

### **Easter Song of Faith Sunday**

We find God made known in Jesus of Nazareth, and so we sing of God the Christ, the Holy One embodied.

We sing of Jesus, a Jew, born to a woman in poverty – in a time of social upheaval and political oppression. He knew human joy and sorrow. So filled with the Holy Spirit was he that in him people experienced the presence of God among them.

Jesus announced the coming of God's reign – a commonwealth not of domination but of peace, justice, and reconciliation. He healed the sick and fed the hungry. He forgave sins and freed those held captive by all manner of demonic powers. He crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender. He preached and practiced unconditional love – love of god, love of neighbour, love of friend, love of enemy – and he commanded his followers to love one another as he had loved them.

Because his witness to love was threatening, those exercising power sought to silence Jesus. He suffered abandonment and betrayal, state-sanctioned torture and execution. He was crucified. But death was not the last work. God raised Jesus from death, burning sorrow into joy, despair into hope. We sing of Jesus raised from the dead. We sing Hallelujah.

By becoming flesh in Jesus, God makes all things new. In Jesus' life teaching, and self-offering, God empowers us to live in love. In Jesus' crucifixion, God bears the sin, grief, and suffering of the world.

In Jesus' resurrection, God overcomes death. Nothing separates us from the love of God. The Risen Christ lives today, present to us and the source of our hope. In response to who Jesus was and to all he did and taught, to his life, death, and resurrection, and to his continuing presence with us through the Spirit, we celebrate him as the Word made flesh, the one in whom God and humanity are perfectly joined, the transformation of our lives, the Christ.