

**Melville United Church  
Sunday, March 27, 2016  
Easter Sunday**

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*\* Congregation please stand as you are able.*

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree & Jen Auger

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Easter Musical Drama: He is Risen!**

**-Lloyd Larsen**

I. Prologue - Easter Dawns

II. Reflection on the Crucifixion

III. Resurrection Proclamation

IV. The People of God Rejoice

**Call to Worship:**

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

**We are Easter people, filled with hope and joy!**

Hear the good news! Mary came to the empty tomb, and found the risen Christ.

**Jesus died and rose again - death does not defeat love!**

We are in God's presence and bear witness to God's love.

**We are part of the new thing that God is doing in the world around us.**

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

**Alleluia! He is risen indeed!**

**Opening Prayer:**

God of the empty tomb, we come into your presence looking for Jesus after his death on the cross.

**We find the risen Christ and are delighted and transformed.**

Just as the stone was rolled away from the tomb on that first Easter morning,

**may we move any obstacle in our hearts and minds that keep us separated from you.**

Holy Presence, help us to recognize and live the mystery

**of resurrection and your transforming love. Amen.**

**Lenten Rock Liturgy:**

Today we remove the stones from the tomb.

Rock 1

As Jesus brings new life to the world, we leave behind the stones that weigh us down and open our lives to receive light and love of that first Easter morning. *(A rock is removed.)*

**We remove the stone that seals our hearts from experiencing life.**

Chorus: Halle, halle, halle VU 958

Rock 2

After the questions and testing of Lent and Holy Week, after the finality of death, we find faith renewed. *(A rock is removed)*

**We remove the rock from the tomb that shall not be moved and we stand strong.**

Chorus: Halle, halle, halle VU 958

Rock 3

In the face of pain and death, God's love strengthens and holds us. *(A rock is removed)*

**We remove the rock of strength from the tomb  
and discover it is light as we carry it wherever it is needed.**

Chorus: Halle, halle, halle VU 958

Rock 4

In the midst of wonder and awe we let go of the fear that stops our journey. *(A rock is removed).*

**We remove the rock from the tomb that causes us to stumble  
and set it aside from our path.**

Chorus: Halle, halle, halle VU 958

Rock 5

The resurrection requires us to trust - not in our culture or our institutions - but in God and God's ability to change the reality of the world. *(A rock is removed).*

**We remove the rock of trust from the tomb and give it its proper place in our lives.**

Chorus: Halle, halle, halle VU 958

Rock 6

If we are open to the radicalness of the story, the events of Easter morning unsettle us. The events of Jesus' life unsettle us. *(A rock is removed)*

**We remove the rock of discomfort from the tomb**

**so that discomfort confronts and transforms our lives and the world.**

Chorus: Halle, halle, halle VU 958

Rock 7

Jesus' life and death carry transformative power for the world. When we are tempted to carry on with life as usual, may the wonder of the story call us to faithful discipleship. *(A rock is removed)*

**Having walked through death, we remove the rock of temptation  
from the tomb**

**as we turn our lives toward God and new life.**

Chorus: Halle, halle, halle VU 958

**Theme Conversation:** Tommy's Angel -by Donna Sinclair

**Song:** Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah

**MV 121**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 65:17-25 (The Inclusive Bible, The first egalitarian translation)

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth! The things of the past will not be remembered or come to mind! Be glad and rejoice forever and ever in what I create, because I now create Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight!

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or old people who do not live out their days. They die as mere youths who reach but a hundred years, and those who fall short of a hundred will be thought accursed.

At last they will live in the houses they build, and eat the fruit of the vineyard they plant. They will not build for another to inhabit; they will not plant for another to eat. For the days of my people will be like the days of a tree, and my chosen ones will enjoy the fruit of their labours. They will not labour in vain or bear children doomed to die; for they and

their descendants are a people blessed by God. Even before they call upon me, I will answer; and while they speak, I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb will feed side by side, the lion will eat straw like an ox. Serpents will be content to crawl on the ground; they will not injure or destroy in all my holy mountain," says YHWH.

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 46 *(paraphrase by James Taylor - Everyday Psalms)*

Wars and rumors of wars swirl around us;  
corporate strife and struggle engulf us.

**Only God stands firm in these shifting sands.**

**God is our shelter from them;**

God gives us strength to go out into the stresses of each day.

**We have nothing to fear.**

Though the social order is shaken,

**though our leaders come crashing down,**

though long-honored standards fly at half-mast  
and the values we inherited are scorned –

**even then, we have nothing to fear.**

The comforting presence of God pours over us

**like cool water on a burning beach;**

**it makes us glad.**

God is with us;

**God is an oasis of peace upon a dark plain**

**where ignorant armies clash by night.**

The ambitious leap over each other;

**The emperor stands naked in the cold clear light of innocence.**

They are frozen in their folly.

**But God is with us;**

**God is our sanctuary.**

See how wonderfully Spirit works!

**Those who would beat others have beaten themselves;**

Those obsessed with winning wind up as losers;

**Those who think only of themselves find that no one thinks of them  
at all.**

All their struggles add up to nothing.

**This is God's word to the warring: "Be still!**

Be still, and know that I — and only I — am God!"

In the tumult of the nations,

**in the torment of the earth,**

God is with us.

**God is our sanctuary.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Reader: Robert Foster

**Scripture:** Luke 24:1-12 *(The Inclusive Bible, The first egalitarian translation)*

On the first day of the week, at the first sign of dawn, the women came to the tomb bringing the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled back from the tomb; but when they entered the tomb, they did not find the body of Jesus.

While they were still at a loss over what to think of this, two figures in dazzling garments stood beside them. Terrified, the women bowed to the ground. The two said to them, "Why do you search for the Living One among the dead? Jesus is not here; Christ has risen. Remember what Jesus said to you while still in Galilee - that the Chosen One must be delivered into the hands of sinners and be crucified, and on the third day would rise again." With this reminder, the words of Jesus came back to them.

When they had returned from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and the others. The women were Mary of Magdala, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James. The other women with them also told the apostles, but the story seemed like nonsense and they refused to believe them. Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. He stooped down, but he could see nothing but the wrappings. So he went away, full of amazement at what had occurred.

**Message:** Full of Amazement

**Decorating the Cross/Sharing Angels:**

**Offering:**

**Offering Song:** What Can I Do? MV 191

**What can I do? What can I bring?**

**What can I say? What can I sing?**

**I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.**

**I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. (Repeat)**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**God, we give thanks for our new life in the risen Christ. The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. You have built a foundation for our church, our community of faith. We offer our gifts today. May they help to enable opportunities for new life to grow wherever it is needed. Amen.**

**Joys & Concerns:**

**Hymn:** Let us Break Bread Together

**VU 480**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*Communion today will be served by intinction. At the appropriate time you will be invited to come forward to one of the stations. Take a piece of bread, move to the cup, dip your bread in the juice and then consume it and then return to your seat. Take the time you need. If you cannot or choose not to come to the front you will be served in your seat.*

**Invitation:**

As we come to this table we are reminded that this is not the table of Melville United Church; nor is it the table of the United Church of Canada or any particular denomination. It is the table of Jesus the Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith and long to live justly and in peace with their neighbour, are welcome here.

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Loving God, you made this wonderful world for us to enjoy. You showed our ancestors how to care for one another. You gave us Jesus to be our friend and to bring us closer to you. He died on a cross but you brought him to life, to live with us always. You send us your Spirit and bring us to this table so that we can share your love. For all you

goodness we give you thanks; and together we give you praise. And so, with the risen Christ, who makes all things new, we join in the song of a new day...

**O holy, holy, holy God,**

(MV 203)

**O God of time and space.**

**All earth and sea and sky above**

**bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n**

**creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed in the One who comes**

**and bears your name always!**

We do what Jesus did the night before he died.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread,

and gave it to his friends, and said,

"Take, eat; remember me."

Then he took the cup, and said,

"Take, drink; remember me"

Remembering your boundless love for us as shown in Jesus, we sing of the mystery of faith:

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,**

(MV 204)

**Christ will come again!**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again!**

At this time we also remember

....we sing together the prayer of Jesus...

**The Lord's Prayer: (Sung)**

**VU 960**

We pray you, God of Love, send your Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we, and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other, and to all the world.

**Amen, amen, O Holy One!**  
**Hosanna and Amen!**  
**Amen, amen, O Holy One,**  
**Hosanna and Amen!**

(MV 205)

### **Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup**

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life,  
**whoever comes to me will never be hungry;**  
**whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."**

### **Sharing of the Elements:**

The body of Christ - the bread of tomorrow.  
 The blood of Christ - the cup of new life.

### **Post Communion Prayer**

**We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness;**  
**that wine poured out replenishes;**  
**that time spent with the Risen Christ and one another is gift and**  
**grace. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: Christ the Lord is Risen Today**      **VU 157**

### **\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

The stone has been rolled away;  
**the power of death is broken.**  
 The grave clothes have been abandoned;  
**fear and hesitation are over.**  
 The Risen Christ fills us with hope  
**and invites us to live fully.**  
 Go and share the joy of Easter.  
**Alleluia! Amen.**

**\*Parting Song:** Melville Benediction

**Postlude:**      W. Mathias - Fanfare

### **Prayer of the Week:**

Alleluia! We thank you, O God, for our new life in Christ. Join our voices  
 and our hearts with your servants in every place and time. Alleluia!

**Partners in Prayer:**      Central Pentecostal Church

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:**   Port Nelson, Burlington

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**              Karen Smillie, Mary Lloyd,  
                                  Mary Hume, Isobel Glennie

**Counters:**              Gary O'Leary, Jane O'Leary