

# New Hope Lutheran Church

189 Regent St.  
Sudbury, Ontario  
P3C 4C4

705-673-2933  
email: [office@nhlc.ca](mailto:office@nhlc.ca)  
website: [nhlc.ca](http://nhlc.ca)

face book: New Hope Lutheran Church  
you tube: New Hope Lutheran Church Sudbury

## Pastors:

Rev. Charles Nolting  
phone: 705-920-3573 email: [pcn@nhlc.ca](mailto:pcn@nhlc.ca)

Rev. Johanna Porkola  
phone: 705-688-6284 email: [pjp@nhlc.ca](mailto:pjp@nhlc.ca)

*April 9, 2023*  
*Easter Sunday*

## Coming Events

- Apr 10 1:00 Worship & Music **Zoom**
- Apr 11 10:00 Meadowbrook
- Apr 12 10 – 11:00 Kahvi Time **Regent St.**  
11:00 LCW **Regent St.**  
6:30 Council meeting **Regent St.**
- Apr 13 10:30 Finnish Choir **Impola**
- Apr 16 9:30 Finnish Worship Service **Voima Hall**  
11:30 English Worship Service **Regent St.**  
12:30 Pastor Charlie's farewell luncheon  
**Regent St**

**In our prayers** Eero, Ron, Marilyn.

## Prayer of the Day

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection; we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## First Reading “**Acts 10:34 – 43**”

<sup>34</sup> Then Peter began to speak: “I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism <sup>35</sup> but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. <sup>36</sup> You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—<sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. <sup>39</sup>“We are witnesses of everything he did in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed him by hanging him on a cross, <sup>40</sup>but God raised him from the dead on the third day and caused him to be seen. <sup>41</sup>He was not seen by all the people, but by witnesses whom God had already chosen—by us who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

## Psalm 118:1 – 2, 14 – 24

<sup>1</sup> Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say: “His love endures forever.”

<sup>14</sup> The Lord is my strength and my defense<sup>[a]</sup>; he has become my salvation.

<sup>15</sup> Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: “The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!

<sup>16</sup> The Lord’s right hand is lifted high; the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”

<sup>17</sup> I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done.

<sup>18</sup> The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

<sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the Lord.

<sup>20</sup> This is the gate of the Lord through which the righteous may enter.

<sup>21</sup> I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;

<sup>23</sup> the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> The Lord has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.

## Second Reading “**Colossians 3:1 – 4**”

<sup>1</sup> If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup>for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel “**John 20:1 – 18**”

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went*

*into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"* Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

*The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.***

### **Sermon**

*By Rev. Charles Nolting  
"God Has An App For That"*

Today being Easter, the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, in our 1<sup>st</sup> lesson we are reminded that we - who are in the know - are to tell others about this event, and spread this incredibly good news.

The problem for us can be that we don't really know how to spread this good news in a way that others can understand it. It may come out sounding like; "*Jesus died, now he lives. This is a good thing!*" Unfortunately, it doesn't always satisfactorily answer the return question; "*That's nice, but what does it mean?*" For us, it means that because Jesus beat death, we too can beat death! Of course, what we may fail to anticipate is that, anyone who has experienced the death of someone close, may find this news kind of hard to believe. So often people want verifiable proof – and even then, they may be skeptical.

It's up to us then to point to our Holy Scriptures, although these days, the old argument that whatever is in the Bible is true – that argument doesn't strike all as being something they can believe. For a lot of people who have difficulty with the Bible, one may need to ask them if they have ever actually read and studied it. There are a lot of misconceptions out there with regards to our scriptures.

So, when presenting the good news to others, perhaps it's best to treat the Easter message like a trump card; you don't necessarily play it first, you hang on to it until it can be used to full advantage. Even though we possess the best news the world has ever known, there are times when some in the world just aren't ready for it.

Take our gospel lesson as an example. Mary Magdalene goes to the gravesite and finds the tomb is empty. The stone is rolled away. Jesus body is gone. What is she to make of this? She tells 2 of the disciples that there is a body missing but, while they check it out, they don't have any answers for her. So, Mary looks in again, sees and speaks with 2 angels, yet still is convinced that someone stole Jesus body. It's the only answer that fits her mind set at that point in time. She just isn't yet prepared, until she turns around, sees Jesus, first assumes he's the gardener, and asks him where the body went to. Until the minute that Jesus

spoke to her, she just wasn't ready for the best news the world has ever known.

There are times then, when it is best to just approach another person and come to them where they are at. Those who are most receptive to the message that God is alive and well and cares deeply about us, are those who have had the worst happen to them, and have discovered that the world doesn't have all the answers it claims to have. This is why Jesus approaches Mary at the point where she is totally bewildered. The world's answers just don't fit into her thinking at the time. Jesus' answers however – do.

\*\*\*\*\*

And if there is one thing we can say about our world today, it is that people are still looking for answers. Especially hurting people who find that the world doesn't have the answers it claims to have. The kind of people that Jesus hung out with. The people who need a "Jesus app" on their cell phone.

You're familiar with an "app", aren't you? It's a short form for "applications", for those who want to get some extra features out of their cell phones, apparently one makes an internet journey to what is known as an "app store". There I'm told you can download programs that help you to do various things with your cellular phone, like giving you access to buy plane tickets, book a hotel room, download music, or movies so you can enjoy them on your phone. The phrase which made this popular was "*we have an app for that.*"

Now, while that may be great for the frivolous things in life, what happens when one comes to realize that there is more to life – but they can't find it? My answer today is "*God has an app for that.*"

Do you need guidance in life or wonder where you went wrong? God has an app called "The 10 commandments".

Do you want to know what love is really about? God has an app called “Jesus”, who came to show us what it means to love and be loved in the most perfect form.

Do you wonder what your purpose is here on earth or even if you have a purpose? God has an app called “follow me”.

Do you feel guilt over something you said or did? God has an app called “forgiveness”.

Would you like to talk to God? God has an app for that called “prayer”.

Or maybe you are worried about dying and death?

Well, God has the ultimate app for that; called *resurrection and eternal life*. And this is what we celebrate today. God offers us not only some answers, but also encouragement and hope for the future. You do however, still have to visit God’s app store.

But you don’t go to a regular “app store” to find these applications. You don’t even need a cell phone. What you need is access to the Word, and God’s people, which can be accessed anywhere, any time, and has wider coverage than any cell phone provider on earth. It’s also cheaper.

The resurrection we celebrate at Easter is the ultimate app. Our greatest fear, the fear of death is erased. Death has lost its power. Evil has no power to threaten us with death. Those threats have been erased. That’s what today is all about. That’s why we celebrate with the joyful words; “Christ is risen!”

## Prayers

On this day of resurrection joy, let us offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and our world.

Renewing God, the good news of your resurrection changed the world. Give church leaders and all the baptized the same excitement as the women at the tomb, and inspire us to share your abundant life. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sustaining God, your creation abounds with signs of new life in budding trees and newborn creatures. Provide fertile soil, ample sunlight, and nourishing rain for the growth of plants and provide farmers with a plentiful harvest. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Sheltering God, strengthen and sustain all who support vulnerable people across the world. Empower government agencies and international organizations that provide for refugees and migrants forced to leave their homelands. We especially remember before you the people of Ukraine. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Encouraging God, you do a new thing among us. We pray for those gripped by fear and anxiety or who suffer in any way. Send us as your healing presence to places of hunger, pain, illness, or overwhelming sorrow. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Surprising God, you offer endless ways for us to delight in your grace. Give this community of faith a sense of joy and wonder in exploring new avenues of faith formation, worship, and discipleship. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Resurrecting God, you make us alive in Christ. Thank you for blessing us with faithful witnesses who now rest in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We offer to you these petitions and those we carry in our hearts, trusting in your abundant and ever-present mercy.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**