



Melville United Church
Sunday, April 12, 2015
Second of Easter

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke



Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude: Improvisation

Call to Worship:

As an Easter people,

let us celebrate the risen Christ who stands in our midst.

As an Easter people, we come for renewal and restoration.

We come in the knowledge that the living Christ stands among us today.

Let us celebrate the presence of Christ.

Written by Jim McKean, while at Lyons Memorial U.C., Gore Bay, ON. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2015, page 40. Used with permission.

***Hymn:** Welcome Happy Morning (VU #161)

Opening Prayer/Prayer of Confession

God of empty tombs and hearts made free, on this day of triumph we come before you filled with rejoicing. Yet even as we celebrate, we recognize that we have not yet overcome our frailty, our incompleteness, our shreds of disbelief. Open to us the gates of your righteousness so that we might enter through them and give thanks to you.

Written by Kate Crawford, First-St. Andrew's U.C., London, ON. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2015, page 42. Used with permission.

Words of Affirmation:

We are drawn to God, because God is drawn to us. God touches us and renews our living.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Written by Cindy Randall, Humbervale U.C., Etobicoke, ON. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2015, page 43. Used with permission.

Melville United Church

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Team Ministry

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Jennifer Auger
Minister of Music:	Matthias Schmidt
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Mary Lloyd
Pastoral Care:	Millie Cumming, Elizabeth Stinson
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com

Chorus: Alleluia MV 50

Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Theme Conversation:

***Hymn:** Christ is Risen From the Dead (VU #167)

Scripture Reading: Acts 9:1-9; 19b-22

1Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. 4He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' 5He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. 6But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.' 7The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. 8Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. 9For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. 19and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, 20and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, 'He is the Son of God.' 21All who heard him were amazed and said, 'Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?' 22Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 130: Refrain 1 (VU 853)

Reader: **Ruth Sproule**

Scripture Reading: John 3:1-9

1Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2He came to Jesus by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' 3Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.' 4Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' 5Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." 8The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' 9Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?'

Reflection: "A Door. And then a Highway."

Ruth Cooke

***Hymn:** Amazing Grace (VU #266)

Offering:

Ministry of Music: J. M. Martin - Lift High Your Easter Praise

Offering Song: I Am a New Creation

I am a new creation
No more in condemnation
Here in the grace of God I stand.

My heart is overflowing
My love just keeps on growing
Here in the grace of God I stand.

And I will praise you, God.
Yes, I will praise you, God.
And I will sing of all that you have done.

A joy that knows no limit
a lightness in my spirit
Here in the grace of God I stand.

Offertory Prayer:*Prayers of the People:****Prayer of Jesus:**

***Hymn:** Thine is the Glory (VU #173)

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

As you leave this sacred space, remember that we are a forgiven people and God has written love on our hearts.

We go, remembering our sacredness,

Go, remembering your place in the eternal flow of life, and realizing the power love has to change lives.

We will flood the world with the law of love. Amen

***Parting Song:** Melville Benediction

**Let's go out from here and take our place
respect creation sharing all god's grace.**

Treasure the past and things we have done.

Open our mind to new things yet to come.

God will be with us within, around, above.

Bless all our doing, let us go and love.

Bless all our doing, let us go and love.

Postlude: J. Mauret - Trumpet tune

Prayer of the Week:

Alleluia! We praise you, O God, for Christ has conquered death! Make all things new in our lives this day. Dwell in us, that we may proclaim to the world the good news of Easter Day. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Mount Zion (Renton)

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Eleanor Brown, Isobel Glennie,
Bob Zirk, Diane Maloney

April 12 - Coffee in Parlour today - Ruth Sproule

March	Theme	Ministry
12	1 st after Easter	Ruth Cooke
19	Earth Sunday	Mary Elliott
26	Camping Sunday	Mary Elliott