



**May 4, 2025**

Melville United Church  
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**Melville United Church**  
**May 4, 2025**  
**The Third Sunday of Easter**

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*Presiding: Rev. Linda Butler*  
*Ministry of Music: Colleen Weber*

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Minute for the Garden**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

One: Blessed are you, God of all creation.  
You have brought all things into being.

**All: You give us light.**  
**You give us love.**  
**You give us yourself.**

**Call to Worship** (*from **Flames of the Spirit***)

One: We come with the past behind us and the future open before us.

**All: We come to celebrate the new life Christ brings.**

One: Christ is with us.

**All: Christ is with us indeed!**

**Hymn: Now the Green Blade Rises**                      **VU 186**

- 1     Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
      wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
      love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
      love is come again, like wheat arising green.
- 2     In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,  
      thinking that he would never wake again,  
      laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;  
      love is come again, like wheat arising green.
- 3     Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,  
      he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
      raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;  
      love is come again, like wheat arising green.
- 4     When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,  
      your touch can call us back to life again,  
      fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;  
      love is come again, like wheat arising green.

## Opening Prayer

### Hymn: In the Bulb There Is a Flower

VU 703

- 1 In the bulb there is a flower;  
in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise:  
butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter  
there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.
- 2 There's a song in every silence,  
seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness,  
bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future;  
what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.
- 3 In our end is our beginning;  
in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing;  
in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection;  
at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season,  
something God alone can see.

## Children's Time: Symbols of Easter - The Butterfly

### Music Ministry: Fairest Lord Jesus *arranged by Harold DeCou*

### Gospel Reading: John 21:1-14 *reader: Niel Dunsmore*

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his outer garment,

for he had taken it off, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off. When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them, and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

### **Sermon: A Spiral Path**

#### **Hymn: We Meet You, O Christ      VU 183**

- 1      We meet you, O Christ, in many a guise;  
        your image we see in simple and wise.  
            You live in a palace, exist in a shack.  
            We see you, the gardener, a tree on your back.
- 2      In millions alive, away and abroad;  
        involved in our life you live down the road.  
            Imprisoned in systems you long to be free.  
            We see you, O Jesus, still bearing your tree.
- 3      We hear you, O Christ, in agony cry.  
        For freedom you march, in riots you die.  
            Your face in the papers we read and we see.  
            The tree must be planted by human decree.
- 4      You choose to be made at one with the earth;  
        the dark of the grave prepares for your birth.  
            Your death is your rising, creative your word:  
            the tree springs to life and our hope is restored.

### **Joys / Concerns**

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **The Lord's prayer**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kin-dom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kin-dom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

### **Offertory invitation**

**Offertory 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. (x2)

**Offertory Prayer**

**Hymn: I, the Lord of Sea and Sky      VU 509**

- 1      I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
        I have heard my people cry.  
        All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
        I who made the stars of night,  
        I will make their darkness bright.  
        Who will bear my light to them?  
        Whom shall I send?  
                Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
                I have heard you calling in the night.  
                I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
                I will hold your people in my heart.
- 2      I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
        I have borne my people's pain,  
        I have wept for love of them; they turn away.  
        I will break their hearts of stone,  
        give them hearts for love alone.  
        I will speak my word to them.  
        Whom shall I send? R
- 3      I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
        I will tend the poor and lame,  
        I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.  
        Finest bread I will provide  
        till their hearts be satisfied.  
        I will give my life to them.  
        Whom shall I send? R

**Benediction and Commissioning** *(adapted from **The Green Heart of the Snowdrop**)*

One:    Mysterious God, confounding our expectations,  
        meeting us where we least expect to find you.

All:    **Stay with us on our journey,  
        walk beside us,  
        live within us,  
        lead us on, day by day. Amen.**

**Postlude**

**Welcomers:** Doreen and Larry Broome

**Counters:** Kaillie Rawn, Chris Hopewell

**Worship Schedule**

May 11 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Rev. Felicia Urbanski
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Rev. Tom Watson
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Social Justice & Outreach
June 1 <sup>st</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter	Rev. Jeff Hawkins

Council Meeting May 7<sup>th</sup> and June 4<sup>th</sup>. Please reach out to a Council member if there is a concern or question to be shared with Council.