



* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude:

Welcome & Announcements:

Sharing the Light:

Call to Worship:

Come! Bring your doubts, your hopes, your faith.

Jesus lives! Alleluia!

Come! Bring your questions, your wonderings, your misgivings.

Spirit leads us! Alleluia!

Come! Bring your fear, your sorrow, your joy.

God loves us! Alleluia!

Come, let us worship the Holy Presence together.

Hymn: This is the Day

VU 412

Opening Prayer:

God of joy, repentance, and comfort, we need you today. As we continue to celebrate the good news of the resurrection, we remember times when it was hard to see how good news could come of such tragic events. As we come and worship this day, may we lay down our doubts and fears and enter into a time of joy. May we see your love come to life in all we do today. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Sacred Mystery, we forget about you all the time.

Sometimes we forget to care for one another as Jesus taught us to do. Sometimes we put the things of this world before the world of Spirit.

Even though you repeatedly tell us to not be afraid,
we often let fear guide our actions.

April 15, 2018

<p>Melville United Church St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781 Team Ministry</p>	
Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	
Minister of Music Team:	Rob White, Suzanne Flewelling
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Allan Hons
Pastoral Care	Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree
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We may say we are sorry,

but sometimes we aren't really.

Help us to be sincere and authentic.

**Give us the courage we need to change our ways
and live out your love the way Jesus showed us. Amen.**

Words of Affirmation:

As Easter people, we know that Christ offers new life for all.

**We celebrate this good news with joy and delight!
Thanks be to God!**

Ministry of Music: "Where Should I Go (But to the Lord)"

Michael Marinovic

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: Rejoice in the Lord Always

VU 249

Children's Prayer:

Dear God,

Help my lips to praise.

Help my hands to serve.

Help my heart to love.

Amen.

Scripture: Luke 24:36-48 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)
(*Jesus invites the disciples to touch him*)

While they were still talking about this, Jesus actually stood in their midst and said to them. "Peace be with you."

In their panic and fright, they thought they were seeing a ghost. Jesus said to them, "Why are you disturbed? Why do such ideas cross your mind? Look at my hands and my feet; it is I, really. Touch me and see - a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones as I do." After saying this, Jesus showed them the wounds.

They were still incredulous for sheer joy and wonder, so Jesus said to them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" After being given a piece of cooked fish, the saviour ate in their presence.

Then Jesus said to them, "Remember the words I spoke when I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the psalms had to be fulfilled."

Then Jesus opened their minds to the understanding of the scriptures, saying, "That is why the scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer and rise from the dead on the third day. In the Messiah's name, repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of all this.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 4 (*paraphrase by James Taylor- Everyday Psalms*)
(*with refrain-VU 727*) (*At Home*)

In the middle of the night, God, I wake.

This room is strange;

I can't find the light; I can't find the door.

I am afraid.

Refrain

Then I remember - this is your house, God.

I was a stranger, and you took me in.

I was alone, and you made me welcome.

In your house, I have nothing to fear.

I can sink back into my bed and set my mind at rest.

I put myself in your hands. I trust you.

Am I crazy? Am I a fool?

Some would say so. They doubt you.

But I know the peace I felt when you opened your door
and the warmth when you invited me to share your table.

I can let my anxious eyelids close again.

In your home, I am at home.

Reader: Barb Gregory

Scripture: 1 John 3:1-7 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)
(*We are children of God.*)

See what love Abba God has lavished on us in letting us be called God's children! Yet that in fact is what we are. The reason the world does not recognize us is that it never recognized God. My dear friends, now we are God's children, but it has not been revealed what we are to become in the future. We know that when it comes to light we will be like God, for we will see God as God really is. All who keep this hope keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

Anyone who sins at all breaks the Law, because to sin is to break the Law. Now, you know that Christ, who is sinless, appeared to abolish sin. So everyone who lives in union with Christ does not continue to sin, but whoever continues to sin has never seen or known Christ.

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray; to live a holy life is to be holy, just as Christ is holy.

Message: Disbelief, Wonder and Joy

Hymn: Open My Eyes, That I May See **VU 371**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: "If I Can Dream" Michael Marinovic

Offering Song: As Long As We Follow **MV 140**

As long as we follow in the way that God is leading,
we know God's reign will surely come.
As long as we act there is a future for creation,
a future for the universe.
We know this, we know this,
Yes, God's reign will surely come.

***Offertory Prayer:**

Receive our gifts, Holy One. We offer them as we offer ourselves - fully. We pray that they would enable this community of faith to serve all of your people. May our sharing make us better friends and better able to open our hearts and minds to your presence everywhere and always. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Where Two or Three Are Gathered **MV 14**

Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.
Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Joy Comes with the Dawn

VU 166

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

And now let us go out into God's world.

We go to enter into the days of our new beginnings,
Go with confidence and hope.

We go with joy knowing God is with us.
God *is* with you now and always!
Amen!

***Parting Song:** Take Up His Song

MV 213

Take up his song of peace and go into the world.
Take up his song of hope in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives;
lay them down, in love, lay them down,
and take up his song. (Repeat)

Prayer of the week:

Amazing Creator, send your Spirit to create us anew this day. May we be open to the transformation that Christ brings, and then move in new ways and directions with the gospel. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Maranatha Canadian Reformed Church, Fergus
Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Port Elgin
Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Graeme Chalmers, Barb Gregory
Joyce Kiezerwaard, Mark Andrews

Counters:

Karen Smillie, Art Russell