

CAMBRIDGE STREET UNITED CHURCH

Lindsay, Ontario

10:30 a.m. - March 30, 2008

2nd Sunday of Easter

Order of Service

* (indicates where the congregation stands as able)

Theme (January – July): *The People of God on a Transitional Journey*

Today's Theme: God gives life. We who believe are given, by God's pure grace, resurrection. God's time is the only time that matters. People today, as a general rule, seem impatient and anxious for God to act quickly on their behalf. Today's lesson reports that Jesus delays his departure to visit Lazarus. In the end, a great miracle takes place and reminds us that God works in God's own time.

Prelude: "Voluntary" - John Stanley

Words of Welcome

* Opening Hymn: **#410 "This Day God Gives Me"**

Call to Worship

Opening Prayer: (All)

O God, we praise your Holy name. We ask that we might never stop praising you even when events in our lives make us less than fully joyful. Remind us that it is always your will to work for good for those who love you and work according to your purposes. Remind us that although we cannot see your grand plan for our lives, nevertheless you love us with a love that will never let us go.

Breath of God, breathe in me. Call us out of the grave of self reliance. Call us out from the grave of false security. Call us out from the grave of despair. Call us out from the grave of anxiety. Call us out from the grave of petty conflict. Call us out from the grave of unconfessed mistakes. Call us from the grave of pride. Call us out from the grave of isolation. Call us out from the grave of broken promises.

Call us out as you called Lazarus and make us to live again, to live as your children, assured of eternal life, enabled to give our very lives for others. In the name of the One who is the Resurrection and the life. Amen.

* **Song of Glory** (congregational response in **bold**)

*Praise God, Creator known, **Hallelujah**
May god now bless our home, **Hallelujah**
Here is this holy place, **Dance, shout and sing your praise**
In love this song we raise, **Hallelujah***

Time with the Children (children come forward)

Children leave for Sunday School classes

Scripture Readings

1st Testament

Ezekiel 37: 11-14

In 586 BCE, the fateful news arrived: "Jerusalem and the temple are in ashes." The entire Jewish population was plunged into despair. They wondered if God had forgotten them. Ezekiel had the task of comforting the people. In a vision of dead bones being reclothed with flesh, Ezekiel sees God bringing new life to the people. For the Hebrews, bones represent their very centre and soul. "In our bones," we feel premonitions, and our deepest intuitions. The vision offers promise of life beyond the exile. These words must have seemed unbelievably forgiving.

2^d Testament

John 11: 17-27; 38-44

The raising of Lazarus is the climax of a series of "signs" within the gospel of John, that reveal Jesus to be the one sent from God. This sign leads directly to Jesus' death. Other gospels use the cleansing of the temple as the final event that precipitated Jesus' death. The Lazarus story is found only in John's gospel. So much of the passage has double meaning. Death is not a permanent state for Lazarus nor will it be for Jesus. All that is required is to believe.

* Hymn: **#612 "There is a Balm in Gilead"**

Sermon: *Walking Through Life's Valley – Our Great Surprise*

Anthem: *"This is the Day the Lord Has Made"* - Mark Hayes

The Offering of our Gifts and Ourselves

Offertory: *"The Head That Once Was Crowned With Thorns"*
- Raymond Haan

* Offering Doxology: **"The Strife Is O'er" #159** (vs. 1 & 4)

***The strife is o'er, the battle done;
the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun, hallelujah!***

***On the third morn he rose again,
glorious in majesty to reign;
O let us swell the joyful strain, hallelujah!***

Offertory Prayer (All)

O God of Easter joy, who showed mercy to those who had not known mercy, who made a lowly people into your people, who fashioned a wilderness into a highway and turned a victim of death into a bearer of life, let us feel the transforming power in our lives through the giving of our gifts. Enlighten us as you enlightened Jesus, that we might adore you as he adored you and serve you as he served you-in spirit and in truth, Amen.

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Jesus' Prayer

* Hymn: #378 "**Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart**"

The Blessing (All)

May the God of Love see your afflictions and hear your cries. May a tower of clouds guide your feet by day and a pillar of fire light your journey by night. May bread rain down from the sky for your hunger and water gush forth from the rock for your thirst. May the promise of the ages write itself upon your heart and carry you to those whose hearts hold no hope.

O Christ, thanks to you, we have known God, and we have seen God. Grant that the God whom we have known and seen in you will now be revealed through us.

Commissioning (composed by Don Besig & Nancy Price)

Go now in peace. Never be afraid...

Postlude: "A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing" - Paul Manz

WORSHIP THEME SUMMARY– God of creation, recycle us into persons who will be used for your glory!

WELCOME to all who are worshipping with us this morning, including all visitors and guests. Please be sure to sign our Guest Book at the back of the church, and include your full address so that we can acknowledge your presence. If you're attending on a regular basis, feel free to call the office and have your name added to our mailing list.

Thank you for those serving us today:

Greeters: *Al & Betty Goard*

Ushers: *Rick Carter, Sandra & Graham Lowe,
Therese & Chris Yu, George Graham,
Judy & Dave West, Ialean & Jim Foster,
Mike Puffer, Hugh Snoddon*

Minute for Mission: *Jan Warren, Outreach Committee*

Scripture: *Betty Goard*

Fellowship Time: *C.E. Committee*

Counting Team: *Allan & Betty Goard, Don Barrett, Elaine Murray,
Floyd Walden, Karin Robinson*