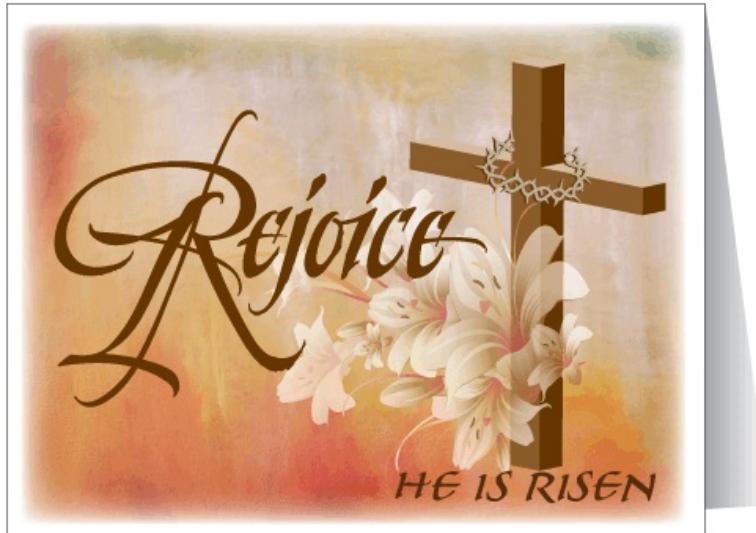


Melville United Church
Sunday, April 16, 2017
Easter Sunday



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

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

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Pastoral Care Numbers

519-826-9385, 519-835-8605

519-843-3841

* Congregation please stand as you are able.

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree & Jen Auger

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centring Time Improvisation

Call to Worship:

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

The shadows have gone and day has dawned!

Alleluia!

The stone has been rolled away and Christ is alive!

Alleluia!

Our sorrow has turned to joy!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Hymn: Christ the Lord is Risen Today

VU 157

Opening Prayer & Prayer of Confession:

Loving God, we lift our hearts in praise. This very day we know that life rules over death. All your promises to your people now hold new meaning. Christ is risen and we have new life because of it.

As we reflect on the events of this past week we say sorry when we realize that, like Peter, we have let Jesus down. We say sorry when we think of Pilate and his unwillingness to 'rock the boat' by following his heart. We say sorry when we think of the times, like the disciples, we have fled at the first sign of trouble.

Give us the courage to change and fill our hearts with joy as we turn to follow the risen Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

On this day of days we celebrate Gods words of hope and forgiveness.

No matter what we have done,
no matter what we may have said.

God loves us and invites us to celebrate new life.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Chorus: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks (refrain only) VU 179

Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Give thanks to the risen Christ,

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give praise to God's name.

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: Ev'ry morning is Easter morning

Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!

Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!

Good-bye guilt, goodbye fear, good riddance!

Hello God, hello sun!

I am one of the Easter People! My new life has begun!

Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!

Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!

Daily news is so bad it seems the Good News seldom gets heard.

Get it straight from the Easter People; God's around! Spread the word!

Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!

Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!

Yesterday I was bored and lonely; but today look and see!

I belong to the Easter People! Life's exciting to me!

Ev'ry morning is Easter morning from now on!

Ev'ry day's resurrection day, the past is over and gone!

Ev'ry morning is Easter morning, Ev'ry morning is Easter morning,

Ev'ry morning is Easter morning, from now on!

Hymn: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

VU 468

Sacrament of Holy Communion

As is our custom, Communion today will be served by intinction. At the appropriate time you will be invited to come forward, take a piece of bread from the communal tray, move to a cup, dip it in the juice and eat it. Please take the time you need. Then, before returning to your seat, you are invited to take a flower and place it on the cross. If you are unable or choose not to come to the front you will be served communion in your seat.

Invitation:

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....

.... we join in the song of a new day....

**O holy, holy, holy God,
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 is the One who comes
and bears your name always!**

(MV 203)

We do what Jesus did

....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!**

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! (MV 205)
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One,
Hosanna and Amen!

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."

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are now ready.

Sharing of the Elements:

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.

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Early in the morning on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb. She saw that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance, so she ran off to Simon Peter and the other disciple - the one Jesus loved - and told them, "The Rabbi has been taken from the tomb! We don't know where they have put Jesus!"

At that, Peter and the other disciple started out toward the tomb. They were running side by side, but then the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He didn't enter, but bent down to peer in

and saw the linen wrappings lying on the ground. Then Simon Peter arrived and entered the tomb. He observed the linen wrappings on the ground, and saw the piece of cloth that had covered Jesus' head lying not with the wrappings, but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the disciple who had arrived first at the tomb went in. He saw and believed. As yet, they didn't understand the scripture that Jesus was to rise from the dead. Then the disciples went back to their homes.

Meanwhile, Mary stood weeping beside the tomb. Even as she wept, she stooped to peer inside, and there she saw two angels in dazzling robes. One was seated at the head and the other at the foot of the place where Jesus' body had lain.

They asked her, "Why are you weeping?"

She answered them, "Because they have taken away my Rabbi, and I don't know where they have put the body."

No sooner had she said this than she turned around and caught sight of Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. He asked her, "Why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?"

She supposed it was the gardener, so she said, "Please, if you're the one who carried Jesus away, tell me where you've laid the body and I will take it away."

Jesus said to her, "Mary!"

She turned to him and said, "Rabboni!" - which means "Teacher."

Jesus then said, "Don't hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to Abba God. Rather, go to the sisters and brothers and tell them, 'I'm ascending to my Abba and to your Abba, my God and your God!'"

Responsive Reading: Psalm 118:1,2,14-24 (*Paraphrase by James Taylor - Everyday Psalms*)
(The growth of confidence)

**God, you give to life its goodness;
our cup overflows.**

You renew our confidence in you.

When you are with us, we can face anything.

We have no fears when we can feel your presence among us.

**A whisper of doubt scampers through
the back corners of skeptics' minds:**

"Did this, could this, really happen?"

What then of our reasoned rebuttals?

But I am not obsessed with beating anyone;

Winning or losing, living or dying,

I want to be with God;

I want to celebrate God's goodness to me.

God has tested me. God has put me through hell.

But God has never abandoned me.

Now I have the confidence to go anywhere, to try anything.

Whatever it takes, I know I'm worth it.

Once, I had no confidence in myself;

I had no confidence in God.

I quivered with insecurities;

I was a raw wound, flinching from everything.

Now the fluff that drifted in the wind

has become a mighty cottonwood,

reaching high towards your smile.

You hold me in your hands, God, and I shine.

Only you could do this.

A new day has dawned for me, a new life has begun.

Is it any wonder that I overflow with joy?

Reader: Sarah Schmidt

Scripture: selected passages

Psalm 30:4-5

Sing to YHWH, you who love God!

Praise God's holy name!

YHWH's anger is fleeting,

but God's favour endures forever.

There may be tears during the night,

but joy comes in the morning.

Psalm 30:11

You have turned my mourning into dancing;

you have taken off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

That's why my heart sings to you,

that's why I can't keep silent -

YHWH, you are my God, and I will thank you forever.

Psalm 126:3

Yes - YHWH has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.

Isaiah 49:13

Shout for joy, you heavens! Exalt, you earth!

You mountains, break into happy cries!

For YHWH consoles the people

and takes pity on those who are afflicted.

John 16:22

In the same way, you are now grieving;

but I will see you again and then you'll rejoice,

and no one will take away your joy.

Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with such peace and joy in your faith,
that you may be filled with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Message:

Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

VU 232

Offering:

Ministry of Music: A. Pote - Christ is Risen

Offering Song: What Can I Do? MV 191

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can 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:**

O God, through these gifts we proclaim new life in the risen Christ.
As the women drew near to the tomb on Easter morning, ready to
give care to a loved one, may we reach out with actions of care and
justice and compassion. As the women left the tomb to share the
good news, so let these offerings, and our gifts of talent and time,
bring the good news of your love to those in need. Amen.

Joys & Concerns:**Prayers of the People:**

Prayer of Jesus: A Paraphrase by Jim Cotter
Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

**The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

***Hymn:** Christ is Alive

VU 158

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Beyond death is abundant life.

We will live it.

Beyond the shadows of hatred and isolation
is the light that draws us into community.

We will follow it.

Beyond the stone covered tomb
is a dance called new life.

VU 916

We will move with it.

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

***Parting Song:** Melville Benediction

Postlude W. Matias - Fanfare

Prayer of the Week:

God of resurrection joy, too often the world wants us to look at things dimly, pessimistically, as if there is no hope. In the midst of this, you come to us, and in acts such as raising Jesus, and calling us by name, you proclaim that your word is not death and sorrow but new life and joy. Thank you. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Pioneer Memorial, Hamilton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: John and Joan Cuming,
Graeme Chalmers, Mary Lloyd

Counters: Mary Lloyd, Liam Ogilvie