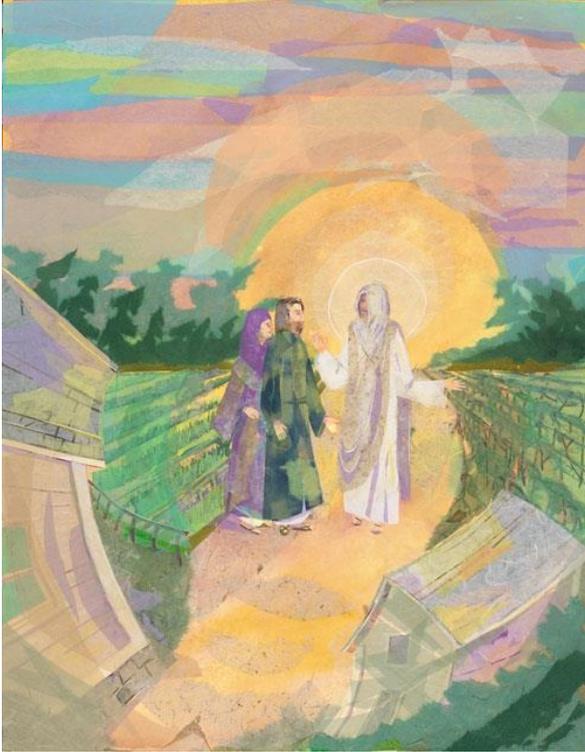




SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH



Easter 3

The Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald

April 18, 2021

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land. In acknowledging this land, the traditional home of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee, we seek to rebuild right relations with First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land with respect and gratitude for its bounty.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**At this time we do not have
a minister for the congregation.
If you have a pastoral care concern,
please contact Reverend Nan Hudson
at 613-539-3751 or at nan@kos.net**



CHURCH

Sydenham Street United Church as an Affirming Congregation seeks to be a vital faith community within The United Church of Canada engaged in spirituality, justice and creativity, informed by Jesus Christ and the Bible, and discerning the call of the Trinity as we celebrate diversity, inclusivity and abundant life.

OFFICE HOURS

The Spire/SSUC Office: Tuesday-Friday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

82 Sydenham St. Kingston ON K7L 3H4

SSUC Administrator: [613-542-9616 x 202](tel:613-542-9616)

Email: sydenham@kos.net

Rentals/Room Bookings @ The Spire: [613-542-9616 x 201](tel:613-542-9616)

Web: www.sydenhamstreet.ca/ssuc1/

Online Sunday Services: www.youtube.com/user/SydenhamStreet



<https://www.thespirekingston.org/>

Bold Text indicates the parts that everyone reads together

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Spirit of new beginnings,
show us where stones rolled away

Let in your light and breath;

Show us where your rising vine is greening
to create – in the end – a new beginning.

Be with us and bless us

on this Easter Road to Pentecost.





As We Walked Home at Close of Day

1 As we walked home at close of day,
a stranger joined us on our way.
He heard us speak of one who'd gone,
and when we stopped, he carried on.

3 We sat to eat our simple spread,
then watched the stranger take the bread;
and, as he said the blessing prayer,
we knew that someone else was there.

4 No stranger he; it was our eyes
which failed to see, in stranger's guise,
the Lord who, risen from the dead,
met us when ready to be fed.

Words: The Iona Community Music: Georg Joseph
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GATHERING PRAYER

**Holy Mystery, Wholly Love –
as we gather in community to worship you,
may we, by your grace, walk from Light into Light together,
with the Christ's trust that endings are beginnings in disguise;
that the Spirit of Easter is a cosmic presence with us always
even though we walk through the valley of the shadow
of a pandemic cross. Amen**

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

REFLECTION

Invitation to Lectio / Visio / Audio Divina:

What strikes you in the text/image or music?

How does the text/image/music connect with what is going on in your life right now?

Where/how do you experience God / the movement of the Holy Spirit
In the text/image/music?

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:13-32

REFLECTIVE MUSIC

Were Not Our Hearts Burning?
Ashley Vanstone



RESPONSIVE PSALM

ROAD TO EMMAUS

*Wise and Holy Fellow Traveller,
where we walk in darkness
guide us to our Emmaus
where eyes are opened
and hearts warmed
to your Emmanuel
walking with us.*

*When we demonize
Israeli, American,
Iranian, North Korean,
Sunni, Shiite, Palestinian,
Hamas, Hezbollah, Taliban, ...*

*When we recoil from
panhandler, addict,
dirt poor, filthy rich,
same-sex couple,
opposing party or opinion, ...*

*When we disparage and dismiss
those we differ from or differ with, ...
open our eyes, warm our hearts
to the Christ in each of these —
to Emmanuel walking with us.*

*Help us dare to break bread with them
to listen to their opinion
to recognize their experience
to consider their interpretation
to acknowledge their grievance
against us;*

*Enlighten us —
where we were afraid,
help us understand;
where we stepped on their toes,
help us walk in their shoes;
where we walked in our darkness
help us see your Great Light.*

*Bless you Wise and Holy One
for opening our eyes
for warming our hearts
to your Emmanuel
who walks with us
to our Emmaus.*

AMEN.

© Norm SD Esdon

SPECIAL MUSIC

The South Winds
traditional Irish waltz

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

MINUTE FOR MISSION

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Offerings are gratefully received through:

Canada Helps:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/sydenham-street-united-church/>

e-transfers:

[givingsuc@kos.net](mailto:givingssuc@kos.net)

or **Canada Post**

For further information:

<https://sydenhamstreet.ca/ssuc1/donate/>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN VU 242

Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

Words & Music: Katherine K. Davis

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COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

**THANK YOU FOR
TALENTS SHARED**

Guest Minister

The Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald

Music Director and Organist

Michael T. Fenn

Ms. Annica McDougall, violinist from Queen's University

Ashley Vanstone, "From Light into Light" 2008

Peter Goheen, Minute for Mission

Cover image by Barb Carr

Today's Call to Worship is adapted from "In the End a New Beginning" by Norm Esdon in **Poems for God Questers**, p.63
Today's Gathering Prayer is adapted from "Blue Monday" by Norm Esdon in **Questing for God Through Poetry** p.140



NOTICES

Our next Lunch and Learn meeting will be on May 11, 2021 on the topic “Cataraqui Cemetery and Modern Challenges”.