



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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Website: 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: Eileen Brooks

Scripture Readers: Bryan Wurtz, Gerri Wurtz

ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 23, 2017

Second Sunday after Easter - 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNIVERSARIES & CONCERNS:

CALL TO WORSHIP:

When doors were shut and the world was kept out,
resurrection finds the disciples.

When the church gathers and the world waits outside,
resurrection finds us.

When fear grew and new questions were found,
resurrection found the disciples.

When faith leads us into new questions about life,
resurrection finds us.

When suffering remained and the city was hostile,
resurrection found the disciples.

When Christ gathers with his followers in living worship,
resurrection finds us.

Come, let us worship God!

HYMN (VU 164): *"The day of resurrection"*

OPENING PRAYER:

There is joy in the Upper Room.

The old despair is gone; new life in Christ surprisingly appears.

There is challenge in the Upper Room.

The new realities are questioned; faith comes alive in the testing.

There is peace in the Upper Room.

The old anxieties are forgotten; a new enthusiasm is courageously evident.

There is Jesus Christ in the Upper Room.

**The focus for change, the promise of life unending.
Amen.**

HYMN (VU 173): *"Thine is the glory"*

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE:

There are times when we judge others. Out of fear of being judged ourselves, we call them names, and put them down. We may discredit their faith, and write them off.

O God, forgive us.

When other people have a faith that differs from ours, we say it is not enough.

O God, forgive us.

Sometimes we believe that doubts are an impediment to faith.

O God, forgive us.

Gracious God, in a world where there is such a vast rainbow of ways to have relationship with you, help us not to limit our vision and our understanding. We pray in the name of the risen Christ. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Jesus said to Thomas, "Even better blessings are in store for those who do not see and yet believe.

"We have never seen Jesus, and yet we know that in mysterious and wonderful ways the risen Christ is with us even now, offering us forgiveness and new life.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.

PRAYER RESPONSE (MV 64) Verse 5:

"Because you came on Easter morning"

SPECIAL MUSIC: "It Is Well with My Soul"

Graydon Eskowich – Piano Solo

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:

HYMN (MV 149): *"Peace for the children"*

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

Psalm 16 (VU p. 738):

In you, God, I take refuge.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Acts 2:14a, 22-32:

Peter preaches on Pentecost.

1 Peter 1:3-9:

Salvation is the outcome of faithfulness.

John 20:19-31:

Jesus appears to the disciples and to Thomas.

SERMON:

OUR RESPONSE

OFFERING:

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: *(in unison)*

**God, in the confidence of our faith,
we know that we do not have to earn
your love and care. It is ours by grace.**

This makes our offering a gesture

**of thanksgiving for all of the ways
in which we are blessed.**

**In thanks and praise, we offer ourselves
and our gifts for your service. Amen.**

*[Written by Susan Ivany. Lent-Easter Gathering Year A,
page 43. Used with permission].*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Ever-present and loving God, we pray for those for whom life seems like a locked room. We think of those who feel afraid and unable to move; do not abandon them,

but show them the path that leads to life.

We pray for those who suffer distress through injury or illness, unable to be free of pain or physical restrictions; do not abandon them,

but show them the path that leads to life.

We pray for those who are troubled in mind, hemmed in by worries or a lack of confidence; do not abandon them,

but show them the path that leads to life.

In some parts of the world, there is too much poverty, hunger, tyranny, and lack of peace and freedom; do not abandon them,

but show them the path that leads to life.

We pray for those who find it hard to believe in you without seeing you, confined by traditions or caught in conflicts of doctrine or other faith teachings; do not abandon them,

but show them the path that leads to life.

We pray for ourselves, when we are unable to see beyond the boundaries of our narrow world, or lack the will to work for the good of others; do not abandon us,

but show us the path that leads to life. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

HYMN (VU 586): *"We shall go out with the hope of
resurrection"*

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING:

And now into God's world we go, to continue our walk with Christ in
all the places life calls us to be.

Let us go with joy

for God calls us to share God's work.

Let us go with purpose

for God equips us for the work to which we are called.

Let us go with hope

for God will show us the places we are most needed.

And in the words of John Wesley, let us remember:

Best of all, God is with us.

Go out in peace for the God of peace goes with you, now, and forevermore. **Amen.**

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 church year; the United Church of Canada, Lent-Easter 2017 Gathering Resources for Worship Planners. Used with permission.*

Next Week's (April 30, 2017-Easter 3A) Readings:

Acts 2:14a, 36-41;

Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19;

1 Peter 1:17-23;

Luke 24:13-35.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Monday, April 24th

@ 2 pm – Naomi Unit

Tuesday, April 25th

@ 10:30 am – Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 26th

@ 7 pm – Choir

Thursday, April 27th

@ 10:30am – Bible Study

@ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir

@ 7 pm – Church Board Meeting

Friday, April 28th & Saturday, April 29th

Presbytery Full Court Meeting – Big River

Let the Church Music Serenade You into Spring

April 30th – “In Heavens Air” performed by the
North East Community Band

May 7th – “Disciples of Christ” – Besig & Price

Sunday, April 30th – Camping Sunday

We will be collecting for Camp Tapawingo on Camping Sunday.

Please put your contribution in a separate “marked” envelope.

Thank you!

Spring Garage Sale

Christian Education Centre

Friday, May 5th, 9 am – 5 pm

Saturday, May 6th, 9am – 12 pm

Scott Woods and his Band- Twin Fiddle express

Saturday, May 20th @ 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

-7-

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed from May 23rd until June 8th for holidays and will reopen on Tuesday, June 13th.

FundScrip for April & May

The next FundScrip deadline is Thursday, June 22nd.

Stewardship Second

Stewards dream a holy vision of new relationship to God, to the earth, to all others.