



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

April 1, 2018

Easter Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reader: Ron Toles

Pianist: Mary Anderson



GATHERING

Moment for Reflection

*Resurrection is, by its very nature,
unexpected and unimaginable.*

We cannot see it coming; we are never prepared for it.

It is the revelation of new life

where just moments ago there was nothing

but the possibility of despair and loss.

- Jordan Cantwell, Moderator The UCC

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Centering Hymn: VU #412 This is the Day (*verses 1 & 3*)
(*please remain seated*)

Call to Worship

 (*based on Psalm 118*)

ONE: This is the day that our God has made.

ALL: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

ONE: God is our strength and our song.

ALL: We will lift our voices in thankfulness and praise.

ONE: God's love raises us up to everlasting life.

ALL: God's love endures forever.

ONE: Come let us celebrate new life on this Easter morn.

Opening Hymn: VU #166 Joy Comes with the Dawn
(*please stand as you are able*)

Worship Schedule

Apr 8	Mission in Kenya	- Sandra Fowler
Apr 15	Children & Youth Service	- Youth Group & Sunday School
Apr 22	Earth Day	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Apr 29	Philip & the Eunuch	- Rev. Annette Taylor

Recent Events

Thursday, March 29 – Frances Strain Memorial Service

Moderator's 2018 Easter Message



**Hallelujah,
Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed,
hallelujah!**

That is our Easter refrain—full of joy and conviction. But that sure wasn't the response of Jesus' disciples on that first Easter morning. The various gospel accounts show the disciples responding with awe, fear, incomprehension, doubt, terror, and amazement.

Our response is born of hindsight. Knowing what we now know about how it all turned out, we think of Easter morning and we declare, "Hallelujah!"

But when one is in the midst of resurrection, when it is happening to you or around you right now, it's a very different experience: full of uncertainty, anxiety, dread, and disbelief. (*continued on back*)

Opening Prayer and Jesus' Prayer

Dear God, we come before you this day
as did your followers so long ago,
wondering if it can really be true that Jesus is alive,
amazed that it could be so,
joyous that your love endures forever
and is stronger even than death.
We shout "Alleluia!"
and we pray that your Spirit will raise us
to joyful worship and service to you.

Adapted from *The Whole People of God*, Easter Sunday 2018, page 1.

WORD

Hymn: VU #453 Out of Deep, Unordered Water
(please remain seated)

Celebration of Baptism

Nixson Zacharias Downie

Zachary Jeffrey Downie

Parents: Lyndsi Zacharias-Downie & Jeffrey Downie

Grandparents: Carey & Cheryl Zacharias

Scripture Reading: Mark 16:1-8

ONE: We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.

ALL: May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

Reflection: Easter Fools

Choral Offering: Christ is Alive!

- Words by Brian Wren

& Choral Setting by Jane Holstein

RESPONSE

Minute for Mission: Access to Safe Water

Offering

Offertory Hymn: MV #191 What Can I Do?
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication

Rejoicing, Uprising,

Shouting our praise!

We joyfully offer the gifts that are here

for others,

for ministry

for healing for all.

Alleluia! Amen!

From: Kate Crawford, *Gathering* Lent/Easter 2018, page 46.

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn: MV #121 Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah!
(please stand as you are able)

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: MV #50 Alleluia *(sung three times)*

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for April 8, 2018

Acts 4:32-35

Psalm 133 (VU p. 856)

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

Our guest preacher will be using:

Micah 6:6-8

Matthew 25:31-40

(continued from previous page)

Resurrection is, by its very nature, unexpected and unimaginable. We cannot see it coming; we are never prepared for it. It is the revelation of new life where just moments ago there was nothing but the possibility of despair and loss.

The hallelujahs we announce at Easter are our affirmation that despite whatever hopelessness threatens to overwhelm us, we trust in the power of God's love to bring about resurrection within our lives. We don't know when, we don't know how, we don't know what it will look like, and we will certainly be confused and confounded by it if it should happen. But today, our hallelujahs declare that we believe resurrection is possible.

And so we do not lose hope, no matter how hopeless a situation appears.

This Easter season, as you sing, shout, whisper, and proclaim "Hallelujah!" may it strengthen your faith in the power and possibility of new life for you, your church, and our world.

May we truly be a resurrection people.

The Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell
Moderator, The United Church of Canada

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