

**Visions United Spirit Gathering**  
**Easter – April 9, 2023**  
**seeking: honest questions for deeper faith**  
*Who are you looking for?*

\* *Stand as able*

**Our Community Gathers**

**Gathering Music/Prelude**

**Welcome**

*God's Doors Are Open to All!*  
*Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts*  
 Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all  
 races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,  
 sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

**Acknowledgement of Land**

One: We remember with gratitude  
 that we live and worship on lands that are, by law,  
 the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq.

**All: May we live with respect on this land,  
 and in peace and friendship with its people.**

**Sharing of WOW Moments**

**Poem Video**      where are you headed?

**Invitation to Gather**

*prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC ©sanctifiedart.org*

One: What are you looking for?

**All: The light before dawn.**

One: What are you looking for?

**All: A reason to hope.**

One: What are you looking for?

**All: Joy after grief and flowers after winter.**

One: What are you looking for?

**All: A place to belong.**

One: What are you looking for?

**All: We are looking for the Messiah.**

One: Good news! Come in. Love is alive!

**All: Surely God is in this place.**

**\*Song (Standing)**      VU#166 Joy Comes with the Dawn

Words/Music: Gordon Light ©1985 The Common Cup Co.

Arrangement: Nan Thompson ©1995

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**Lighting of Christ Candle**

**A Seeking Prayer***prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art LLC ©sanctifiedart.org*

Rabbouni, Teacher,  
 We have spent the past six weeks asking questions.  
 We have turned over every rock.  
 We have shined a light in every dusty corner.  
 We have opened the blinds.  
 We have wrestled with truth.  
 We have sought after you.  
 So on this Easter morning,  
 bring wisdom to our seeking.  
 Move through this room  
 until the walls echo with the sound of alleluias.  
 Roll back the stones that might prevent us from drawing closer to you.  
 Calm our hearts.  
 Say our names.  
 Awaken us to your presence in our midst.  
 We are here.  
 We are listening.  
 We are seeking after you.  
 Alleluia. Amen.

**Promise of Grace for the Journey****We Listen for Wisdom****Community Art Creation**

seeking: honest questions for a deeper faith

**Song** (*seated*) VU#356 Seek Ye First ('Hallelujah')

Words/Music: Karen Lafferty ©1972 Maranatha Music  
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**Time for all Ages**

The One Who Was Easter and Still Is  
*Faces of Easter ©Godly Play*

*Jill Baycroft**(Children's Programming Begins)***Scripture** John 20:1-18**Special Music** Sing a Grateful Alleluia

Words/Music: Joseph M. Martin ©1993 Alfred Publishing Co. Inc.  
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**Reflection** Who are you looking for?

## Easter Affirmation of Faith

One: We believe in resurrection—  
**All: mysterious, beyond our understanding, and yet,  
 like crocus after the snow: real.**  
 One: We believe in Easter morning—  
**All: in the promise of a God who would  
 roll back every stone to return to us.**  
 One: We believe in Jesus—  
**All: who calls us by name and asks,  
 “Who are you looking for?”**  
 One: So we look—  
**All: for justice, for mercy, for God in our midst.**  
 One: And as we look, we sing, “Alleluia!”

## Sung Response

VU#958 Halle, Halle, Halle (2x)

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## We Respond with Prayer and Gratitude

### Invitation to Generosity & Sharing of Our Gifts

### Gathering at the Table

### Sharing the Peace

One: Peace of Christ Be With You  
 All: And Also With You

\* **Song** (*standing*) VU#352 I Danced in the Morning (*v1, ref., v2, ref.*)

Words/harmony: Sydney Carter ©1963 Stainer & Bell  
 Music: Shaker Melody, Public Domain  
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### The Great Thanksgiving Prayer

One: Alleluia. Christ is Risen  
**All: Christ is risen indeed!**  
 One: Lift up your hearts!  
**All: We lift them in song!**  
*(Prayer continues...)*

### The Story of Jesus at Table & Words of Institution

### Prayers for Community & Prayers of Gratitude

**Song** (*seated*) VU#352 I Danced in the Morning (*v3, ref., v4, ref.*)

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### Prayer for the Spirit

**Song** (*seated*) VU#352 I Danced in the Morning (*v5, ref.*)

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## Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup

### Sharing of the Bread & Cup

*Our servers will serve you bread and a grape, fruit of the vine.  
Please wait and we will share the elements after everyone has been served.*

### Prayer after Communion

Where don't we seek after you, God?  
We look for you in the mirror, in strangers,  
in sunrises, on mountain tops,  
in the laughter of children,  
and in meals shared together.  
We look for you on the city streets,  
in hospital rooms, in jail cells,  
in poetry, and hymn melodies.  
We look for you everywhere!  
Sometimes the seeking is hard,  
but then at other times,  
we come to this Table and all are fed,  
and all are welcomed,  
and there is room for everyone,  
and no one is turned away,  
or made to feel unworthy.  
And in those moments,  
we see you clearly.  
Thank you for meeting us in our seeking!  
Gratefully, we pray an Alleluia!  
Amen.

## The Work of the Congregation - Announcements

### We Go Forth to Be a Blessing

\* **Song** (stand)      VU#155 Jesus Christ is Risen Today (vs.1,2&4)

Words/Music: Lyra Davidica, Public Domain

Descant: Derek Holman ©1971

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## Changing of the Light and Blessing

### Postlude Music for the Journey

*Thank You for Joining Us!  
May Each of Us Carry the Spirit into the world with us.*