



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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Office: (306) 752-2288 Email: [melfortuc@sasktel.net](mailto:melfortuc@sasktel.net)

Website: [www.melfortunitedchurch.com](http://www.melfortunitedchurch.com)

Ministers: All of us

Lead Minister: Emmanuel Menyereye

Music: Bernice McCosh

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Bill Koroluk

Scripture Readers: Sue Amundrud, Dorothy Busby

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**April 16, 2017**  
**Easter Sunday - Year A**

### WE GATHER AS A COMMUNITY OF GOD'S PEOPLE

*As we gather for worship today we acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 Territory. We honour the Cree and Métis people for whom this place has been a homeland for thousands of years. We respect the sacredness of our home and the ground on which we walk and we are grateful to gather here in peace and hope.*

**MUSICAL PRELUDE:** The Carillons

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNIVERSARIES & CONCERNS:**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

Beloved church, behold the victory of our God:

Jesus, our Lord, has conquered the grave.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Sin and death shall reign no more.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

Let this place resound with joy.

**Christ is risen! Alleluia!**

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN (VU 232):** *"Joyful, joyful, we adore you"*

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Loving God, we lift our hearts in praise.  
This very day we know that life rules over death.  
All your promises to your people now hold new meaning. Christ is risen from the dead and we have new life because of that.  
You had proclaimed “Yes!” as a challenge to the problems of the world. As we hear that bold proclamation, help us to find new ways to make our proclamation in our day-to-day living. Amen.

**HYMN (VU 155):** *“Jesus Christ is risen today”*

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:** *(in unison)*

Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have been raised from the waters of baptism to share in your glorious resurrection.  
Yet we have not lived as Easter people.  
We are unsure of your promise, confused about your will, and afraid in the face of danger.  
Like Mary, we weep at the tomb, but do not recognize your presence.  
Call us by name, risen Lord, that we may know you with confidence.  
Whenever we are overwhelmed by the power of evil, reveal again to us your triumph over the destructive powers of oppression.  
Forgive us our sin and let our lives be a testimony to your salvation through the love of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

Listen, church:  
God who raised Jesus from the dead has not given us over to death.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 64) Verse 5:**

*“Because you came on Easter morning”*

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *"Easter Anthem"* – A. Herring

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US**

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**HYMN (VU 175):** *"This is the day"*

**THE NEW CREED (VU P.918):**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**PSALM 118:1-2, 14-24 (VU p.837)**

*God is my strength and my song.*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Acts 10: 34-43:**

*Peter's account of Jesus' death and resurrection.*

**Colossians 3:1-4:**

*Set your mind on things above.*

**Matthew 28:1-10:**

*Mary and the empty tomb.*

**SERMON:**

**OUR RESPONSE**

**Invitation to the Offering:**

God has given us life in the resurrection  
of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In gratitude, let us offer our hearts and the  
fruit of our labour to God's service.

**OFFERING:**

**OFFERTORY HYMN (MV 182):** *"Grateful"*

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** (in unison)

**Almighty God, accept the fruit  
of our labour and the offering  
of our lives in union with our risen**

**Lord who lives and reigns with  
you forever. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

Let us unite our hearts in prayer, saying,  
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church throughout the world, that as we  
celebrate the feast of Jesus' resurrection, we may renew our faith  
and strengthen our witness in Jesus' name. God of  
Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for pastors, priests, ministers, teachers and all who  
serve you in one way or another, that they may be wise in their  
leadership, humble in their service, and fearless in their  
confrontation of evil; God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the poor and the stranger that they may receive  
a place of refuge, hope, and hospitality; God of Resurrection, **hear  
our prayer.**

We pray for the sick and those in distress, that they  
may find healing for their pain and be restored to fullness of life;  
God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our neighbours, that together we may dwell in  
harmony; God of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

For our enemies, that we may love them and be agents of  
reconciliation in the name of Jesus; God of Resurrection, **hear our  
prayer.**

We lift up to you all who find themselves shrouded in  
questions, who may feel inadequate because they are unsure, or  
because they do not appear to have all the answers. May they hear  
you affirm their doubts as a pathway to faith; God of Resurrection,  
**hear our prayer.**

For all who seek to proclaim your "Yes!" to others,  
sometimes at great risk, through word and deed. For all who seek  
to affirm others through acts of justice and compassion we ask you  
to affirm them, and remind them that they are doing your work; God  
of Resurrection, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, receive these prayers we offer, and by the  
power of your Holy Spirit use us for the sake of the gospel of Jesus  
Christ. In the name of Jesus we pray. **Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (VU p. 884):** *"You shall go out in joy"*

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**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

Go, with the Easter joy deep within your hearts.

**Thanks be to God!**

Go, with the Easter songs singing on your lips.

**Thanks be to God!**

Go, with the hopeful message of Easter clear  
in your minds.

**Thanks be to God!**

Go, certain that in time and beyond time,  
God's love is with you and will never leave you.

**Thanks be to God!**

*[written by David Sparks. Gathering, Lent-Easter 2017 Year A, p.44. Used with permission].*

**CHORAL BLESSING:** *"My Peace" – K. Routledge*

**Prayer Resources:**

*\*Seasons of the Spirit SeasonsFUSION, Lent-Easter 2017;  
Feasting on the Word, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1, Advent  
through Pentecost; Prayers to Share Year A, Responsive Prayers  
for Each Sunday of the Year; the United Church of Canada Lent-  
Easter 2017 Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with  
permission.*

**Next Week's (Easter 2A Sunday, April 23, 2017) Readings:**

*Acts 2:14a-22-32;*

*Psalm 16;*

*1 Peter 1:3-9;*

*John 20:19-31.w*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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*We welcome you all to worship, especially our visitors or guests. We are glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please remember to sign our guestbook at the entrance of the church.*

*Please stay back for a cup of coffee and conversation at the CE Centre immediately following the service.*

### **THIS WEEK AT MELFORT UNITED CHURCH**

**Tuesday, April 18th**

@ 7 pm – Women Alive

**Wednesday, April 19th**

@ 7 pm – Choir

**Thursday, April 20th**

@ 10:30am – Bible Study

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

FundScrip Deadline

**Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**

@ 10 am – Pastoral Care

### **Let the Church Music Serenade You into Spring**

April 23<sup>rd</sup> – Graydon Eskowich – Piano Solo –

*“It Is Well with My Soul”*

April 30<sup>th</sup> – *“Disciples of Christ”* – Besig & Price

### **UCW Annual Meeting of the Tamarack Presbyterial**

The UCW annual meeting of the Tamarack Presbyterial will be held in Prince Albert at the Calvary United Church on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. This year we are celebrating the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UCW. Charter members (those who joined UCW in 1962) will be recognized at this meeting. The theme of this event is “Dance With the Spirit” and ALL women are invited. For more information contact Grace Wilton.

**Easter Star Parade – April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Following Service everyone is invited to a Pancake Breakfast at the Masonic Temple. There will be a silver collection.

**Spring Garage Sale**

Christian Education Centre  
Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 9 am – 5 pm  
Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 12 pm

**Scott Woods and his Band- Twin Fiddle express**

Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm, CE Centre  
Adult \$25 / Child \$10

Tickets @ George Home Hardware, Backstage Music, Church Office

Order by Visa or MasterCard – Scott Woods Band Office –  
1.855.726.8896

**FundScrip Deadline for April**

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, April 20th.

***Stewardship Second***

*Many in our times have seen death. Christians cannot be silenced because, in addition, they have seen an empty tomb, heard Jesus speak, and even caught glimpses of his mystery and presence.*