

May 15, 2011

Easter IV Year A

**Welcome to
Ellesmere United Church**


Unit 160-8960 University High Street, Burnaby, BC, V5A 4Y6

If this is your first time with us, thank you for coming. Your presence is a blessing for us.

We hope you find a community for worship and a place for personal prayer.

If you have any questions about the order or nature of our community worship, feel free to ask your greeter today, the minister, or the people around you.

We want you to be comfortable and unburdened in our midst, and at peace in your experience of God in worship.

*  Indicates the community standing as able.

@ Indicates the text the minister is reading and reflecting on this Sunday.

What's Happening in Our Faith Community (from 10:45 until 11:00)

Opening of Worship

Leader: May the light of Christ shine brightly among us today.
(Lights Christ Candle)

Community: **May we be filled with hope and trust and the love of Christ.**

Silent Prayer of Centering

(Let the sounding of the singing bowl lead you into a time of silent centering prayer and with its second sounding bring you back to community.)

Holy Greeting

Minister: The grace of the risen Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Community: **And also with you.**

♪**Song:** VU #158 *Christ Is Alive*

Prayer

♪**Song:** MV #21 *Open Our Hearts*

Scripture Readings:

@**Gospel:** Acts 2: 42-47

Lay Reader: This is the witness of the Early Church.

Community: **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm: 23 VU p. 749, Refrain 2

Read responsively with refrain sung at places marked 'R'.

Early Christian Writings

John 10: 1-10

Minister: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Community: **Write these words on our hearts dear God!**

Musical Reflections

Theological Reflection

♪**Song:** MV #93 *What Calls Me from the Death*

Prayers of the Community – Voiced and Silent
(If Voiced)

Individual: For these gifts...

Community: We give you thanks.

Or...

Individual: God hear our prayer.

Community: And in your love answer.

Prayer of Jesus (Ecumenical Version)

Our Father in heaven

Hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

And deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and

The glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen and Amen.

Invitation to Give

♪ Song of Praise and Dedication

In gratitude and humble trust

We bring our best today

To serve your cause and share your love

With all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us

In Jesus Christ, your Son,

Teach us to give ourselves each day

Until life's work is done!

♪ Song: VU #633 Bless Now, O God, the Journey

Closing of Worship

Leader: Our service as a gathered community is ended and the flame extinguished.

(Puts out Christ Candle)

Community: **But the light of Christ burns within us as we return to our daily lives.**

We are Commissioned and Blessed for Service

Minister: Let us then go into our places of home and work, of challenges and joys, trusting that the wisdom and love of God in Christ will guide us in all we do.

Community: **Our trust is in God, and in Jesus who has shown us the way. Thanks be to God.**

Minister: May the grace of the living Christ empower you, may the love of God hold you steady in faith, may the Holy Spirit keep you open to new opportunities to witness to God's abounding love.

Community: **Amen.**

♪ **Choral Amen**

