



FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK
Sunday, April 8, 2018

2nd Sunday of Easter

Leading Worship: Sandra Fowler
Reader: Tina Carey
Pianist: Sharon Veer



Worship Schedule

Apr 15	Children & Youth Service	- Youth Group & Sunday School
Apr 22	Earth Day	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Apr 29	Philip & the Eunuch	- Rev. Annette Taylor

GATHERING

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of the Peace/Postlude

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

ONE: As we light this candle
we are reminded of the flame in each of us;
a fire of passion to be shared with the world,
to make that world a better place for all.
With Christ as our light and our way,
we come now to worship.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Centering Hymn: VU #412 This is the Day (*verse one*)
(*please remain seated*)

Call to Worship

ONE: One person is not enough.

ALL: Together we are powerful!

ONE: The world's problems are many and great.

ALL: Together we can change the world!

ONE: So many people are in need.

ALL: Together we can help them!

ONE: So come let us worship God,
and grow in God's loving strength.

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 Hymn: VU #606 In Christ There is No East or West
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

Loving and Holy One,
we gather with you as individuals,
each of us with unique gifts and abilities.
By your grace, we are one people.
Through your grace, we can do great things.
Help us to worship you now
so that we might bring hope to all the world. Amen.

WORD

Hymn: VU #593 Jesu Jesu Fill Us With Your Love *(vs 1&2)*
(please remain seated)

Community Learning Time

Hymn: VU #593 Jesu Jesu Fill Us With your Love *(vs 3&4)*
(please remain seated)

Scripture Reading: Micah 6:6-8
Matthew 25:31-40

ONE: We read these texts so that in them we may find wisdom for life.
ALL: **May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.**

Reflection: Mission and Service Journey to Kenya

Choral Offering: We Are Marching
Traditional South African trans. Anders Nyberg

RESPONSE

Offering

Offering Hymn: VU #537 Your Work O God, Needs Many Hands
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication:

ONE: Loving God, giver of every gift, creator of all.
ALL: **Accept these, our gifts, as symbols of our gratitude to you.**
Bless our gifts that they may be used faithfully by our
partners around the world to bring your hope and your
love to all. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Closing Hymn: Jesus Started Sharing

(Tune VU #289 It Only Takes A Spark)
Rev Dan Yourkevich, Courtice, Ont. Used with permission.

Benediction:

May we always be hungry for righteousness;
May we overcome injustices that bring about hunger!
May we always be hungry for peace;
May we overcome insecurity, suffering and displacement!
May we always yearn to care for each other and the environment;
May the earth remain abundant for all creation!

Commissioning

Let us leave this worship knowing we are not alone:
With God's love, we are a people of faith and courage.
Partnering with others, through Mission and Service, we
Offer God's love and hope
Let all we do, be done with the Spirit of Jesus the Christ.
Amen

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

Postlude

Source: *Building our House* A Mission and Service Worship Outline

Lectionary Readings for April 15, 2018

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4 (VU p. 727)
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

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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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