

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Just As He Said

(Matthew 28:6)

One thing Easter teaches us is that Jesus keeps his promises. The women who went to the tombs on Easter morning learned that lesson in a very dramatic and special way. They were greeted at the tomb by angels who said that Jesus had risen “just as he said”. Jesus’ words have meaning. Jesus’ words are true. And Jesus’ words can be trusted. We see this most profoundly on Easter morning when Jesus did what he said. He rose on the third day and granted eternal life to all who believe. These were the promises that Jesus had made throughout his ministry, and these are the promises that have now come to pass. This resurrection day assures us that all of Christ’s words will come to pass. When the risen Christ says, “Peace be with you”, we know that we will receive peace from him. When the risen Jesus says, “Do not be afraid,” we know that we have no reason to fear. And when our Lord assures us, “I will be with you always,” we know that he will be by our side forever. Easter proves to us that we can constantly count on Christ’s words!

Let this be our prayer as a congregation: Lord Jesus Christ, you are risen; you are risen indeed. We rejoice in all that you have revealed to us on this glorious resurrection day. May your revelations continue to enlighten us in the days to come as we seek to be faithful disciples. Amen.

Have a blessed and Happy Easter.

Yours in Christ,

(Rev.) Rick Taylor
March 2002

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STEVESTON UNITED CHURCH
3720 Broadway Street, Richmond, BC V7E 4Y8
Phone: 604-277-0508

MARCH 2002

Sunday, March 24, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Palm / Passion Sunday

Readings: Isaiah 50: 4-9(a) Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 21:1-11)
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29) Litany of the Palms
Matthew 26:14-27:66)
Psalm 31:9-16) Litany of Christ's Passion

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “Betrayal or Loyalty?”

Palm Crosses will be available. The Beginning of Holy Week.

Thursday, March 28, 2002 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

Readings: Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31(b)-35

The service will take place at South Arm United Church, 11051 No. 3 Rd. at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 29, 2002 – GOOD FRIDAY

Readings: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Hebrews 10:16-25
Psalm 22 John 18:1-19:42

This is a shared service with South Arm United & Gilmore Park United Churches.

The service will take place at Gilmore Park United Church, 8060 No. 1 Rd. The service time is 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, March 31, 2002 – EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE

For you early risers, this service will take place at Minoru Lake in Minoru Park at 7:00 a.m. It is a shared service with Gilmore Park, South Arm and Steveston United Churches. Following the service we will be returning to Gilmore Park United at 8060 No. 1 Rd. for refreshments.

Sunday, March 31, 2001 – 10:00 a.m.

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

Readings: Acts 10:34-43 Colossians 3:1-4
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 John 20:1-18 Matthew 28:1-10

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “Wait Three Days!”

The Sacrament of Baptism

Saturday Evening – April 06, 2002

Please remember to set your clocks *AHEAD*
ONE HOUR. We return to daylight saving
time at 2 a.m. Sunday, April 07.

APRIL 2002

Sunday, April 07, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Second Sunday of the Easter Season

Readings: Acts 2:14(a), 22-32 Psalm 16
1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “Words and Music”

The Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Annual Spring Luncheon

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

12 Noon – Church Hall

Sponsored by the WA2 Ladies

Tickets: \$10 per person

Sunday, April 14, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Third Sunday of the Easter Season

Readings: Acts 2:14(a), 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35

Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “Coal Into Diamonds”

A Moment for Christian Mission / Richmond Food Bank Rally

TALENTED PEOPLE WORSHIP

Sunday, April 14th in the Sanctuary – 7:00 p.m.

SPRING CLEAN-UP & SPRUCE-UP

at
Steveston United Church
Saturday, April 20th at 9 a.m.

Please bring rakes & gardening tools if you want to work outside.
Or mops, buckets, window cleaning equipment, etc. if you want to work inside.
Our Filipino Baptist friends will be joining us for this event.

Sunday, April 21, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of the Easter Season

Readings: Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10
Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “Constantly on the Watch”

Sunday, April 28, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Fifth Sunday of the Easter Season

Readings: Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14
Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “They Will Not Fail!”
The Sacrament of Baptism

MAY 2002

Sunday, May 05, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Sixth Sunday of the Easter Season

Readings: Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21
Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “Promise of the Holy Spirit”
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

ANNUAL SPRING BAZAAR

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2002

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

~Plant Sale ~Book Sale ~Crafts ~White Elephant Sale ~Jewellery
~Chow Mein ~Japanese Food ~Home Baking ~Strawberry Shortcake

Unified Board Sponsored Event

(Set-up of the Church Hall will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, May 10th.)

Sunday, May 12, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Seventh Sunday of the Easter Season

Readings: Acts 1:6-14 Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17:1-11
Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “Jesus’ Prayer for His Disciples”
A Moment for Christian Mission /Richmond Food Bank Rally Sunday
Christian Family Sunday, Mother’s Day

TABLE STYLE WORSHIP

Sunday, May 12th in the Sanctuary – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 19, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Day of Pentecost

Readings: Acts 2:1-21 Psalm 104:24-34, 35(b)
1 Corinthians 12:3(b)-13 John 7:37-39
Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “Thirsty: Come, Drink”

Sunday, May 26, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Trinity Sunday

Readings: Genesis 1:1-2:4(a) Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20
Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “Jesus Sends Disciples Out”
The Sacrament of Baptism

Thursday, May 30 – Sunday June 02

These days are devoted to the

Annual Meeting of B.C. Conference.

This year, the conference will be held at the Capilano Sports Centre in North Vancouver.
Rev. Taylor and a lay delegate from the congregation will attend.

JUNE 2002

Sunday, June 2, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Readings: Genesis 6:9-22, 7:24, 8:14-19 Psalm 46 Romans 1:16-17, 3:26-28
Matthew 7:21-29
Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “Wise Ones: Build on Rock”
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, June 9, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Readings: Genesis 12:1-9 Psalm 33:1-12
Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “A Girl is Raised, A Woman Healed”

A Moment for Christian Mission /Richmond Food Bank Rally

TABLET WORSHIP

Sunday, June 9th in the Sanctuary – 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 16, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Readings: Genesis 18:1-15 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 Romans 5:1-8
Matthew 9:35 – 10:8
Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “Sending Out the Twelve and Us!”

Tuesday, June 18, 2002 – 1:00 p.m.

This date is the deadline for submissions to the Summer Newsletter.

Sunday, June 23, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Readings: Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17
Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39
Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “Stand in Awe of Christ!”

This worship service will take place at
GARRY POINT PARK.

The congregation is asked to bring lawn chairs & something to eat.
A shared pot-luck style picnic will follow this informal service.

In case of rain, the service will take place at the church with the picnic in the church hall.

Sunday, June 30, 2002 – 10:00 a.m.

Readings: Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42
Sermon: Rev. Rick Taylor – “To Welcome Others is to Welcome Jesus”

The Sacrament of Baptism

OUTREACH

Helping our neighbour in need.

Helping our neighbour in need.

Our congregation's charitable concerns are:

- ❖ The Mission and Service Fund
- ❖ The First United Church Mission
- ❖ The Richmond Food Bank

Let us be faithful in our service to our Lord and include weekly or monthly offerings for the Mission & Service Fund in our envelopes.

Let us be generous in our special Lenten givings to the Mission work at First United, feeding hundreds of hungry people from the Soup & Coffee Line-ups, and Lunch during their Programs. They need our help to be able to provide.

Let us be caring and share food with our neighbours in need who come to the Food Bank. The dedicated staff and volunteers are struggling to fill the ever-increasing need of providing assistance for 350 families in Richmond who live under the poverty line. Mark on your calendar: **April 14, May 12, June 9, July 14!**



Let us put a smile on everyone's face!

Submitted by: Barbara Noelte, Outreach Representative

British Columbia Conference

February 4, 2002

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

In recent days the Executive Secretary and I have received calls and notes wondering about the response of our church to recent actions of the provincial government.

I could not help but be struck by the depth of feeling behind each encounter. Clearly this is a painful and traumatic time for a great many people in our province and conference.

At a personal and congregational level there is much work in caring for those affected. But the question that lies beneath most conversations remains “What is our conference going to do?”

If I may be frank and direct – this is not a question that leads itself to an easy or quick answer. In the 1950s the Executive of BC Conference met at least once a year with the provincial cabinet. Those days are gone. Our society and the position of our church in it are radically different.

However, part of our history and identity as the United Church of Canada is that we see our faith as in constant interaction with the world of which we are part. The call “to seek justice and resist evil” is not an add-on to our witness and discipleship. It is part of the gift and challenge of our church.

The larger issue of appropriate and effective strategies for our involvement in the public sphere in these new times is one that we will continue to engage at the conference level. In the short term, we have committed the conference to two things. First I will send a letter to Premier Campbell outlining some concerns with the changing social environment in the province. Secondly, we will monitor and distribute information, as we are able, about the impact of the changing provincial environment upon these concerns in particular:

- the resolution of the land question involving First Nations
- the state of the poor in our province, particularly those on welfare
- the well-being of children
- the condition of refugees
- support offered those who battle addictions and

- care for prisoners and the health of the legal system.

These areas have traditionally been areas close to the heart and witness of the United Church of Canada. Part of this effort will include linking people who share similar concerns. On another level, I want to pass along a suggestion given to me that may be added to other strategies you develop.

At the congregational level, those affected by the recent changes could be invited to tell their stories of what these changes will mean to them. Then, if appropriate, time could be set aside for those who desire to write a letter to the appropriate government minister and local MLA naming their concerns.

As congregations we will also need to reflect and strategize upon our role in the coming years. Whatever our feeling about the government actions the fact remains that there will be significant impact upon many in our community, particularly the poorest of the poor. What responsibility do we have as congregations to be the hands of Christ in these situations?

In the past we may have often thought of ourselves, in some way, as the conscience of the province. Part of our involvement in the public sphere also is to witness to the Community of God by being the Community of God. In the past the compassion and practical passion of our members and congregations have been one of our great strengths. I know those passions and efforts continue.

Whatever struggles the coming months may bring and whatever spin is spun in the media I take comfort and encouragement from the basic affirmation of our creed. We are not alone. We live in God’s world.

May God be with each of you and with us as a conference as we listen for and follow the leading of the Spirit of God in these times.

Sincerely,

Tanis van Drimmelen,
President

British Columbia Conference

February 4, 2002

Hon. Gordon Campbell
Legislative Buildings
PO Box 9041, Stn Prov Govd
Victoria, BC V8W 9E1

Dear Premier Campbell:

This letter contains deep concerns about the impact of recent government actions upon the poor of our province.

Traditionally, a number of areas have been close to the heart and witness of the United Church of Canada in British Columbia:

- the resolution of the land question involving First Nations
- the state of the poor in our province, particularly those on welfare
- the well-being of children
- the condition of refugees
- support offered those who battle addictions and
- care for prisoners and the health of the legal system.

The wide-ranging changes brought by your government impact all of these areas.

The purpose of this letter is not to debate ideology or faith regarding various economic strategies. This letter focuses primarily upon the effect of your cuts upon the daily lives of those receiving social assistance. Several of the changes instituted by your government will dramatically impact the quality of life for many on welfare, providing relatively little financial savings while significantly harming their spirit, health and safety. It will diminish the quality of our social fabric.

Eliminating the \$100 exemptions to single parents receiving family maintenance payments reduces their standard of living and increases the prospect of adversarial relations within an already troubled family situation. The cut of the Flat Rate Earnings Exemptions (\$100 to single people, \$200 for those with partner or children) dramatically reduces incentive. The Flat Rate Earnings Exemption allows many who are seeking a way into the job market to upgrade their skills and improve their life. Surely this direction deserves support! We need to support paths of hope not deepen cynicism.

We are extremely concerned with the impact of recent actions upon children. The cut of \$70/month to single parent families is estimated to touch the lives of 60,000 children. Even if these figures are only half right the hardship this will visit upon children cannot be denied.

Moreover, the shock upon the larger social culture also cannot be ignored. It is widely recognized that welfare does nothing more than allow a family to barely survive. These cuts will, in effect force people to commit fraud simply to survive. Your government has reduced the benefit rates for “employable” welfare recipients between ages 55 and 64 by between \$47 and \$98 per month. Mr. Premier, what are these people to do? For most receiving welfare, there are no jobs!

A similar situation exists for refugee claimants who are not currently allowed to work. What are they to do when they are no longer eligible for assistance?

The economic impact of your leap of faith in cutting taxes on your first day in office is not yet bearing any fruit. Apparently the Ministry of Human Resources “service plan” claims there will be new initiatives on training and employment assistance. How will this be possible in a ministry whose operating budget has been cut by 30%, its staff cut by 15% and 36 of its offices across the province closed. At the same time, training programs, including those designed for low-income people, students, and apprenticeship programs are slated for elimination.

The changes to the Legal Aid system also cause us concern because of the fall-out on low-income people. We understand that aid for civil cases and so-called poverty law will no longer be available. In practical terms, low-income people needing assistance with a welfare or WCB complaint or a dispute with landlords will no longer have equal access to the justice system.

Mr. Premier, we are well aware that the current state of the province needs improvement. However, these measures are making the lives of low-income people worse.

Given our long involvement in these issues and the extent of our membership throughout the province, we request a meeting with you and/or Minister Coell to discuss these concerns.

Sincerely,

Tanis van Drimmelen, President
British Columbia Conference
The United Church of Canada

cc. Hon. Murray Coell, Minister of Human Resources

1 March 2002

Steveston United Church
3720 Broadway Street
Richmond, BC V7E 4Y8

Dear Neighbours:

The volunteers and clients at the Richmond Food Bank thank you for your thoughtful donations. With your help, our volunteers are serving almost 400 families each week.

These are people who are struggling to pay for the basic necessities for life: clothing, shelter and food, and whose challenge is made even greater by industry layoffs and service cutbacks. We are working to give encouragement and hope to these families who are living in poverty, and provide the food security needed for children, families, and the whole community to develop and thrive.

The Richmond Food Bank receives no government funding. We rely upon cash donations to operate our service – to collect, sort, store and distribute the food bounty that our community shares so generously. Thank you again, for your valuable support to our organization and to our neighbours in need.

Yours truly

Margaret Hewlett
Coordinator

Returning To Trust

By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God . . . Ephesians 2:8

In my own life I well know how hard it is for me to trust that I am loved and to trust that the intimacy I need and crave is there for me. I most often live as if I have to earn love, do something, then perhaps I might get something back. This attitude touches the whole question of what is called in the spiritual life, the “first love.” Do I really believe that I am loved first, independent of what I do or what I accomplish? This is an important question because as long as I think that what I most need I have to earn, deserve, and collect by hard work, I will never get what I most need and desire, which is a love that cannot be earned, but that is freely given. Thus my return is my willingness to give up the tendency to think such thoughts and to live more and more from my true identity as a cherished son or daughter of God.

- *Help me to love others as they are, Lord, as you have given your love to me.*

The Unified Board of Steveston United Church has designated all Easter Offering Envelope contributions to First United Church Mission.

Steveston United Church
News & Views

Congratulations to Elmer and Evelyn MacDonald on the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary – March 28, 2002. Elmer and Evelyn recently joined Steveston United by reaffirmation of faith from Richmond Baptist Church.

A Computer Club for Seniors

Do you want to know the basics of home computing?

Total Package Computers

(#130 – 3900 Steveston Hwy. at No. 1 Rd.)

is offering an introduction to computers for seniors. The club's first meeting will be on Tuesday, May 7, 2002 from 7 p.m. – 9 p.m. These classes are **FREE!** Call Total Package Computers at 604-241-4000 to register. Bring a friend!

Calling All Golfers

Steveston United Church is sponsoring a golf day at Mylora Golf Club on Sidaway.

The tentative booking has been made for Monday,

September 2 (Labour Day) – first tee time is 8:45 a.m.

The round of golf is going to cost \$34. The only problem

is that the golf course requires a minimum of 34 players to guarantee our spot. Please contact the church office for further details – book with us today. The other United churches in Richmond will be asked to join us for this day of recreation, food and fun.

The Book of Acts

An introduction to the history and vitality of the early church. Our Bible Study Sessions continue on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Join us! Live God's Word!

Our Youth Group Continues

Steveston United Church Youth Group began afresh in

January 2002. We meet every second Friday from 7 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Our next meeting will be Friday, April 5th at the church. Activities have included a bowling night, a dance, a games night, and a skating party. We also intend to do some community based activities such as help out the Richmond Food Bank. If you are between 13 – 17, please give us a try!

World Day of Prayer A meaningful World Day of Prayer service was held on Friday, March 1 at 1:30 p.m. This year we were hosted by St. Edward's Anglican Church in Richmond. A full church participated in a service, which was written by 30 Romanian women from seven churches in that eastern European country. Next year's service will be held at St. Paul's Roman Catholic Parish, 8251 St. Alban's Rd. on Friday, March 7, 2003. Thanks to Barbara Noelte for her meaningful participation in this year's service.

What's a Taizé Service? The following is a paraphrased excerpt by Brother Roger from Taizé: "From the depths of the human condition a secret aspiration rises up. Caught in the anonymous rhythms of schedules and timetables, men and women of today are implicitly thirsting for an essential reality for an inner life." You are invited to enter into this space of quiet prayer, song and meditation in the midst of very busy lives. Join us for this prayer service on the second Sunday of each month. Our next Taizé service is on Sunday, April 14 at 7 p.m.

A Sign-Up Sheet for Scripture Readers, Greeters, Offering Takers & Children's Story is available in the front hall. Everyone is encouraged to occasionally sign up. We welcome people who have not previously volunteered to help out. It would be wonderful if more people took turns at these important jobs.

Recent Publications out on the table in the front hall include:

- Bi-monthly Upper Rooms – make a donation for this devotional
- Christian News – no charge
- Annual Report – Did you miss a copy of the review of the life and work of 2001? Pick one up! The Report sets priorities for 2002.
- Mission & Service materials
- The United Church's Observer, Mandate magazines

Steveston United Church is a faith community that believes in the power of prayer. Our weekly prayer list grows by leaps and bounds. You can leave the name of someone or something you have been holding in prayer at the church office.

Do you know of an organization (a preschool or daycare) who would like to rent our facilities? We have received word that Grace Hon and the CHARIS preschool will be down to four students in September 2002. Your Unified Board has begun to advertise in the weekly Richmond papers. Can you help us find new tenants for our facilities? Please contact the church office.

Did you know that Steveston United Church has started a lawn-mower fund? To-date, there has been \$200 donated for the purchase of a new lawn mower for the church. Total cost will be in the \$650 range. The mower will be self-propelled and will greatly assist Manuel, our custodian with “lawn” east of the church parking lot. Make your donation today.

Thank You Winston Lu for generously providing cake and food on Sunday, March 10th for Rev. Taylor’s surprise birthday celebration. We will be celebrating Winston’s birthday on Sunday, March 31st.

W O R S H I P

We get our word “worship” from the old English word “worth-ship” which meant “to ascribe accurate worth to something.” When we worship God we are proclaiming that He is worthy of our praises. He is a great and mighty God who deserves praise because of who He is and what He has done.

- (I) Worship is the Priority Commandment of God. “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength.” (Deut. 6:5, Mark 12:30)
- (II) Worship is our Primary responsibility before God. King David said that above all things he desired to worship God. “One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.” (Psalm 27:4) David says that of all things, he desires most to worship God because in this one thing all other things are found.

“For the Apostle Paul there was only one theme: “That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.” (Philippians 3:10) The worship of Christ was the central concern of his life. Man was made to worship God. God gave man a harp and said, “Here above all creatures that I have made and created I have given you the largest harp. I put more strings on your instrument and I have given you a wider range than I have given to any other creature. You can worship me in a manner that no other creature can. “And when he sinned man took that instrument and threw it down in the mud and there it has lain for centuries, rusted, broken, unstrung, and man, instead of playing a harp like the angels and seeking to worship God in all his activities, is ego-centered and turns in on himself and sulks and swears and laughs and sings but it’s all without joy and without worship. Worship is the missing jewel in modern evangelism. We’re organized; we work; we have agendas. We have almost everything, but there’s one thing that the churches, even the evangelical churches, do not have; that is the ability to worship. We are not cultivating the art of worship. It’s the one shining gem that is lost to the modern church, and I believe we ought to search for this until we find it.”
(A. W. Tozer, *Worship*, Christian Publication n.d. pp 12, 23-24).

What Worship Is

First, true worship is a response of obedience to God. God has not given us the option to worship Him. “Give unto the Lord the glory due to His name, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.” (Ps. 29:2)

Our first priority in attending church is not to see what you can get out of the sermon, but what you can give back to God through your exercise of worship in obedience to His word. Not to do that is to miss everything God has for you.

Second, true worship shows reverent submission to God. Perhaps the purest illustration of worship in Scripture is depicted in Rev. 4:10-11, “The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: “You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.” That’s worship – giving back to God that which He deserves.

Thirdly, true worship is the result of the death of Christ. Today, we can worship in a new way because we are redeemed by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Because Christ died to pay the penalty for all of our sin, now we can come in the priesthood of every believer and worship God because of His sacrifice. That’s why corporate worship is a

celebration. We are celebrating our redemption in Jesus Christ. Worship is the response of a heart that is excited about the God who is served.

Lastly, worship is a reflection of our whole life. "Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service." (Rom. 12:1) God says that when we come to Him and give Him our lives, we are saying, "Lord, here is this instrument of worship and praise, and I want it to be played all week long for your honour and glory, so that everything I do, everything I say, everywhere I go, everything I think is an outgrowth of my love for You and an expression of my worship for You, my great God."

When we come together on Sunday and sing, we are saying, "Lord we praise You and give You our lives." We listen to God and obey Him. We reach out to one another in love. The quality of our worship here is a reflection of our relationship with God. Our worship, like our lives has one central focus - - - honouring and glorifying God. Amen!

Submitted by: Irene Huan

ANNUAL SPRING BAZAAR
Saturday, May 11, 2002
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join us for:

- ◆ Plant Sale
- ◆ White Elephant Sale

- ◆ Book Sale
- ◆ Jewellery

◆ Door Prize Draws

◆ Crafts

Our Menu includes:

- ◆ Chow Mein
- ◆ Hot Dogs & Popcorn
- ◆ Dessert Table

- ◆ Japanese Food
- ◆ Home Baking
- ◆ Strawberry Shortcake

EASTER SUNDAY

WOMEN AT THE TOMB

Read Luke 23:44-49; 24:1-9

They left the tomb and broke the news.

There you stood and watched and waited, huddled close, finding comfort in each other, holding one another's hands, weeping, watching. Standing there you saw it all, saw the dying, saw the pain, saw him gently bedded in the tomb. Companions in life, wrenched

from him in death, you women went home and got busy! One more need of his to fill, one more way to show your love.

One more time *he* turns the tables, serves *you* instead, with resurrection joy! Wins the war with sin and death, brings his promises to life!

Break the news --- keep on telling, even if they won't believe a word. News this good is worth repeating till it finds a home. Now we stand and witness with you, holding one another's hands, lifted, linked in joy and laughter --- to be his own companions, sisters in faith, and devoted to him, our Resurrected Lamb.

Jesus, help us leave the tombs behind us, leave the grief of sin and failure. Send us where we're needed most --- to the lost, confused, bewildered, those to love as you have loved.