

Melville United Church
Sunday, April 3, 2016
Easter Sunday



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Jen Auger

Welcome & Life & Work of the Church

Sharing the Light

Prelude: Improvisation

Call to Worship:

Praise!

Praise God in God's sanctuary. Praise God in the skies.

Praise!

Praise God for God's greatness and God's mighty deeds.

Praise God with trumpet sound, with lute and harp.

Praise God with tambourine and dance, with string and pipe and cymbals.

Praise!

Let everything that has breath praise God!

Come, let us worship

***Hymn:** VU 245 Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet

Opening Prayer:

God of promise, we come into this sanctuary remembering your great love for us. Remembering the messages of new life and resurrection that capture the essence of the Easter season. We are Easter people, drawn closer to you and to one another after Jesus' death and resurrection. We are witnesses to your unending Easter love. May your Spirit guide us through this service and move us to share the good news of your resurrection with others. Amen.

Melville United Church
St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781
Team Ministry

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| Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care | Rev. Marion Loree |
| Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach | Jen Auger |
| Minister of Music: | Matthias Schmidt |
| Church Secretary: | Gerri McCullough |
| Custodian: | Robert Mitchell |
| Chair of Church Council: | Allan Hons |
| Pastoral Care | Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree |
| Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain | Alison Rainford |
| Secretary's Office hours: | 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F. |
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Prayer for Inner Healing

Loving God, we know that we haven't always made you a priority in our lives. With Lent and the celebration of Christ's resurrection behind us, we fall into old patterns. We know we haven't always shown the world your love or lived by the example of Jesus, a true servant. We acknowledge those times before you right now and turn to you for help coming back to life and returning to your ways. Amen.

Words of Affirmation

The God of resurrection offers forgiveness and new life.

Thanks be to God!

Chorus: Halle, Halle, Halle VU 958

Hymn: VU 820 Make a Joyful Noise (*based on Psalm 100*)

Theme Conversation: Light through Brokenness

Readings:**Psalm 118: 14-29**

14 The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.

15 There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous:

'The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;

16 the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.'

17 I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

18 The Lord has punished me severely,
but he did not give me over to death.

19 Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.

20 This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

21 I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.

22 The stone that the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone.

23 This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.

24 This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

25 Save us, we beseech you, O Lord!
O Lord, we beseech you, give us success!

26 Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
We bless you from the house of the Lord.

27 The Lord is God,
and he has given us light.

Bind the festal procession with branches,
up to the horns of the altar.

28 You are my God, and I will give thanks to you;
you are my God, I will extol you.

29 O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

John 20: 19-31

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. 23If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. 25So the other disciples told him, 'We

have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' 27 Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' 28 Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' 29 Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Reader: Don Grant

Acts 5:27-32 (*paraphrase from Seasons of the Spirit*)

Peter, John, and the other apostles couldn't help but smile. Sure, they'd just been arrested by the temple guards - again - but the look on the faces of the religious leaders and the guards was priceless! Actually, Peter had to try very hard not to burst out laughing, and he was avoiding meeting any of his friends in the eyes. "No, no, NO!" The high priest almost broke his hand on the arm of his chair, banging it the way a little child might do when they don't get their own way. "We told you to stop teaching in the name of Jesus," the high priest said, "but you refuse to obey the orders of this council. And you are drawing dangerously large crowds into the streets of the city just like Jesus did. He was punished for this disregard for the Torah and the council. You blame us for his death, we know you do. You are determined to accuse the council of his murder. It isn't true!" This last cry sounded like a toddler's protest of "it isn't fair!" and the accused stifled more fits of laughter. Getting himself under control, Peter answered, "We must obey God before any human authority. God of our ancestors - and yours - raised up Jesus. God offers Israel a new opportunity to turn back to God and know forgiveness. We are witnesses to these things - and so is

the Holy Spirit, sent by God to those" (Peter looked across at those accused with him) "who obey God." As Peter spoke, his attitude to the priests and Sadducees changed to pity, for he could sense that their hearts were not open to hear the message his dear friend and teacher Jesus had come to be and to give.

Reflection: Speak Up, Speak Out

***Hymn:** VU 185 You Tell Me That the Lord Is Risen

Invitation to the Offering:

Ministry of Music: S. Pethel - I Was Glad

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:**

Take all we offer you, O God: our gifts, our hands, our hearts. Use them to help make our world a better place, to share your love and laughter in gloomy places, to share your abundance in places of hunger, and to share your joy around the world. Amen.

Joys & Concerns:

Prayer Prelude VU 290 - Nothing can Trouble
**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
Those who seek God shall never go wanting.**

**Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten.
God alone fills us.**

Prayers of the People, Prayer of Jesus

Loving God, your Spirit moves among us today, calling us to repeat the story of Jesus' life and resurrection. Calling us to be bold witnesses to your love.

Give us courage to speak up.

May we be bold in addressing those situations in our own time that demand we speak out on the side of faith and justice.

Give us courage to speak out.

In situations where we see people marginalized because of their age, race, faith, education, nationality, gender identity, mental illness, or economic background...

Give us courage to speak up.

In situations where we know there is alcoholism, domestic violence, substance abuse, or other dangerous and harmful behaviour...

Give us courage to speak out.

When we are laden under the weight of health concerns, financial troubles, loneliness or hurt...

Give us courage to speak up.

When we are witness to the pain of our neighbour, friend, family member or loved one...

Give us courage to speak out.

When we see our own church community suffer from being too insular, stuck in the past, or narrow-minded...

Give us courage to speak up.

When we see your creation treated with neglect, abuse, or indifference...

Give us courage to speak out.

God, give us the confidence to be witnesses to your love, justice, and peace.

Give us courage to speak up.

Loving and compassionate God, companion on our journey, and companion to each and every one of our neighbours on theirs, we voice these prayers and entrust them to you, saying the words Jesus taught his friends and neighbours long ago... **Our Father...**

***Closing Hymn:** VU 173 Thine is the Glory

***Sending & Blessing :**

***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 minds to new things yet to come.**

God will be with us within, around, above,

**Bless all our doings. Let us go and love!
Bless all our doings. Let us go and love!**

Postlude: J. G. Walter - Praise to the Lord

Partners in Prayer: St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Port Rowan, St. Williams

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Diane Maloney, Doreen and Larry Broome