



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK

April 16, 2017

Easter Sunday

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor

Reading: Linda Stumpf

Pianist: Sharon Veer

Organist: Patti McCleary

GATHERING

Moment for Reflection:

To be an Easter people is to be those who embody love.

- Jordan Cantwell

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Peace/Prelude

Lighting of the Candles

Centering Hymn: VU #412 This is the Day (*verses 1 & 2*)
(*please stand as you are able*)

Call to Worship

ONE: In this moment –

ALL: where mystic and modern meet;

ONE: in this moment –

ALL: of empty tombs and heavenly messengers;

ONE: in this moment –

ALL: of life, of death, of resurrection;

ONE: we come.

**ALL: We come to wonder,
we come to hope,
we come to be.**

ONE: But most of all –

**ALL: we come to celebrate the presence of God,
the Essence of Love! Alleluia!**

Adapted from: Richard Bott, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2017, page 38.

Worship Schedule

April 23	Earth Sunday	- First United Choir
April 30	On the Road to Emmaus	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 7	All Things in Common	- Rev. Annette Taylor
May 14	St. Andrew's College	- Rev. Lorne Calvert

Recent Events:

Saturday, April 15 – Brytni Keenleyside & Robert Wilson Wedding

Moderator's Easter 2017 Message:

This Is Resurrection



Friends, two-and-a-half months ago, a gunman walked into a mosque in Quebec City and killed six people, wounding 19 others. Something in all of us died that day.

But friends, that is not where that story ends because in the days and weeks following that tragedy, people across this country and around the world came together and formed

communities of love and solidarity and resistance.

I was at home in Saskatoon visiting my family when this happened, and one of the local mosques invited the community to evening prayers. And people showed up in such numbers, it was standing room only. There were people of all faiths and no faith, of all different ethnicities and language groups, all coming together to offer words of encouragement, of hope, of support, and of resistance.

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

Morning Prayer and the Prayer of Jesus
God of New Life,

On this Easter morning we come
celebrating the good news
of your transformational love.

Together we join our voices in praise;
with rejoicing we lift up our hearts;
in gratitude we offer our thanks;
united we celebrate your presence.

We are your people and
Hallelujah is our song.

Adapted from: Diane Bennett-Jones, *Gathering*, Lent/Easter 2014, page 42.

WORD

Hymn: VU #644 I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry
(please remain seated)

Celebration of Baptism:

Sarah Alison Hassett

Parents: Chelsea & Tyler Hassett

Godparents: Sheena & Sean Carrick

Venus Anora Serenity Ferguson

Krath Orion Tristan Ferguson

Grandparents: Peggy & James Worrell

Transfer of Membership:

Linda Benson from Palmer U.C.

Wayne Christensen from Kyle U.C.

Scripture Reading: John 20:1-18

We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.
May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.

Reflection: An Easter Dunking

Choral Offering: On This Joyful Easter Morn
- by M. Lantz & D. Lantz

RESPONSE

Offering

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

Prayer of Dedication:
God of New Life,
we offer these gifts of gratitude
for hope returned,
for the mystery of your grace,
and for the promise of resurrection. Amen.

Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 197.

Prayers of the People

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

Commissioning & Benediction

Choral Closing: VU #958 Halle, Halle, Halle
(sung at least three times)

Postlude

Lectionary Readings for April 23, 2017:

Acts 2 :14a, 22-32

Psalm 16 (VU pp. 737-738)

1 Peter 1 :3-9

John 20:19-31

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And something changed for us because more of these kinds of events have been happening ever since: a prayer vigil, an interfaith gathering for prayers and peace in the public square in front of city hall—a first for Saskatoon, as far as I know. And this is just one of many stories like this that are unfolding across this country.

Friends, this is resurrection. Resurrection is the power of love that confronts the forces that deal in death and hatred and says “You will not have the final word.”

Easter is the time in our church season when we celebrate that resurrection, and we often do it with much joyfulness and a lightness of spirit. But I am reminded that the gospel texts, when they tell the story of those who encountered the empty tomb and the risen Christ, their response in the moment was to be astounded, to be confounded—fearful even—and yet there was a spark of hope that was lit.

And from that spark they ran and told others. And from that, communities of life and love emerged. That is what it means for us to be an Easter people—to be those who embody that fierce, unrelenting love that says to the forces of death and hate that continue to operate today: “You do not get the last word. We say no. We resist. Because God is a God of love and of life, and we will be a people of love and of life.”

Friends, may it be so for us this Easter. May we be a resurrection people.

[Watch the video](#)