



# 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: Jodi Allen

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Lorne Anderson

Scripture Readers: Judy Meier, Chris Corbett

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## ORDER OF WORSHIP

**April 2, 2017**

**Fifth Sunday in Lent - Year A**

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

**MUSICAL PRELUDE:**

**GREETING & WELCOME:**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNIVERSARIES & CONCERNS:**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

My bones are weary.

**Come out, Lazarus. Live.**

My bones are dry.

**Come out, Lazarus. Live!**

My spirit is gone.

**Come out, Lazarus. LIVE!**

But - why?

**Because we need you.**

**We need your gifts.**

**We need your wisdom.**

**We need your love.**

You need me?

**You are a part of who we are.**

**We need everyone!**

**Come out, Lazarus. LIVE!**

Alleluia?

**You're alive! We're alive!  
God is with us! AMEN!**

*[written by Richard Bott. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2017, page 28. Used with permission].*

**HYMN (MV 150):** *"Spirit of God, be our breath"*

**OPENING PRAYER:**

**Gracious God, in the midst of death,  
you offer life.**

**In the midst of despair, you offer hope.  
In the midst of confusion and uncertainty,  
you offer a new way of seeing things,  
a new way of understanding things.**

**Help us to remember this always.  
Amen.**

**Hymn (MV):** *"Three things I promise"*

**PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:**

**(based on Psalm 130):**

Out of the depths, we cry to you, O Lord.

**Lord, hear our voices; be attentive to our cries  
and our praises!**

You, O Lord, are with us all the time; you know our deepest thoughts and longings.

**There is forgiveness in you, and for this we  
revere you.**

We wait for you, O Lord; our souls wait for you,

**more than those who watch for the morning;  
yes, Lord, more than those who watch for the  
morning.**

All people of God, our hope is in the Lord!

**God offers us steadfast love and great power  
to redeem.**

**It is indeed our awesome God who redeems  
us all from our iniquities. Let us praise God's  
holy name as we worship together.**

*[written by Susan McAllister. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2017, page 31. Used with permission].*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

You inspire us to freedom, O God.

**The old patterns are overcome, new ways  
are followed, confidence is restored.**

**You liberate us from dryness and dead ends  
to find ourselves; you free us to serve the  
powerless and oppressed.**

Live in God's freedom, and know peace!

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

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

*"Because you came on Easter morning"*

**SPECIAL MUSIC: "Ave Marie" - Judy & Bernice – Piano &  
Organ Duet**

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

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**HYMN (MV 34): "All is done for the glory"**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Ezekiel 37:1-14:**

*The valley of the dry bones.*

**John 11:1-45:**

*The death of Lazarus.*

**SERMON:**

**OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING:**

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

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

**In hope we offer these gifts:  
hope for a peaceful and fair world;  
hope for an equal distribution of food,  
medicines, natural resources, and love;  
hope for the well-being of Mother Earth;  
hope for many future generations.  
In hope we bring these gifts as hope for  
a peaceful and fair world.  
Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

Life-giving God, like Martha, Mary, and Lazarus, we are loved by you. We think of this family and the way they opened their home to others, providing care and companionship to Jesus and his friends. We pray for our homes, that they may be places where others can find life-giving relationships.

**Spirit of God, breathe new life in us!**

Also, like Martha, Mary and Lazarus, we are different from one another. Martha was practical and clear about what she believed. Thank you for those who use their skills and abilities to care for others. We pray that their faithfulness and dependability will bring hope to those who are not sure of their faith and find it in hard to believe in you and in other people.

**Spirit of God, breathe new life in us!**

Mary loved deeply and felt the pain of loss and desertion. We pray for those who have experienced the loss of those they love, those for whom relationships have brought disappointment, those whose trust has not been honoured. May they find comfort in their sadness and courage to reach out again to others.

**Spirit of God, breathe new life in us!**

Lazarus had faced illness and death. We pray for all who face life-threatening illness or injuries, those paralyzed by fear or anxiety and those for whom depression or difficulties make life painful or seem like not worth living. Help us all to face our mortality, knowing that there are limits to our energy and there will be an end to our life and strength, but never an end to your loving presence. Because you came on Easter morning, there is life beyond death.

**Spirit of God, breathe new life in us!**

In a short time of silence we bring our own prayers to God.  
(Silence).

As we finish this prayer, we ask:

**Spirit of God, breathe new life in us! Amen.**

**SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (VU 586):**

*"We shall go out with hope of resurrection"*

**COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

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

**Prayer Resources:**

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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 4<sup>th</sup>**

@ 7pm – Women Alive

**Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**

@ 7 pm – Choir

**Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>**

@ 10:30am – Bible Study

@ 12 pm – Lenten Lunch/Ministerial Meeting @United Church

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

**Reminder for Next Sunday – April 9<sup>th</sup> – Noon Lunch, Food  
Bank Sunday**

**Greeter:** Glenn George

**Ushers:** Ron Nielsen & Stacey Kleiboer

**Coffee Makers:** Noon Lunch

**Readers:** Mavis Peters, Caroline Holoien

**PowerPoint:** Eskowich Family

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

April 2nd – “Ave Marie” – Judy & Bernice – Piano & Organ Duet

April 9<sup>th</sup> – “Hosanna! Hosanna!” – J. Martin

April 16<sup>th</sup> – “Easter Anthem” – A. Herring

- Handbell Choir will be performing

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

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

**Bridge Tournament**

Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, CE Centre

Registration 9:30

\$15 per person (lunch included)

Call Bernice McCosh @ 306-752.2420 or Judy Meier @  
306.863.4379 to register (deadline to register is April 10th)

**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

**Confirmation Classes**

Confirmation class can begin anytime candidates are available.

Please see the minister if you would like you or your child to go  
through baptism or confirmation process.

**FundScrip Deadline for March**

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, April 20th.

**May Mann**

May moved to Kamloops BC last week. We wish her all the best.

Should you wish to contact her you may do so at:

Phone: 250.571.2938

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Address: Box 014, 1220 Hugh Allen Drive  
Kamloops, BC V1S 2B3

***Stewardship Second***

*Stewards open their eyes to choices that bring light,  
truth, and wholeness.*