

# Woodlawn United Church

## *Easter Letter & Holy Week Schedule 2019*

*Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? (1 Cor 15:55)*

### Easter Greetings!

Although the days leading up to the cross and the burial of Jesus bring a certain sadness, there is also the feeling of expectancy and excitement. Of course, Jesus' disciples felt no such thing as they were going through those dark days, but our knowledge of those times and the joy that results from those events, gives us an advantage. We walk with Jesus through those dark days already knowing that the Light of Christ is never extinguished. For, as sure as the sun rises every dawn, Christians have felt the light and warmth of Christ's presence since that first Easter morning, when Mary came face to face with Jesus, and discovered the new life he represented and offered because he had conquered death. Through Jesus Christ, another one of God's promises had come to pass, for about 627 years before Jesus was born, the prophet Jeremiah was called to prophesy (Jer. 31:31-34) and this is what he said,

"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 they broke...But this is the covenant that I will make...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...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."

That prophesy came true with the birth, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. The new covenant was initiated by Jesus at the institution of the Last Supper, known as our sacrament of Communion. In the Gospel of Luke, chapter 22, verses 19-20, "[Jesus] took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.'" When we eat the Bread of Life and drink the Cup of Love, we remember Jesus and his words. This is the good news, the Gospel message, the New Covenant we have with God that reminds us we are loved unconditionally and always forgiven. And when Jesus ascended, he sent his Holy Spirit to indwell each person who follows his teachings. The Holy Spirit helps us remember Jesus' wise words and ways. In this way, we are transformed, and our transformation continues until we live with Jesus in the age to come. I am reminded of all these things when I read the title page of my New Testament; 'The New Covenant commonly called The New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.'

The good news of Jesus Christ is always something to celebrate, but especially on Easter morning! Your ministry team looks forward to celebrating new life in Christ with you at our Easter service where we'll shout with joyful confidence, "Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Praise the Lord!"

Easter Blessings, Rev. Mary Lynne Whyte, Rev. Phillip Kennedy & Shannon MacLean

**Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM**  
~ Palm Sunday~

A service with a parade of palms.

**Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 7 PM**  
~ Maundy Thursday~

A simple Holy Week service with  
Communion.

**Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 PM**  
~Good Friday~

Ecumenical Service at  
Port Wallis United Church.  
(263 Waverly Rd, Dartmouth)

Following the worship, you are  
invited to join us for beautiful,  
contemplative, interactive

~Prayer Centres~  
at Woodlawn United  
in the Brick Hall.

**Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 10 AM**  
~Easter~

Come be part of this hope-filled  
and JOYOUS celebration!