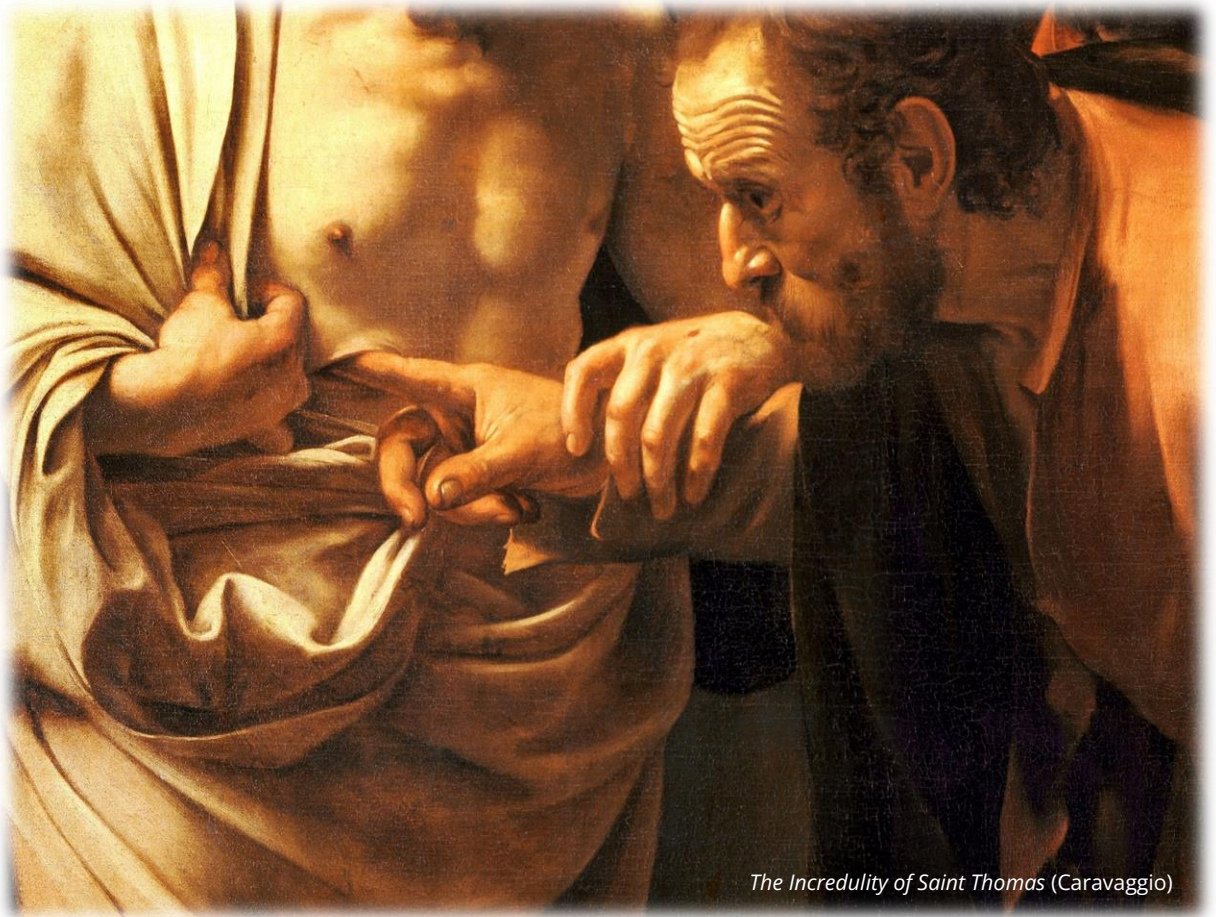




FAIRLAWN

Connect with what matters in life.



The Incredulity of Saint Thomas (Caravaggio)

Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Sunday, April 12, 2026 10:30am
Second Sunday of Easter

Rev. Jean Ward, Preaching and Rev. Nigel Weaver, Presiding
Eleanor Daley, Director of Music
Fairlawn Avenue Senior Choir

2.

*Indicates when the congregation is to stand, as able.

Congregational responses indicated in ***bold italics*** and unison in **bold** text.

Screen: Congregational responses, unison and singing in white text.

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

We are gathered near a street corner,
in a city where land meets water,
and rivers flow to the water
the land meets;

where brick from the clay of its soil,
and quarried rock,
have become the walls of our homes,

on streets that run through lands
on the traditional territory
of the Haudenosaunee and Mississauga nations,
Anishnaabe and Wendat-Huron,
on lands protected under the Dish-With-One-Spoon
wampum agreement.

***Whatever our blood our background, our belief,
whichever street we live on,
we share this dish...and we share this responsibility
To live lives of reciprocity and respect and reconciliation
with our indigenous siblings.
It is a sacred trust.***

Lighting the Christ Flame

***Processional Hymn** You Tell Me That the Lord is Risen

VU #185

***Opening Prayer** Some of us come here
certain and satisfied
Some of us come here
unsure and doubting
Some of us come here
bringing our answers
Some of us come here
driven by questions

Some of us come here
longing to take a break

Some of us come here
seeking connection

Each of us, sometimes,
is one – and the other

Each of us, all the time,
is afloat on your love

Each of us, all the time,
is awash with your grace
Hold and enfold us
Form us and fit us
Shape us and stretch us
through this morning's worship.

*Introit

Alleluia, Christ the Lord is Risen

E. Daley

Alleluia, Christ the Lord is risen.
 O come let us worship.
 Alleluia.

Prayer of Confession

Minds wander, hearts waver,
 stomachs lumber and lurch,
even as your love enfolds, we withdraw
even as your love enflames, we grow cold
even as your love entreats, we harden
even as your love enacts, we grow passive.
For the sake of that love,
forgive us, we pray.

Sharing Peace

The room was locked and barred,
 as we are sometimes locked and barred,
 out of guilt, in fear,
 from embarrassment and chagrin,
 because we cannot imagine
 that we might ever put things right
 or start afresh.

4. Then, as now, the Risen One
disarms our costly self-protection,
undoes the false securities we hide behind,
and enters in.

Receive Christ's peace.

Let it be ours to have.

Let it be ours to share.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Gospel Reading

John 20:19-31 (Common English Bible)

Reader: Mary Swift

Anthem

Lord of the Empty Tomb

Craig Courtney (b. 1948)

Lord of the empty tomb, visit the tomb of my heart.
Roll from its entrance the stone of defeat with Your victory.

Lord of the empty tomb, enter the tomb of my heart.
Bring to the darkness the Light of the World with Your purity.

Raise me to know You, to stand in Your presence,
to walk in Your freedom, to dance to the beat of forgiveness, to worship
your holiness.

Lord of the empty tomb, transform the tomb of my heart.
Bring to the emptiness fullness of joy as You make it your home.
(Susan Bentall Boersma)

Sermon

Rev. Jean Ward

***Hymn**

The Risen Christ

VU #168
(words by Nigel Weaver)

Introduction to the Offering

Out of love and duty,
faithful women brought perfume and ointment
to a garden tomb.

***Intending to preserve the dead,
they found new life, instead.***

Now, out of love and duty,
we bring our gifts.

May they bring life to us and to others.

Amen.

Offertory Anthem

Magdalen, Cease from Sobs and Sighs

E. Daley

Magdalen, cease from sobs and sighs;
wipe the teardrops from thine eyes:
Simon the leper's feast is o'er;
Christ today needs thy nard* no more.
Now thousand times may'st thou rejoice;
now thousand times lift up thy voice.
Alleluia.

Magdalen, bind upon thee now
garland of gladness o'er thy brow:
banished afar is grief and pain:
welcome is sunshine after rain.
For Jesu Christ the world hath freed,
triumphing over Death indeed.
Alleluia.

(from *Pone luctum, Magdalena*, trans. G. R. Woodward, 1848-1934)

*nard = precious ointment

***Presentation of the Offering**

**O Jesus, risen now to bless,
do thou thyself our hearts possess.
Sing praises, hallelujah!
So we shall give you all our days
the willing tribute of our praise!
Sing praises, hallelujah! Sing praises, hallelujah!
Hallelujah!**

Prayers of the People

O God, we pray this day:
for all who have a song they cannot sing,
for all who have a burden they cannot bear,
for all who live in chains they cannot break,
for all who wander homeless and cannot return,
for those who are sick and for those who tend them,
for those who wait for loved ones

6.

and wait in vain,
for those who live in hunger
and for those who will not share their bread,
for those who are misunderstood
and to those who misunderstand,
for those who are captives and for those who are captors,
for those whose words of love are locked within their hearts
and for those who long to hear those words.

Have mercy upon these, O God.
Have mercy upon us all.

For we turn to you,

***as children turn to a resourceful and resilient mother,
as children look to a gentle and nurturing father.***

***May your name be hallowed, may your rule come,
may your will be done, on earth as in heaven.***

Give us today 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 rule, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever.

Amen.

***Recessional Hymn** This Joyful Eastertide

VU #177

***Blessing**

This is not a blessing for the smug

who simply believed sight unseen.

This is not a blessing for the self-assured

who simply lacked the where-withal to doubt.

This is a blessing for those who've gone before

***whose words, and stories, and songs, and prayers
could fill volumes.***

They shared, and share, this blessing with us,

***we who simply stand
because they stood.***

***Choral Commissioning**

E. Daley

(The choir will sing through once, and then the congregation is invited to join in.)

**May God's love surround you, may God's wisdom guide you,
may God's light shine upon you, until we meet again.**

Postlude

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SERVICES,
EVENTS
AND MORE

Mark Your Calendar!

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| Tuesday, April 14 | 2:00pm-3:30pm | Senior's Ministry Discussion Series with Gary Schlee |
| Sunday, April 19 | 10:30am | Woship Service |
| Thursday, April 23 | 6:00pm-9:00pm | 63rd Annual Book Sale |
| Friday, April 24 | 12:00pm-9:00pm | 63rd Annual Book Sale |
| Saturday, April 25 | 10:00am-1:00pm | 63rd Annual Book Sale |
| Sunday, April 26 | 10:30am | Worship Service |
| Wednesday, April 29 | 2:00pm-3:30pm | Senior's Ministry Discussion Series AI 101 with Ebrahim Alia |
| Sunday, May 3 | 10:30am | Scugog Sunday Service, Craft Shack & Bake Sale |
| Tuesday, May 5 | 2:00pm-3:30pm | Senior's Ministry Discussion Series with Gord Pitts |
| Sunday, May 10 | 10:30am | Mother's Day Service |
| Sunday, May 17 | 10:30am | Worship Service |
| Sunday, May 24 | 10:30am | Blessing of the Prayer Shawls Service & Annual General Meeting (AGM) |
| Sunday, May 31 | 10:30am | Pride Sunday Service |

