

**Melville United Church
Sunday, March 9, 2014
1st Sunday of Lent**

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: Improvisation

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

Celebrate God today.

Steadfast love surrounds those who trust in God.

Celebrate God today.

We are glad in God and rejoice together.

Celebrate God today.

God gives us a new start and shows us the way to go.

Come, let us worship and celebrate God together.

***Hymn:** Throughout These Lenten Days & Nights (vs 1,3,4,6) **VU 108**

Opening Prayer:

God of all our journeys, you call us out from our places of bondage into a wilderness where old things will become new, where we will be restored and refreshed. In this Lenten season, we pray that you will give us strength for the journey, new hearts to discover your promises, and a new calling to follow Jesus. Amen.

(Written by Fern Gibbard. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2014, pg 32. Used with permission.)

Prayer of Confession:

Creating God, the universe is a vast and awesome place;

our world is full of wonder and beauty.

We give thanks for the abundance we see around us.

We give thanks for the people in our lives.

Our world is also a place that knows hunger, pain and death.

We acknowledge and lament the ways we have contributed to suffering in the world.

Today we are led by the Spirit with Jesus into the wilderness.

Help us to find a path through the desert places, to fullness of life for all. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Know that God's love meets our lament, God's grace meets our guilt and God's life meets our longing. God holds nothing against us but surrounds us with care and compassion.

God gives us a fresh start. Thanks be to God! Amen!

Chorus: I Praise You, O God MV 61 (repeat)

**I praise you, O God, with all of my heart.
With all the earth I will sing your praises.
I praise you, O God, with all of my heart.
With all the earth I will sing your praises.**

Hymn: Tell Me the Stories of Jesus (vs 1,2,3,4) VU 357

Theme Conversation:

Scripture Reading: Gen 2:15-17, 3:1-7
(Temptation in the Garden of Eden)

Responsive Reading: Psalm 32
(Confessional -James Taylor- *Everyday Psalms*)

Happy are those who have nothing to hide;
Even happier those whose slate has been wiped clean.
I used to lie awake, worrying about things I had done;
and during the day, about things I had not done.
My conscience tormented me. I couldn't concentrate.
I was terrified of being exposed.

So I went to God, and confessed.
I made no excuses for myself; I didn't hide anything.
And God forgave me.

What a relief it is to share a gnawing secret!

Forgiveness is like a cool drink on a hot day,

like a warm fire in a winter blizzard.

God's grace renews my strength;

it gives me a second chance.

God says, "I will teach you how to take charge of your behaviour.

You are not like horses and camels who need bridles and bits to control them.

You have a mind; you can think.

You can anticipate consequences before you act."

Experience isn't always the best teacher.

Let God lead you through life.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4:1-11
(Temptation of Jesus)

Message: "A SPIRIT CENTRED LIFE" Rev. Marion Loree

Offering:

Offering Hymn: We Give You But Your Own VU 542

**We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

Generous God, we bring our gifts and by so doing choose life for others as well as for ourselves. Bless us and bless these gifts to restore hope and renew trust in your love. Amen

Communion Hymn: Bread of Life MV 194

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The elements of communion today will be served by Intinction. At the appropriate time you will be invited to come forward to one of the serving stations, take a piece of bread, dip it in the cup, eat it and then return to your seat. Please do not feel rushed but take the time you need.

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God be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

We give thanks, Creator God. From the beginning.....

....So it is that throughout these Lenten days and nights we
worship you and bless your name:

**O holy, holy, holy God,
O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n
creation sings your praise.
And blessed in the One who comes
and bears your name always!**

Mighty and tender God,

.... and speak of the mystery we call faith.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

At this time we remember....

....who listens to us now as we share together in the prayer of
Jesus.

Prayer of Jesus:

As we gather at this table....

....may be signs of life and love to one another, and to the world.

**Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!**

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Breaking of Bread and Pouring of Cup:

Jesus the Christ - Bread for the journey.

Jesus the Christ - The wine of arrival.

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life,

whoever comes to me will never be hungry:

whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Sharing in the Feast:

Ministry of Music: Be Made One - Dick Averre

Prayer after Communion:

Eternal and gracious one, though we live in a world of need,

**here we have tasted your goodness and hungered for a world
more just.**

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

**here we have heard your call to be a people of healing
community.**

Though daily we touch our limits,

here we have received the fullness of your grace.

Send us forth, O God,

in faith, in hope, and in love. Amen.

***Hymn:** O Jesus, I Have Promised

VU 120

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

As we travel on this Lenten journey,

we know that God leads and guides us.

As we travel on this Lenten journey,

we hear the words of Jesus making choices for life.

As we travel on this Lenten journey,

**we dream and work with the Spirit for a world where peace and
harmony are restored.**

We leave this place in peace,

going in the love of God. Amen.

***Parting Song:** Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
 God will go with you each hour of every day.
 Go now in faith steadfast strong and true.
 Know God will guide you in all you do.
 Go now in love, and show you believe.
 Reach out to others so all the world can see.
 God will be there around, within, above.
 Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
 Amen. Amen. Amen.

Prayer of the Week:

God of the journey, you meet us in the wilderness places of our lives, where we are stretched and tested. Walk with us and hold us on the pathway. Grant us wisdom and flexibility that we may grow in grace and love. Amen.

Postlude: Prelude in G F. Mendelsohn

Partners in Prayer: Bethel Mennonite

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Lynden, Troy

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Eleanor Johnston, Virginia Ingleby,

Eleanor Brown, Karen Smillie

Counters: Mary Lloyd (C), Norma Martin

Kaillie Rawn

ANNOUNCEMENTS March 9, 2014

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, welcome! Please sign our Guest Book at the back of the church or in the entranceway.

Spirituality Circle will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Mon. Mar. 10 in the parlour.

Thank you, thank you thank you to all who supported our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on March 4th. We served 180 people and realized a profit of \$945.00. A special thanks to the over thirty volunteers who pitched in to make this event so successful. A special thank you to Don Tosh for the generous supply of maple syrup. Well done everyone!

Saturday, March 22 at 8pm the Guelph Chamber Choir presents Mendelssohn's Elijah at the River Run Centre with Guests: Western University Singers; Soloists: Daniel Lichti, Elijah; Anne Marie Ramos, Soprano; Sophie Roland, Alto; Chris Fischer, Tenor and Musica Viva Orchestra accompanying on period instruments. Tickets are \$30 each (4 or more \$25), Students \$10. And only \$5 for youth with eyeGO from the Box Office: (519) 763-3000. Details at: www.guelphchamberchoir.ca

Eva Bartlett is returning to Melville on Tuesday, March 25, at 7:30 to expand on her talk of the Palestinian situation. This is being sponsored by the UCW Unit Joy but everyone is invited to attend. Please invite your friends from other churches and anyone else you feel would be interested.

Youth for Christ (The Door) is looking for people to serve as members of the steering committee. These will be people who know the business community well, are well-spoken, able to canvass for donations and speak publically about the mission and ethos of The Door, and are administratively gifted. If you feel called to take on even a part of the role described, please contact Matt Cole, the chair of the steering committee, at mcole.yfc@gmail.com

Elvis is in the building! World renowned Elvis tribute artist Stephen Kabakos will perform here at Melville on our new stage on Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th at 8:00 pm. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us. Tickets available from Ralph Basset Associates.

The 5 Love Languages of Children. This 3-session workshop for parents, grandparents and caregivers will be held here at Melville UC on the 1st Wednesdays of Feb., Mar., and Apr., from 7-8:30p.m. Facilitators are Heather Halls and Shawna Dunsmore. There is no cost, but please RSVP to Jen so we can prepare materials for you.

The Centre Wellington Food Bank is in need of cans of mixed vegetables. Thank you for all your ongoing support! Mission & Outreach committee.

No Irish Stew Supper this year: Please note Melville will not be having an Irish Stew Supper, this year! We encourage everyone to come to our Pancake Supper and the events that are coming up in April: Elvis Concert on Apr 25 & 26th, and "The Wall" play on Apr 27th, by our youth!

Waterloo Presbyterial 51st Annual Meeting at Melville United Church in Fergus on Mon. Apr. 7 at 9:00 a.m. The theme is "Let Justice Flow Down" - speaker is Brice Balmer. Lunch ticket available for \$10.00/plate. Please call Bev. Anticknap at 519-843-2491 to book a lunch ticket or for more information.

ANNUAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE will be hosted by St. Joseph's Parish at 760 St David St N Fergus, on Friday, March 7th, at 1 pm. This year the service was written by the women of Egypt. The theme is "Streams in the Desert." EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!! For more information call Lori 519-843-2006

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Mar. 10 - Sun. Mar. 16, 2014

Mon. 10	10:00	Spirituality Circle	Parlour
Tues. 11	9:00	Quilting	Parlour
Wed. 12	7:00	Faith Formation	Parlour
Thurs. 13	7:00	Choir	Parlour
Fri. 14	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	11:00	Meditation	Library
Sun. 16	11:00	2 nd in Lent	Sanctuary