

Melville United Church
Sunday, October 12, 2014
Thanksgiving Sunday

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

Let us gather together in thanksgiving to God.

For God has made us and this earth which is our home.

Let us gather together in gratitude to one another.

For we are the bearers of God's blessing and love.

Let us gather together with joy on this Thanksgiving Sunday.

For we are recipients of God's bounty and blessing and love.

Come, people of God, let us worship and give thanks together.

***Hymn:** Morning Has Broken

VU 409

Opening Prayer:

O God, we spread out our thanksgivings before you;

our thanksgiving for the harvest and for good food on our tables.

O God, we spread out our thanksgivings before you;

our thanksgiving for family and friends who support us.

O God, we spread out our thanksgivings before you;

our thanksgiving for times of relaxation and recreation.

O God, we spread out our thanksgivings before you;

**for this community of faith where we can pray and praise and
learn of your ways.**

O God, as we spread our thanksgivings before you, we find the reason
for our joyful celebration;

thank you, O Most Loving Creator! Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Looking at the star-filled heavens, faced with the beauty of flowers, the
distinct taste of a peach or a tomato..

we hear your call to keep the air, the water, and the earth, clean for future generations.

Blessed by the presence of this gathered community of faith..

we hear your call to support each other in good times and in hard times.

Surrounded by family and friends at the Thanksgiving table..

we hear your call to remember our many blessings.

Conscious of the bounty we enjoy..

we remember those who do not have enough.

Aware that we often take for granted the material goods, relationships and freedoms we enjoy in this land,

we ask forgiveness and that we be inspired to live and be your love in this world. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

God knows our frailties, our weakness, our wavering, our mistakes, and loves us anyway - beyond all measure. So count your blessings and be filled with gratitude for the loving God that guides, teaches and is with you always.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Chorus: Alleluia, Praise to God (vs 1) MV 59

Alleluia, praise to God.

Alleluia, praise to God.

Praises, high praises, we bring you, O God.

Alleluia, praise to God. (Repeat)

Act of Confirmation and Sacrament of Baptism

Statement of Purpose

Presentation of the one to be Baptized and the one to be Confirmed

Scripture: Galatians 3:27-29 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)

Profession of Faith and Promises

Laying on of Hands

Profession of faith by the parents:

Commitment of Godparents

Commitment by Congregation

People of Melville United Church, you have heard the will of Christine to become part of this faith community. Will you pledge to Christine your support and care? Will you support and nurture her as she seeks to learn and grow in faith?

We will, God being our helper.

We are to also receive this child as part of our faith community. In so doing, we remember our calling to share life together, and to be open to the future that she contains. We are also called to support this family and this child with love and with Christian teaching. Are you willing, as you are able to share in this responsibility?

We are willing, God being our helper.

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed VU 918

**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 lie, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing of the Water (*children bring water and people call out blessings*)

Prayer

The Baptism

Sign of the Cross and Blessing

Laying on of Hands/Blessing

Lighting of the Baptismal Candle

Sung Blessing: May God's Sheltering Wings

MV 214

**May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
his cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in his love.**

Prayer

Presentation of Certificates

Ministry of Music: Bless This Infant

**Gentle Jesus bless this infant
keep her in your tender care.
Bless the parents who have brought her
holding her in arms of prayer.**

**You who welcomed little children
turned no helpless soul away.
We have brought this child to you
send your Spirit here today.**

**May this congregation always
model love and righteousness.
May she grow in Christian beauty
live to peace and happiness.**

**Though the future is uncertain
we but trust your promise true.
Step by step each new tomorrow
comes with grace to guide her through.**

**Mighty Jesus guard this infant
as we send this prayer above.
Bless the parents who have brought her
may she find in them your love.**

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 8:6-18 (Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation)

(Do not forget - God provides)

So keep the commandments of YHWH; walk with reverence in the ways of God. For YHWH, your God, is bringing you into a good land - a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and in the hills, a land of wheat, barley, vines, fig trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey. A land where bread will not be scarce and where you will lack for nothing, a land where rocks are iron and copper is dug out of hills. You will eat and have your fill, and you will praise YHWH, your God, for the good land given to you.

Take care that you not forget YHWH by failing to observe the statutes, decrees and commands that are given you today. When you have had plenty to eat, and have built a fine house to live in, when your flocks and herds, your silver and gold, and all your possessions increase, do not grow proud and forget God, YHWH, who brought you out of Egypt, from the land of slavery.

It was YHWH who led you through the vast and desolate wilderness, a thirsty and waterless land, filled with poisonous snakes and scorpions. God made water spring forth for you out of solid rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your ancestors had never known. God humbled you to test you, and in the end, to make you prosperous. Do not say to yourself, "My own strength and the power of my hands brought this wealth to me." Remember God, YHWH, who enabled you to produce this wealth, to confirm the covenant that God swore to your ancestors, which is fulfilled today.

Scripture Reading: Luke 17:11-19 (Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation)

(Ten healed; one returns to offer thanks)

On the journey to Jerusalem, Jesus passed along the borders of Samaria and Galilee. As Jesus was entering a village, ten people with leprosy met him. Keeping their distance, they raised their voices and said, "Jesus, Rabbi, have pity on us!"

When Jesus saw them, he responded. "Go and show yourselves to the priests."

As they were going, they were healed. One of them, realizing what had happened, came back praising God in a loud voice, then fell down at the feet of Jesus and spoke his praises. The individual was a Samaritan.

Jesus replied. "Weren't all ten made whole? Where are the other nine? Was there no one to return and give thanks except this foreigner?" Then Jesus said to the Samaritan, "Stand up and go your way; your faith has saved you."

Reader: Sarah Schmidt

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 (Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation)

(God loves a cheerful giver)

Keep this in mind: if you plant sparingly, you will reap sparingly, and if you plant bountifully, you will reap bountifully. You must give according to what you have inwardly decided - not sadly, not reluctantly, for God loves a giver who gives cheerfully. There are no limits to the grace of God, who will make sure you will always have enough of everything and even a surplus for good works, as scripture says:

"God scattered abroad
and gave to poor people;
God's justice endures forever."

The One who provides seed for the planter and bread for food will also supply and enlarge your store of seed and increase your harvest of justice. You will be made rich in every way for your generosity, for which we give thanks to God.

For the administration of this service not only supplies fully the needs of the holy ones, but also overflows in thanksgivings to God. By offering this service, you prove yourselves. And that makes them give glory to God for the way you obey and profess the Gospel of Christ, and for your generosity to them and to everyone. And their prayers also show how they are drawn to you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. Thanks be to God for such an indescribable gift!

Message: Thanksgiving Musings

Rev. Marion Loree

Hymn: Come, You Thankful People, Come

VU 516

(during the hymn you are invited to bring your food offerings and envelopes forward)

***Offertory Prayer:**

Received: the gifts of the harvest from field and forest.

Offered: gifts from our work and our working years.

Received: a harvest of goodwill and friendship.

Offered: gifts of time to use in the faith community,

Received: a harvest of skills and abilities.

Offered: gifts of varied abilities to use in serving God.

Money, time, talent and food given for God's service in God's world.

Ours to give in appreciation of all God's good gifts to us. Amen.

Ministry of Music: A Celtic Thanksgiving - J. M. Martin

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Spirit of the Living God (Vs 1)

VU 376

**Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** We Plough the Fields

VU 520

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Go from here with thanksgiving on your lips and in your hearts!

As we return to greet our family we will give thanks;

as we search out and help our neighbours, we will give thanks;

as we serve with others in the faith community, we will give thanks;

as we speak out on behalf of the powerless, we will give thanks.

Go! Knowing God goes with you. Let the people say... **Amen!**

***Parting Song:** May God's Sheltering Wings MV 214

**May God's sheltering wings,
her gathering wings protect you.
May God's nurturing arms,
his cradling arms sustain you,
and hold you in her love,
and hold you in his love.**

Postlude: Now Thank We All Our God J. S. Bach

Prayer of the Week:

God, as we enter a new week we acknowledge those elements in life that separate us from your presence. Remove our reluctance to follow and fill our hearts with gratitude for all we have been given. Fill our minds and hearts with the desire to do your work and to do our part to bring about your vision for a just and harmonious world. With grateful hearts we pray. Amen.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Oct. 13 - Sun. Oct. 19, 2014

Mon. 13	10:00	Spirituality Circle	Parlour
Tues. 14	9:00	Quilting	Parlour
	7:30	Worship and Music	Parlour
Thurs. 16	7:00	Choir	Parlour
Fri. 17	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	11:00	Meditation	Library
Sun. 19	11:00	Sunday Service	Sanctuary

Partners in Prayer: St. James Anglican Church, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Bismark, Beamsville

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Lynne Lamb, Karen Smillie,
Ruth Sproule, Norm Porritt

October		
5 th	World Communion Sunday	Marion/Jen
12 th	Thanksgiving	Marion
19 th	Stewardship	Stewardship Committee
26 th	All Saints	Marion