

**Welcome to Melville United Church
April 6, 2014 - Covenanting Service for Marion Loree**

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Prelude: Improvisation

Welcome & Announcements

- Presiding today is Chris Grose from Alma United Church

Sharing the Light:

Call to Worship:

Jesus said: Love one another.

**We come to worship God who is love,
that we may learn to love one another.**

Jesus said: No longer do I call you servants;
now I call you my friends.

**We come to worship God,
whose friends we are in Christ.**

Let us sing praise to God,
and live in love and friendship
as we worship and covenant together.

***Hymn of Praise:** Come In, Come In and Sit Down **VU 395**

Prayer of Approach:

**Loving Creator, as a gentle rain soaks the earth,
may your peace and love fall upon us,
bringing growth and life.**

Soak into our innermost being.

Quiet all that makes us anxious.

Help us to linger in your presence,

and send us out refreshed,

to carry your peace to others.

Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

O God of mystery,
we confess that, more than deep questions,
we love easy answers;
explaining away miracles, disarming the Good News,
we domesticate your wild ways.

Teach us to love our questions, O God.

Teach us to struggle with faith.

Teach us to live with your holy mysteries.

Amen.

Words of Assurance:

The God who challenges us is also the God who encourages us.
The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us.
God loves us more than we love ourselves.
God sets us free to love others.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Presentation:

Chairperson of Presbytery- Greg Case

We are gathered here in the presence of God to celebrate a new ministry and to covenant together for the service of God in this place.

Reading of the Warrant:

- Marg Burgess, Secretary of Waterloo Presbytery

Member of Pastoral Charge- Ralph Rainford, Chair of Council

We present Marion Loree, who has been called to a Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in Melville United Church. We believe she is qualified and has been prayerfully and lawfully selected.

Chairperson-

Marion, you are here in response to the call of Melville United church and by the action of Waterloo Presbytery and Hamilton Conference. We come together to mark a new relationship among you, the Presbytery and the Pastoral Charge. May the God who has given us the will to do these things give us the power and the grace to perform them.

Scripture Reading: John 10:22-39

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Message: CALLED

- Rev. Tom Watson

Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me

VU 567

Statement of Faith: A New Creed

Chairperson of Presbytery-

Let us stand and join together in a statement of our communal faith.

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
To reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
By the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Ministry of Music: Irish Blessing - P. Stopford

The Act of Covenanting:

Statement of this New Ministry

Chairperson of Presbytery-

Marion Loree, you have undertaken the Ministry of Word, Sacrament and Pastoral Care in this place. You, the members of Melville United Church are called to join Marion in worship, study, prayer and action. We, the Presbytery, will be responsible for the oversight of this ministry. Let us ask for God's grace as we covenant together this day.

All - **Gracious God, by our baptism you have called us to Christ's ministry. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us as we commit ourselves to worship and work together in Christ's name. Amen.**

Promises of the New Minister

Chairperson -

Marion, do you, in the presence of this congregation, commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility?

Marion -

I do.

Chairperson -

Will you accept the support, the encouragement, and the discipline of the Presbytery and, together with its other members, be

responsible for the oversight of the Church's life?

Marion -

I will, by the grace of God.

Chairperson -

Will you accept the support and the encouragement of this Pastoral Charge?

Marion -

I will, by the grace of God.

Promises of the Congregation

Chairperson -

Will the members of the Melville United Church please stand.
Will you support Marion as she serves among you in ministry?

Members of Melville United Church -

We will, by the grace of God.

Chairperson -

Please be seated.

Promises of the Staff:

Chairperson -

Jen, as you work together in shared ministry here,
Matthias as you lead in music,
Bob, as you fulfil your custodial duties,
and including our office administrator, Gerri, who is absent but has agreed that we may speak for her,
will you exercise your responsibilities faithfully and support one another prayerfully as you continue to serve this congregation?

Staff members -

Yes we will, by the grace of God.

Promises of the Presbytery:

Chairperson -

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Will the members of Waterloo Presbytery please stand.
Will you, as members of Waterloo Presbytery, join with Marion and Melville United Church in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

Members of Presbytery -
We will.

Chairperson -
Will you exercise oversight for their work and witness, support and encourage them in this ministry?

Members of Presbytery -
We will, by the grace of God.

Chairperson -
Please be seated.

Presentation of Symbols:

Bible:

Presenter -
Marion, take this Bible. Be among us as one who teaches and proclaims God's message of love.
All - Amen.

Water:

Presenter -
Marion, be among us as one who baptizes in the name of the Triune God.
All - Amen.

Bread and Wine:

Presenter -
Marion, be among us as one who breaks the bread and blesses the cup,
as one who cares for those who hunger and thirst.
All - Amen.

Children:

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Presenter -

Marion, be among us as one who teaches and as one who encourages us to be open to God's playful Spirit.

Music:

Presenters -

Marion, be among us as one who encourages us to praise God with music and song.

Newspaper:

Presenter -

Marion, be among us as one who leads us in our mission to seek justice in this community and all the world.

Historic Roll:

Presenter -

Marion, be among us as one who honours and respects the traditions of the elders.

Chairperson -

Marion Loree and Melville United Church, let all these be signs of the ministry that is ours and yours in this place.

All - Amen

The Covenant Response:

Chairperson -

As Chairperson of Waterloo Presbytery, I now declare that a covenant relationship exists among Marion Loree, Melville United Church and Waterloo Presbytery. Let us rejoice in the covenant we have made.

All - Halle, halle, halle-lujah!

Halle, halle, halle-lujah!

Halle, halle, halle-lujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (Repeat)

VU 958

Chairperson:

I invite members of Waterloo Presbytery to come forward and greet Marion.

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

Offering: (today's offering will go to support the work of Waterloo Presbytery)

Offering Prayer:

You offer us life, O God, and you fill it with good things. You offer us community and fill it with people and opportunities. Your gifts of hope and joy are beyond our wildest expectations. So now we offer you even a little of what we have, and we dedicate our gifts and ourselves to your service. May these offerings be used wisely to enhance the work of Waterloo Presbytery on our behalf and in your name. Amen.

***Hymn:** We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song)

VU 595

***Commissioning & Benediction:** - Rev. Marion Loree

Postlude: R. Schumann - from scenes of childhood "Important Event"