



## UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA MELFORT ETHELTON PASTORAL CHARGE

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

Ministers: All of us

Lead Minister: Emmanuel Menyereye

Music: Tracey Smetaniuk

Music Director: Mavis Peters

Office Administrator: Denise Todosichuk

Caretaker: Faye Greier

Today's Greeter: Glenn George

Scripture Readers: Mavis Peters, Caroline Holoien

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### ORDER OF WORSHIP

**Please wait in the Christian Education Centre before beginning  
of service.**

**April 9, 2017**

**Palm/Passion 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.*

### **Processional:**

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to our Palm/Passion Sunday celebration. With our Sunday school children and Choir leading us, we will enter the Sanctuary singing, *"This is the day that God has made"* (MV #122). As our Christian tradition and calendar goes, today we celebrate the anniversary of that time long ago when Jesus triumphantly entered the city of Jerusalem for his last time. As he rode into that city on a donkey, a big crowd of people gathered along the streets to welcome him as a hero, as their liberator, as their king. So, we are told, friends and enemies sang their hosannas, they laid down their garments or cloaks, and palm branches for him to pass on, and that way they paid him their homage. May this time of worship today be a way to welcome Jesus into the city of our lives with all the love and peace he brings.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, ANNIVERSARIES & CONCERNS:

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

Gather with the crowds to await the coming of Jesus.

**We have taken his words to heart; we are moved  
by his compassion.**

Rejoice with the disciples, that God's Anointed One has  
courageously chosen to enter the city.

**We recognize the evil forces Jesus will encounter; we  
will stand with him.**

Cheer with the crowd, "Blessed is he who comes in God's name."

**Blessed indeed! "God's reign is close, Hosanna  
in the highest!"**

**HYMN (VU 124):** *"He came riding on a donkey"*

### OPENING PRAYER:

We stand with the crowd, who welcomes God's Anointed One;

**We rejoice in Jesus' courage, for we feel the threat  
of the religious and military powers.**

We stand with the crowd, who welcomes God's Anointed One.

**We rejoice that Jesus is with his friends, the disciples,  
but we wonder whether they can withstand the stress.**

We stand with the crowd, who welcomes the Anointed One.

**We rejoice in the acceptance of the onlookers, of one so  
holy, but we ask ourselves, "can they resist the evil  
pressure of the leadership?"**

We stand with the crowd, who welcomes the Anointed One.

**We rejoice that God's just and compassionate way has  
been recognized, but we wonder, will the love of God  
triumph in the coming crisis? Amen.**

**Hymn (VU 670):** *"Precious Lord, take my hand"*

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

**God, we are approaching the end of our journey, and difficult  
days lie ahead for us. Just now we hear the cries of the crowd,  
as they welcome Jesus into the city. Their cries call us to join**

in their celebration, yet we are uneasy. Before us lie the shadows of the cross.

God, we pray that you walk with us as we journey through the events of the Holy Week: the anger of Jesus when he confronts those who turned your house into a den for thieves. The last meal that Jesus will share with his friends where one will betray him.

The struggle in Gethsemane as Jesus faces what he knows must happen, but is deeply grieved. His arrest when his friends will abandon him and one will deny him. His death on the cross.

God, walk with us through these days, so when we stand at the foot of the cross, we will see past it to the wonder of the empty tomb that renews our faith in your love revealed to us, through the witness of Christ Jesus, who shares with us your reign to come. *Amen.*

*[written by Sandy Ferguson. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2017, page 34. Used with permission].*

#### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

God, your constant love reaches the heavens; your faithfulness extends to the skies. Your righteousness is towering like the mountains; your justice is like the depths of the sea. People and all creatures are in your care.

**How precious, O God, is your constant love! We find protection under the shadows of your wings. We feast on the abundant food you provide; you let us drink from the river of your goodness. You are the source of all life, and because of your light we see the light through this journey to the cross.**

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

*"Because you came on Easter morning"*

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** *"Hosanna! Hosanna!" – J. Martin*

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

**ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHILDREN:**

**HYMN (VU 128):** "Sanna sannanina"

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:**

**MINUTE FOR MISSION:**

**Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 (VU p. 837):**

The stone the builders rejected.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

**Isaiah 50:4-9a:**

*The suffering servant struck and insulted.*

**Philippians 2:5-11:**

*Let the same mind be in you as was in Jesus.*

**Matthew 21:1-11:**

*Jesus enters Jerusalem.*

**SERMON:**

**OUR RESPONSE**

**OFFERING:**

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

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

**Creator God, Ultimate Servant of everyone living:**

**In Jesus Christ you came, showing us that we achieve our greatest worth through service.**

**Bless us and these offerings, symbols of our service, that your goodness may be more fully known through us and through them.**

**May the service of all your people, including us, make the abundance of your love fully known.**

**May the food you provide be fully shared, that the earth and its Creator may be universally recognized, adored, and praised.**

**Amen.**

*[written by Sheila McLeod. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2017, page 34. Used with permission].*

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:**

Compassionate God, we lift our palms of praise with those who first sang out, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" Like them, each hand that holds a palm has a heart that holds a story - a story of pain, of disappointment, of sorrow. We share those stories with you now.

We pray to you, O God,

**save us, Holy One.**

Prince of Peace, you came in humble obedience and walked the path of enduring love even in the face of violent rejection.

We confess that it is difficult to follow your path of peace and the violent road of abuse and war is all too familiar to us. We long for your peace, O God. We pray to you, O God,

**save us, Holy One.**

Saving God, we trust in your goodness and believe your desire is for all of creation to be held in your redeeming love. Send us out in your name to bring comfort to those who mourn, healing love to those who are sick, and justice to those who are oppressed. We wait now for your Spirit. We pray to you, O God,

**save us, Holy One. Amen.**

## **SENDING FORTH**

**HYMN (VU 512):** *"Lord, you give the great commission"*

## **COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:**

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.  
Look not to rewards and celebrity for your good deeds.

Do unto others what will nurture God's will for them.

Listen to the Spirit's leading.

Go in peace, assured of God's presence with you,  
With the mind of Christ Jesus as your path and guide,  
and the constant companionship of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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

**Prayer Resources:**

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

**Maundy Thursday (Thursday, April 13, 2017) Readings:**

*Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35.*

**EASTER SUNDAY (April 16, 2017) READINGS:**

*Acts 10:34-43; Jeremiah 31:1-6;  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Colossians 3:1-4; Matthew 28:1-10.*

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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 – Holy Week:**

**Wednesday, April 12th**

- @ 9:30 – Bridge Tournament
- @ 1:30 pm – Worship Committee Meeting
- @ 7 pm – Choir

**Thursday, April 6th**

- @ 10:30am – Bible Study
- @ 4:15 pm – Bell Choir
- @ 6:00 pm – Maundy Thursday Potluck Supper and Communion Service

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

- April 16<sup>th</sup> – “Easter Anthem” – A. Herring  
- Bell 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 10<sup>th</sup>).

**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.

**Financial Flash**

Jonah & Co. Dinner Theatre update:

Thank you to everyone who worked so hard and made the dinner theatres such a success. Our profit was \$3,894.27

***Stewardship Second***

*Stewardship is a spiritual practice. How do stewards of the gospel prepare the way for Jesus?*