



Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge Easter Newsletter March 2018

Holy Week Services

Wednesday March 28th, at 5:30 Contemplative Mid Holy Week Service at Primrose United Church.

This sacred gathering will include a ritual hand washing, a simple supper of soup, bread, fruit and cheese, some basic teachings on the meaning of Jesus' 'Thursday Revolution', and the reading of the Good Friday scriptures accompanied by instrumental music, and hymn singing. This will be a tenderhearted service, a thoughtful evening I would encourage everyone who can to attend.

Friday March 30th, 10 am. Good Friday Service with the Shelburne Ministerial at the Mel Lloyd Centre.

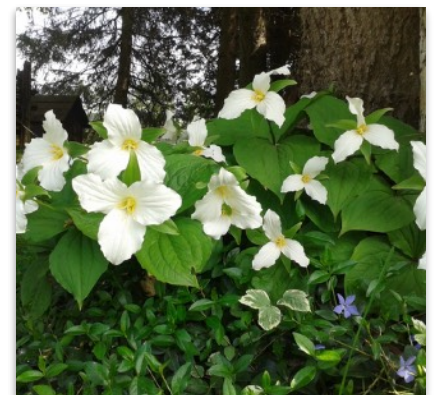
The Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge is taking the lead for the service this year, with ministers from various churches reading the scriptures. It is a ministerial event. Bruce and the Shelburne/Primrose Choir will be in attendance to provide the music.

Friday March 30th, 7 pm. Good Friday Service at Trinity United Church.

The scriptures of what is known as The Passion – the story of the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus – are traditionally only read once a year in their entirety on Good Friday. And yet, they form a foundational teaching for our faith. It is difficult to understand any kind of celebration on Easter morning, if you have not first walked through the painful pathway of this sorrow filled narrative. I would encourage you to choose one of the above three services where this narrative will be told in its fullness.

Sunday April 1st, Easter Morning Services at regular times. 9:15 am at Primrose, 11 am at Trinity.

It is our hope and prayer that this Easter you will be gifted with a new understanding of the wonder that is you.



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weebly.com/](http://www.shelburneprimroseunited.weebly.com/)

Lent as Resistance to the Empire, Easter as Surprise

This Lenten season we have been considering the ways the Christian story is different from the story of the culture of our day. Currently we are particularly aware of the anxiety and fractiousness that drives a frantic race of competition, avarice and the resulting despair that inevitably ensues. When we need leaders steeped in wisdom, we find ourselves with leaders steeped in confusion. Where we need economies that feed all people, we have social political setups that increase the divide between social groups – pushing us ever farther from the kingdom of heaven on earth that we desire.

The Lenten season is set aside as a time to consider this great divide, to contemplate how in our everyday life we make daily choices that either bring about the kingdom of heaven, or encourage the oppressive empire into increasing its power.

As we enter Holy Week and walk with heavy steps toward Good Friday, I hope and pray that you will be gifted with some new awareness of your place in this world, and how you might contribute to the new world that Jesus urges us to bring about.

Let Easter morning be a surprise of gratitude for the life you have had, and the wondrous life still before you – a life rich in service, affection, integrity, and joy.

Every blessing for the journey to Easter, and a new understanding of the beloved child that is your essence.

Candice

Easter Poem by Joyce Rupp

O Dancer of Creation,
the earth awakens to an urgent call to grow.
In the hidden recesses of my wintered spirit
I, too, hear the humming of your voice,
calling me, wooing my deadness back to life.

My soul yawns, stretches, quickens,
as the energy of Spring revives my weariness.
I sit with wonder, observing the steady activity
of downy woodpeckers and newly yellowed
finch.

I do so wait with the avid attention of a child's
first look,
savouring the colours and shapes of earth's
loveliness.

As the filtering patterns of early sunlight
lift the shades of green in every growing thing,
I enter spring's unlettered words of life.
For a while my doubts, anxieties, and worries
become like chapters in some ancient book
whose text no longer claims my full attention.
I am content to sit, watching Spring
turn the pages of this animated publication,
eager to discover the invigorating story
reflected in my own springtime revelation.

Tell me, Wise Awakener,
why is it easier to believe in a stem of new grass,
or the opening bud of a fresh purple crocus,
than it is to believe in the greening of me?

Celestial spirit that doth roll
The heart's sepulchral stone away,
Be this our resurrection day,
The singing Easter of the soul -
O gentle Master of the Wise,
Teach us to say: "I will arise."

Richard Le Gallienne

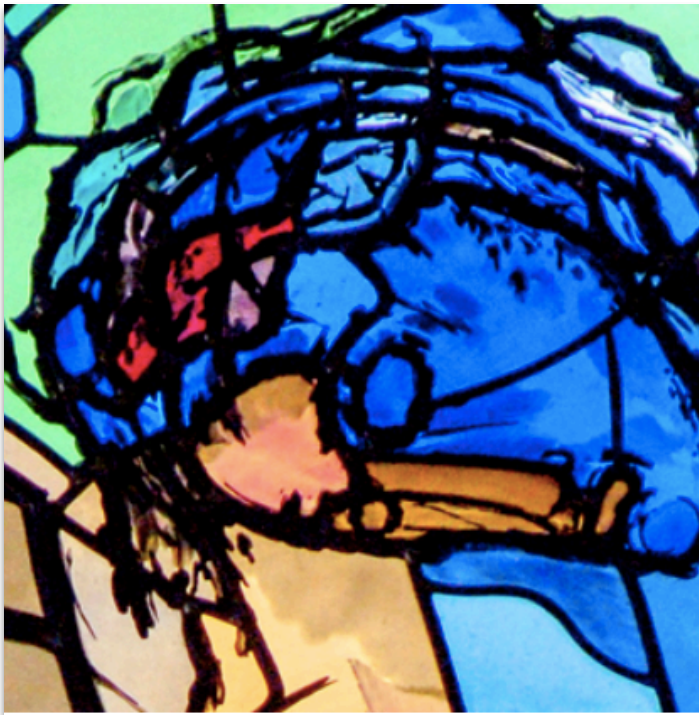
A Word from Walter Brueggeman on the Lenten Season



“The core truth of our faith is this: The God of the gospel brings life out of death. We can line out the move from death to life physically, historically, literally, metaphorically, symbolically – any way you want. But the truth is rock bottom acknowledgement that God can probe into our deepest negations and create new possibility, new space for life, new energy for obedience, new waves of joy. In the Christian tradition, the seal of the deal is Easter. On that dread Sunday morning, the earliest church discovered that the Jesus who had been executed by the state was alive and on the loose; death had no power over God’s will for life. The deathly systems of the empire had no grip on him even through his execution.

This is the drama of Lent, is it not? It is the journey of relinquishment of old visions of reality that are failed and being surprised by new life given in glad, inconvenient obedience. It is to this move that the God of the gospel invites us again and again. This God is ready to give new life, more ready, as we say, to give than we are to receive.

You are the God who makes a way when there is no way. Free us from our anxious intransigence and our impoverished imaginations. Open us to your newness, the gospel gift given over and over and over again. Amen.”



Walter Brueggemann
A Way Other Than Our Own



The Gospel is a very dangerous idea. We have to see how much of that dangerous idea we can perform in our own lives. There is nothing innocuous or safe about the Gospel. Jesus did not get crucified because he was a nice man.
Walter Brueggemann

Message from Ann McAlpine

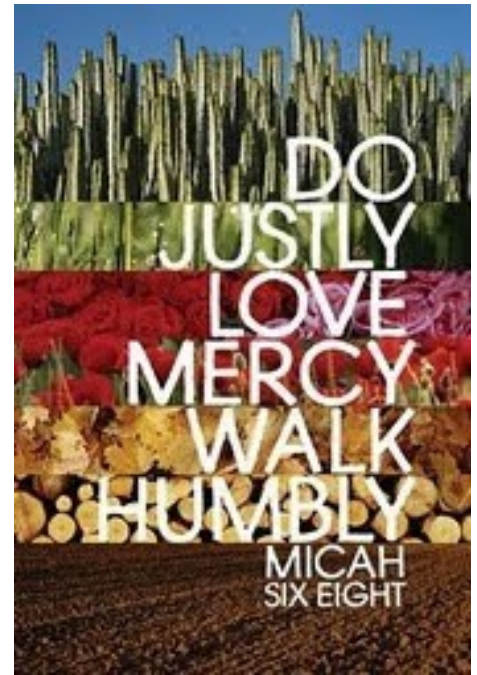
Thank you to all members and adherents who attended our Trinity Annual Meeting. Following a delicious lunch, we were ready to take on the business of the church. As per usual, most of the time was dedicated to the financials and plans for our success in 2018. All reports were accepted and motions to approve the budgets for Trinity and the Pastoral Charge were carried with enthusiasm.

This year, we are happy to celebrate our many new partnerships and successful contracts. We will solidify many of our commitments going forward and strengthen our local outreach in the Shelburne community.

I invite you to step forward to chair a fundraiser or help with concerts and special dinners. Very capable and strong members on your hard working church council do so much already with both monthly council and committee meetings, and we need others to share in the work of the church.

Please call the church office with your ideas to volunteer and help out!

With prayerful thanks,
Ann McAlpine



There are things you can't reach.
But you can reach out to them,
and all day long.
The wind, the bird flying away.
The idea of God.
And it can keep you as busy as
anything else, and happier.

Mary Oliver

Message from Glen Thompson

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported and encouraged me during these past three years as the Clerk of Session for Primrose United Church. I have come to learn just how caring and compassionate the Primrose congregation really is and how helpful they were when I needed assistance in one way or another to fulfill my duties. I will be passing the torch over to Merv Parker after our AGM in May. Please welcome Merv as he begins his term.

Blessing, Glen Thompson
Retiring Clerk of Session at Primrose United Church

Notes from Some of our Ministries

First Line for Syria : ESL Drivers Needed!

First Line has been busy this winter arranging drives back and forth to Orangeville for our Syrian refugees who are learning to speak English.



They are currently seeking volunteers for this important on going work. Generally, there is a morning and afternoon trip to Orangeville, Monday through to Friday. The schedules are organized once a week and you can volunteer for the times that suit you best. For more information, contact Karin Klouman at kklouman@kyonkennels.com or call her at: 519-925-9930.



Soup Haus – Community Eats Tuesday Evenings 6 - 8 at Trinity United

Tuesday nights at Trinity, Soup Haus provides nutritious, delicious complimentary dinners for anyone who has made a reservation. We are thrilled to have welcomed so many guests to our tables.



Here's a note from Sohayla:
If possible, please RSVP by Saturday for the following Tuesday supper. This gives us plenty of time to confirm your reservation, shop for groceries, and prepare the correct amount of food. We almost always have more than enough for a few walk-ins, so that's always an option if you don't hear back from us, but if we know you're coming in advance, we can confirm your reservation so you know there will be seats waiting for you, and we can shop accordingly, making sure we're properly prepared and ready to serve you.



Soup Haus Volunteers



Update from Partera Peacebuilding International: Peacemaking amongst the tri-peoples of Mindanao, south Philippines

Partera International has a longstanding partnership with Development Ministries of the Convention of Philippine Baptist Churches. Since 2003 we have frequently worked together in Mindanao, a large island populated by the ‘tri-peoples’ – ancient communities of Indigenous tribals and Moros (Muslims), and Christian settlers who started to move there in the mid-1950s, helping themselves to land that did not belong to them.



The country itself has been in a state of low-intensity conflict as the people responded to corrupt leadership at the service of wealthy élites with insurgency movements which, in turn attracted retaliatory militarized violence. Mindanao is currently in a state of emergency. The vigilante campaign against drug dealers and users and other ‘undesirables’ being waged by the new President, Rodrigo Duterte, has only made things worse in Mindanao.

We will be participating in an unusual gathering of representatives of the tri-peoples, religious leaders and non-governmental organizations determined to find non-violent pathways to peace.

The country has a rich history of effective religious intervention in violent conflict. The United Church of Christ of the Philippines, the UCC’s partner in the country, will be there. It is our hope that this gathering, focussed on mutual understanding, will result in peace processes that come from the ground up, designing peace from a common desire for an end to the violence.

Of the ten days allotted for the gathering, two full days have been handed to Partera - a privilege and a challenge! We will be conducting a two-day interfaith training on how we read our sacred texts in order to turn them into tools in our peacemaking toolbox. **Please pray for us as we meet from the 2nd to the 12th of April.**





KAIROS Upcoming Event! April 21st

A Feast of Gifts – a Sub-Regional KAIROS Gathering - Community Building with Indigenous and Newcomer Neighbours

KAIROS has long been involved in reconciliation gatherings between Indigenous and settler groups. This one adds newcomers for a day of conversation, teachings, music, speakers, children and art activities. Here is an opportunity to build relationships of respect and solidarity with others, and to learn through exchange of ideas where we come from and what gifts we may offer one another. There will be panel discussions by representatives of indigenous, migrant and new comer communities in the Dufferin area and a pot luck feast at lunch.



Location: High Country United Church
346255 15 Sideroad, Camilla, Mono
(west off Highway 10, half-way between
Shelburne and Orangeville)

Time: 10:30 – 3 pm

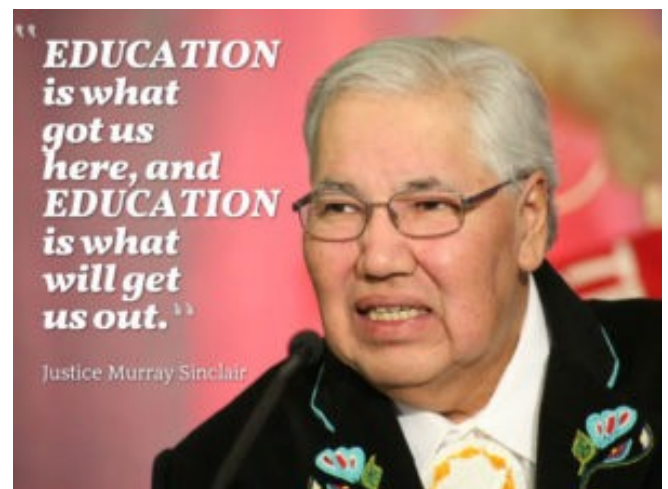
Cost: none. Freewill offering. Bring a
favourite food for the feast.

Pre-Register: with Jim Lindsay
jlm.lindsay@sympatico.ca
or phone him at 519-942-2952



“KAIROS believes Canada’s future can be strengthened by building relationships of respect and solidarity between newcomers and Indigenous peoples.”

If you wish to know more about the wonderful work of KAIROS go to: <https://www.kairoscanada.org/>



Step by Step Update

The east entrance to the church is finished, but we have not quite completed our project - there is still our bell to be installed on the south side of the church. Here's the word from our fearless leader, our property manager, Michael Hofman:

"The bell reinstatement will commence when the frost has left the ground. This is anticipated at the end of April with an early May start.

The bell will be featured on a new pedestal base surrounded by a large raised courtyard similar to the lower landing of the new stairway. The courtyard will feature stonework to match the new stairway, landscape lighting, new gardens and a sitting area. "

And with the shift in weather watch out for the hundreds of bulbs that have been planted in the new front gardens!

Thank you Thank you Thank you
Thank you Thank you Thank you

We wish to thank all those who gave financially to the Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge in 2017.

You should have received a tax receipt for your gift this month. This last year we have welcomed and continued to support and develop ministries that serve the community. In addition to the extensive national and international work that

United Church of Canada Mission and Services does, we support: First Line for Syria, Soup Haus, Partera Peacebuilding International, KAIROS, the Quiet Garden Movement, The Shepherd's Cupboard and The Shelburne Farmer's Market. We continue to look for partners and friends who are offering a compassionate presence to the community and an uplifting and creative spirit.

If there are ministries in this newsletter you are particularly interested in supporting, or you wish to support the regular ongoing work of the church, you will find an envelope enclosed in your newsletter for this purpose.

If you are receiving this newsletter digitally, at least for the moment, you will have to send your gift by snail mail. Please make out your cheque to the appropriate church, and if you wish your cheque to support a special ministry or project, you can indicate this to us. Trinity United Church or Primrose United Church, 200 Owen Sound Street, Shelburne, L9V 3L4.





SAVE THE DATE

WATCH FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

THIS SPRING

April 6 - 7

Jennifer Widbur Memorial Hockey Tournament at the Honeywood Hockey Arena

Al Widbur's beloved daughter Jennifer died from breast cancer at the age of 40. But her husband, two sons, fellow hockey moms, and community have not forgotten her. Come out to support this yearly spring event and help raise both awareness and money to support Cancer Care at Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville. Over the past 10 tournaments the JWMHT has raised almost \$445 000 in support of cancer care at the Headwaters Health Care Centre in Orangeville Ontario. In addition, the tournament has provided support to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation, Hospice Dufferin and Honeywood Minor Hockey.

Teams of hockey moms, over the age of 30, play in a 3 game round-robin format in two skill categories: Non-Competitive and Competitive. So come on out and join the fun and support a good cause in your own community. Opening is on Friday evening, with games continuing during the day on Saturday. For further information: <http://www.jwmtournament.ca/>



11th Annual Jennifer Widbur
Memorial Hockey Tournament

April 6-7, 2018

April 22

**An Evening of Dinner and
Conversation with our Muslim
Friends**

We have invited Imam Omar Subedar to gather some friends and bring them to Trinity United Church for a late Sunday afternoon get together. We will be participating in a structured dialogue followed by dinner and a short, joint teaching spiritual service. If you would like to participate in this evening, we only have 45 places that we can accommodate so let Kris or Candice know you would like to attend. The gathering will take place between 4 pm and 7:30 pm. This is sure to be a rich evening of multi-faith education and celebration for everyone. Everyone is welcome, but it is best suited to adults.



May 6

**Primrose United Church Annual
Meeting**

Pot luck lunch at 12:30 followed by a short service and our annual meeting at 2:15 pm. Come on out to the annual meeting and greet your new Clerk of Session. Find out what is going on in your church. Ask not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for your church!

We will be welcoming Merv Parker into the important post Clerk of Session knowing Merv will give his best to the church that he and Bev have come to love. A big thank you to Glen - and Carol! - who have always been so eager to help and arrange things as they should be. Glen's wonderful cheerful self has made the job of minister a pleasure at Primrose. Thank you, Glen, for all the support you have given us over these last couple of years. Blessings, indeed. Candice



May 11

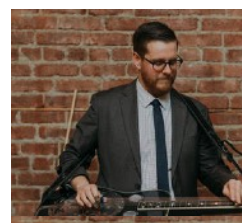


The Barrel Boys Gospel Concert at Trinity United Church

Established in 2012, The Barrel Boys are a 5-piece string band based in Toronto, Ontario. The band's sound is built around rich vocal harmonies and virtuosic instrumentals, and their repertoire finely balances standard tunes with their own original writing. Their instrumentation lends itself to classic bluegrass, but they are also fluent in old time, classic country, and Americana, and their original material is informed by all of these styles. Each of the 5 members writes and sings their own tunes, making for a wide stylistic range within the band's sound.

In addition to being great songwriters, The Barrel Boys are also incredible performers. All 5 members crowd around a single vocal mic, making for a beautiful vocal blend, as well as an energetic and engaging experience. To here some tracks from their newly released CD and find out more about this wonderful group of young performers visit them at <https://thebarrelboys.com/>

This is the spring concert you don't want to miss! And if you are lucky enough to be able to bring your mom along, that's a gift of music and your company she won't be able to resist.



May 12



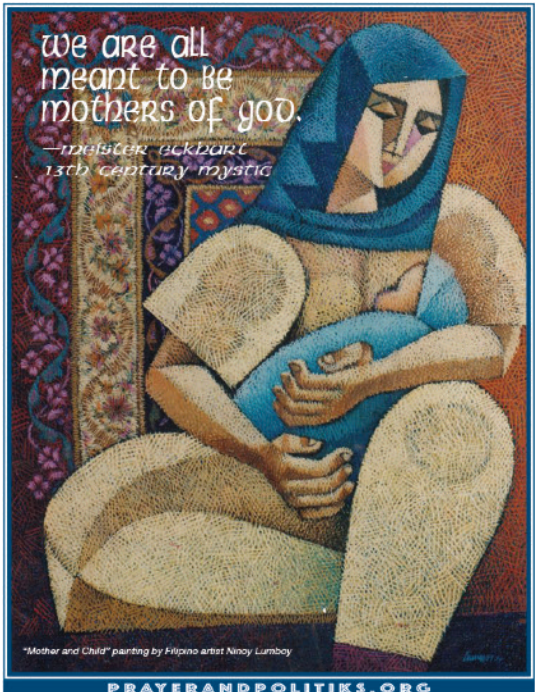
🐝 there for Mom! Mother's Day Plant and Bake Sale, Sat., May 12th, 8-11am at Primrose United Church (NE corner Highway 10 and 30th Sideroad Mono). This year we are promoting "🐝 friendly" flowers for your homes and gardens, to help promote the 🐝 population, and help the environment! You will find a wide variety of flowers, perennials and home baked treats for Mom, as well as the family! 🐝-enchanted by the vast array of vendors, while enjoying a complimentary coffee and treat, and the musical talents of local artists! 🐝 sure to bring family, friends, neighbours, and especially MOM, for a wonderful celebration of Mother's Day! Important note: pre-order hanging baskets, planters and 4" geraniums for pick up at the sale that day, just in time for Mother's Day! (Pre-orders must 🐝 in by Sun., May 6th.) A special surprise gift will 🐝 presented with each order placed! Delivery is available. For order forms and more info, 🐝 sure to visit us on Facebook, call 519-925-2397 or email gailbrown.pharm@yahoo.ca. What a great way to celebrate Mom! Plan to 🐝 with us for a fun-filled day!



May 13

Mother's Day and Baby Naming Service

This is the day we celebrate all the wonderful mothers in our congregation, all our own mothers, all the mothering we do for others, motherhood in general, and the nurturing side of God. And we have a special treat this Mother's Day because Michael and Whitney's new daughter Grace is coming to be named. Carter is certain to be interested in his sister being the centre of attention.



May 24

Opening Day of the Shelburne Farmer's Market

The Shelburne Farmer's Market kicks off its 4th season, at the corner of First Ave. West and Owen Sound, partnering with Trinity United Church for another wonderful year of fresh, local produce, baking and crafts. You will be seeing some new faces in among our well known vendors as the market expands this year to offer the community a wider array of farm fresh meat, vegetables, honey, maple syrup, fruit, and flowers.



Rain or shine, the Farmer's Market is open every Thursday from 3 – 7 pm, running from May 24th through to October 4th. Supportive of our health and our local farming community, Trinity is delighted that the Shelburne Farmer's Market offers opportunities to meet our neighbours, pick up a take-out dinner, or entertain the children – right outside our front door!

May 27

Presbytery Covenanting Service

An afternoon service followed by supper to follow through on Northern Waters Presbytery Covenanting Service for Rev. Candice Bist. Ann McAlpine and LeeAnn McKenna are organizing this event, so keep an eye out for updates once their collective brains start to sizzle. Usually the service is at 4 pm followed by pot luck supper. There will be a guest speaker. Details to come!



June 10

Trinity United Church 137th Anniversary Service

As we go forward, it is important to acknowledge our rich past and celebrate where we have been, and all those who have been part of our history. We look forward to a celebratory anniversary service this June before we head into the long summer where many travel.

June 24



Quiet Garden

Meditation Garden Gathering

Last year the Primrose Meditation Garden joined the Quiet Garden Movement – an international organization that ‘shares outdoor space for the inner journey’, encouraging prayer, contemplation, rest and inspiration in places of quiet beauty. As they did last year, Primrose United Church will be hosting a Sunday afternoon of rest and contemplation in their garden to encourage spiritual practices of mindfulness and silence. Details forthcoming.

If you want to know more about the quiet garden movement you can visit their wonderful website at <http://quietgarden.org/> Or, you can see more about our particular garden at: <http://quietgarden.org/gardens/primrose-meditation-garden/> Watch for further details in our summer newsletter.



July 15

Partera International Fundraiser

Partera is having a FUN-raiser in July. Please put it in your calendar. Sunday the 15th of July from 3:00 – 9:00. The FUN will include food and drink, music and dancing, a talent show and games, and a silent auction!

In each of our main seasons, Advent/
Christmas and Lent/Easter, I will choose a
theologian of note to lead us. This Lenten
season, I chose the work of American
Protestant theologian Walter Brueggemann - a
prophet for our time.

Here is his Easter prayer. May it give you
pause, to contemplate our current place in the
world, and how we might yet come into the
being that is Easter wonder.

...On our own, we conclude:
that there is not enough to go around
we are going to run short

of money
of love
of grades
of publications
of sex
of beer
of members
of years
of life

we should seize the day...
seize the goods...
seize our neighbour's goods
because there is not enough to go around
and in the midst of our perceived deficit;

You come
You come giving bread in the wilderness
You come giving children at the 11th hour
You come giving homes to the exiles
You come giving futures to the shut-down
You come giving Easter joy to the dead
You come ... fleshed ... in Jesus

And we watch while
the blind receive their sight
the lame walk
the lepers are cleansed

the deaf hear

the dead are raised

the poor dance and sing.

We watch ... and we take
food we did not grow and
life we did not invent and
future that is gift and gift and gift and
families and neighbours who sustain us
when we do not deserve it.

It dawns on us, later rather than soon, that
you give food in due season
you open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

By your giving,
break our cycles of imagined scarcity
override our presumed deficits
quiet our anxieties of lack
transform our perceptual field to see
the abundance...mercy upon mercy
blessing upon blessing.

Sink your generosity deep into our lives
that your much-ness may expose our false lack
that endlessly receiving, we may endlessly
give,

so that the world may be made Easter new,
without greedy lack, but only wonder
without coercive need, but only love
without destructive greed, but only praise
without aggression and evasiveness...
all things Easter new...

all around us, toward us and by us
all things Easter new.

Finish your creation...
in wonder, love and praise. Amen.



May every Easter blessing be yours this Pascal Season.

If there is anything we can do to help in any way,
please do not hesitate to contact us.

The church office is open every morning from 9 - 12 pm,
Tuesday through until Friday.

Rev. Bist is generally in the office or close by on Tuesday,
Wednesday and Thursday.

Sunday Service: Primrose United Church 9:15 am

Trinity United Church 11 am

Shelburne Primrose Pastoral Charge

Shelburne Primrose United Church Office,

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