



# THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

**2nd Sunday After Easter**  
**14 April 2024**  
**Reverend Dr. Neil Parker**



**Vienna Community  
Church**

# MUSICAL PRELUDE

A dense field of small, light blue flowers with white centers, likely cornflowers, filling the frame. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, and the overall scene is bathed in a soft, blue light, creating a serene and peaceful atmosphere.

Tomasz Piętak (organ)



**WELCOME & CANDLE LIGHTING**

# ***OPENING HYMN - CH 53***

## ***Morning Has Broken***

1 Morning has broken  
like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken  
like the first bird.

Praise for the singing!

Praise for the morning!

Praise for them, springing  
fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall  
sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall  
on the first grass.

Praise for the sweetness  
of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness  
where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight!  
Mine is the morning  
born of the one light  
Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation,  
praise every morning,  
God's recreation  
of the new day!

The background of the image is a dense, repeating pattern of teal-colored leaves, likely from a legume, set against a dark teal background. The leaves are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and texture. The text is centered horizontally and vertically over this pattern.

# Passing the Peace



**SPECIAL PEOPLE**





baptism

# SCRIPTURE READING - 1 JOHN 3:1-7

Read by George Philip

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin. No one who lives in him keeps on sinning. No one who continues to sin has either seen him or known him.

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. The one who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

## SCRIPTURE READING - LUKE 24:36b-48

While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet.

And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence. He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, “This is what is written:

The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.

# RESPONSIVE PSALM – Psalm 4

Read by Reverend Neil Parker

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God.  
Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on  
me and hear my prayer. How long will you  
people turn my glory into shame? How long will  
you love delusions and seek false gods? Know  
that the LORD has set apart his faithful  
servant for himself; the LORD hears when I call  
to him. Tremble and do not sin; when you are  
on your beds, search your hearts and be silent.

Offer the sacrifices of the righteous and trust in the LORD. Many, LORD, are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity?” Let the light of your face shine on us. Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound.

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.



# VCC Choir

*THEY ROLLED THE STONE AWAY*

Choir Director:  
Cassandra McConnell-Grujic



# SERMON: AS IF IT WERE YESTERDAY



# RESPONSIVE HYMN – CH 200

## *What Wonderful Love Is This*

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my  
soul,

what wondrous love is this, O my soul!

What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord  
of bliss

to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my  
soul,

to bear the dreadful curse for my soul!

2 When I was sinking down, sinking down,  
sinking down,  
when I was sinking down, sinking down;  
when I was sinking down beneath God's  
righteous frown,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my  
soul,  
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul!

3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,  
to God and to the Lamb I will sing!

To God and to the Lamb, who is the great "I AM,"  
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will  
sing,  
while millions join the theme, I will sing!

# OFFERING

Tomasz Piętak (organ)

# DOXOLOGY - CH 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Amen



# PRAYERS

When I Behold Jesus Christ (Almaz Belihu)





# ANNOUNCEMENTS

# CLOSING HYMN - CH 517

## *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

1 Love divine, all loves excelling,  
joy of heav'n to earth come down,  
fix in us Thy humble dwelling;  
all Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion;  
pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
visit us with Thy salvation;  
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

2 Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit  
into ev'ry troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit;  
let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning;  
Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as its beginning:  
set our hearts at liberty.

3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;  
let us all Thy life receive;  
suddenly return and never,  
nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing,  
serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
pray and praise Thee without ceasing,  
glory in Thy perfect love.

4 Finish then Thy new creation;  
pure and spotless let us be.  
Let us see Thy great salvation  
perfectly restored in Thee.  
Changed from glory into glory,  
till in heav'n we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before Thee,  
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

*Sing  
Amen!*



**GO IN PEACE  
TO LOVE AND  
SERVE THE  
LORD.**

**THANKS BE  
TO GOD.**

# POSTLUDE

Tomasz Piętak (organ)