquered it all. In Jesus we keep on resurrecting as seeds in the soil. As a well-known phrase says: "They buried us, but they didn't know we were seeds."

When we die, we will live again! For God has made us with the gift of the land! We were mud that turned into seeds that sprout in glorious forms of living! When we die we go back to become seeds again. May we step on this Earth gently, for it is God's gift to us! O death, where is your victory?

Ponder

Can we stop thinking of life and death as one event and see life and death as a cyclical movement, just as Earth itself lives?

Pray

God of life and death, we are grateful for resurrection! Help us see life as a seed that dies and lives again in your glory. May we trust in you so much that we come to realize that our death and our living is fully in you. Amen.

Practice

Look around and make a list of resurrections that happen with the cycle of life. Step outside of your house and go where there is soil. Or grab a potted plant. Place your hands on the ground or inside of the pot and say: "The Earth is holding me. God is holding me. I am fine. I shall not fear."

Written by Claudio Carvalhaes

Upcoming Services and Dates:

SERVICES CAN BE VIEWED ON GRACE YOUTUBE CHANNEL, WHICH CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH OUR WEBSITE: www.graceunitedtavistock.com

April 7th: 10:30 am Good Friday worship service led by Susan Humphrey

April 9th: 8:00 am Easter Sunrise Service in the sanctuary and Breakfast in Zion Hall led by the youth
10:30 am Easter Communion Service led by Rev Mary Boland.

All are welcome for light snack and refreshments in Zion Hall following worship



April 11th: Office of Vocation in person interviews - Knox Parlour

April 12th: 11:30 am Tavistock and Area Ministerial Meeting - Quehl's Restaurant

April 13th: 12:00 pm High Noon Lunch: Guest speaker is Geoff Hayman, the fire prevention officer for East Zorra-Tavistock Township.

7:00 pm Choir Practice

April 16th: 10:30 am Worship Service led by Carol Young, Sunday School.

All are welcome for light snack and refreshments in Zion Hall following worship

2:30 pm Worship service at People Care

3:15 pm Worship service at the Maples

April 18th: 7:00 pm Worship committee meeting

April 19th: 10:00 - 11:30 am Sit n' Knit, Stay n' Crochet

7:00 pm Board Meeting

April 20th: 7:00 pm Choir Practice

Emergency pastoral care: Please contact Rev Mary Boland at 519 655 2992 if you are in need of emergency pastoral care.

Contact us

Carol Young	cell 519-301-1356	tavigraceyouth@gmail.com
Office	519 655 2151	graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com
E-transfer donation email		gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com

Office Hours (please call ahead for an appointment)

Katherine Brenneman Thurs. 9:30 – 2:30 pm

Do you have a prayer request?

"In all things let your requests be known to God in prayer." (Philippians 4:6)



Grace has a group of wonderful and dedicated people that form a prayer chain. If you, or anyone you know is in need of prayer, please reach out to the chair of Grace PCO, Bev Neeb 519 655-2695, or Rev Mary Boland 519 655 2992 and we will begin praying for you.

- ✝ pray for Brenda Mohr as she struggles with health issues, her sister Jackie (cancer diagnosis).
- ✝ pray for Keith Weitzel as he deals with health issues.
- ✝ pray for Ken Brennenman as he deals with health issues.
- ✝ pray for Rev Young and family as her husband Jason Richards struggles with health issues.
- ✝ pray for Brian Gerber as he struggles with health issues.

EASTER SUNRISE
SERVICE & BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023
8:00 AM
GRACE UNITED CHURCH, TAVISTOCK



Led by the youth. All welcomed to attend.
Donations towards the continental breakfast will go towards enhancing the ministry of the youth at Grace UC--now and for the future!

You are welcome to bring your Easter plants to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter Sunday.



Thank you to everyone who has provided after-church refreshments and light snacks. The treats and the time for chit-chat is so appreciated. The sign-up list for April through June is in Zion Hall and we ask you to participate as you are able.





Message from M&P

We are pleased to welcome two staff members to our custodial team. Mary Ann Krantz has been on the custodial team for a while and stepped up in January to do the cleaning of our facility. Mary Ann will work in co-operation with the Property Committee for maintenance. Connor Locke joined us in February to look after the Sunday morning duties.

Chris Wiffen, M&P Chair



On Tuesday, April 11th in person interviews with Carol Hancock from the Office of Vocation will be happening at Grace. In order to respect the privacy of the interview process we ask that no other church visits or business happen on Tuesday, April the 11th. Thank you for understanding.

Join Us for High Noon Lunch on Thursday, April 13th. All are welcome for food and fellowship, following we will listen to guest speaker Geoff Hayman, the fire prevention officer for East Zorra-Tavistock Township.

Looking for a few more volunteers to help with the nursing home services on April 16th, 2:30 pm at People Care and 3:15 pm at the Maples. Thanks in advance for the help!



The Grace United Church Scholarship, established in 2014, strives to create, encourage and nurture teen and young adult growth.



This is open to students enrolled or about to be enrolled at a post-secondary institution in Canada. The scholarship will encourage teen and young adult participation, involvement, and perhaps leadership at Grace United Church, providing an opportunity for them to share their gifts with the Grace United Church family. This scholarship will also provide the opportunity for the Grace United Church family to be a support to teens and young adults in their participation and involvement with the Grace United Church family and a support as

they grow and learn. It will be a reminder that Grace United Church is a caring church family where they are welcomed and where they can feel they belong.

The Grace United Church Scholarship will be funded by the Grace United Church family.

*For full information and/or an application to apply, please contact the Youth Coordinator, Carol Young tavigraceyouth@gmail.com or the church office. **Application deadline is April 30, 2023.***

To give to the Scholarships, you can include in offering envelope or in another envelope marked "scholarship". Cheques made payable to Grace United Church.

Moderator's Easter Message 2023

In her [Easter message](#), Moderator Carmen Lansdowne invites us to set our minds to that radical hope that is the Easter promise. In that hope, what can we imagine together?

Video Link Here: [Moderator's Easter Message 2023](#)



Transcript of video message

“I have seen the Lord.” This is what Mary Magdalene says to the disciples on the morning of Christ’s resurrection. In another account: “Do not be afraid,” Jesus says to the women, “Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; that is where they will see me.”

Jesus Christ is risen this Easter morn, hallelujah! Alléluia!

Later, Paul tells the church in Colossae, “So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth...”

My grandmother once told me, when I was particularly strident about a social justice issue: “I certainly hope you have not forgotten the resurrection, and that we are an Easter people. We believe in hope.”

I sighed in exasperation as young people can do, I think I rolled my eyes, and I said: “No, Grandma, I won’t forget that we are an Easter people.”

And I don’t.

Michael Shewburg said to me earlier this year: “The church restructured, and then the pandemic came and the world restructured.”

Sometimes, it can feel as if this world is shifting under our feet—or maybe, more accurately, we are adrift at sea, sometimes getting tumbled in the waves and not knowing which way is up. But we have moments when we can break through to the surface, and we see the horizon.

It is important in this circumstance, for our survival, to look always to the horizon.

One of my favourite writers, a futurist and game designer named Jane McGonigal, talks about the importance of looking to the horizon—or what she calls “future episodic thinking.” When you can imagine both the worst that could happen, and the best future you’d want to see, you put in place the building blocks to manage either. If you’ve imagined the worst that could happen, you are able to think through how you respond. But if you imagine what you would like to have happen, say, 10 years into the future, you can live into that hope, and put the building blocks into place and work towards that future vision.

And this is what we are about as the church at Easter. The reality is that Jesus was crucified and died—the worst happened. But we are reminded each year at Easter that death did not overcome life. With images of dawn breaking on the horizon, let us listen to Paul’s words to the Colossians and set our minds to that radical hope that is the Easter promise. In that hope, what can we imagine together: towards right reconciliation? for world peace? for economic justice? for climate justice? for the rural church? for the future of our denomination? Let’s imagine all of our hopes for a just and peace world together, practising deep spirituality, bold discipleship, and daring justice.

An Easter Message from Mission & Service



Through [Mission & Service](#), we celebrate the world that God created and we acknowledge our responsibility to care for that earth. Your Mission & Service gifts help support those working to respond to climate change, while looking toward solutions for the future. [Make a gift today](#), and transform the world we live in. Video link: [Celebrate the earth God has made](#)—and have a blessed Easter!

