



Melville United Church
Sunday, February 22, 2015
1st Sunday Lent

First
SUNDAY IN
LENT


Melville United Church

St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781

Team Ministry

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Jennifer Auger
Minister of Music:	Matthias Schmidt
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Ralph Rainford
Pastoral Care:	Millie Cumming, Elizabeth Stinson
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude: Improvisation

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

People of God, gather round.

We gather in this sacred space, in this sacred moment.

Leave your daily concerns aside and come,

we come to recall stories of faith;

to see the extraordinary in the ordinary;

Come and hear good news.

We come to hear of God's love;

Come and remember whose we are as we worship together.

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

Children Leave for Kids Church

Opening Prayer: based on "A Lenten Prayer" **VU 110**

God of love,

as in the life of Christ you showed yourself to us,

so may our lives show your love,

as we live according to your ways.

Keep our feet firmly in the way

where Christ leads us;

help our lips speak the truth

that Christ teaches us;

fill our bodies with the life

that is Christ within us.

In his holy name we pray. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Divine Spirit, you drive us into the wilderness of our lives.

In the solitude of our desert experiences:

our thoughts rage out of control;

our fears transform minor hills and obstacles

into insurmountable mountains and impenetrable terrain.

Renew us and send your angels to minister to us,

that we may know we are not alone.

Set your bow in the clouds once more, Holy Dove,

that we might see the sign of your blessing

and behold the promise of your presence. Amen

Words of Affirmation:

Look to God's covenant sealed with a rainbow and know that God walks with you through the best of times and the worst of times.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Chorus: How Deep the Peace MV 95

**How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose wrongs are forgiven.**

**How deep the peace, the confidence,
of those whose hearts are healed. (Repeat)**

Responsive Reading: Psalm 25 (Refrain 2) VU 752

(Lead Me In Your Truth, O God)

Scripture Reading: Genesis 9:8-17 (*Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation*)

(*The covenant between God and all living things*)

God then said to Noah and his family, "I hereby establish my covenant with you and with your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you - birds, cattle, and the earth's wildlife - everything that came out of the ark, everything that lives on the earth. I hereby establish my covenant with you: All flesh will never again be swept away by the waters of the flood; never again will a flood destroy all the earth."

God said, "Here is the sign of the covenant between me and you and every living creature for ageless generations: I set my bow in the

clouds, and it will be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, my bow will appear in the clouds. Then I will remember the covenant that is between me and you and every kind of living creature, and never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all flesh. Whenever my bow appears in the clouds I will see it, and remember the everlasting covenant that I have established between me and all living things on the earth."

Reader: David Gohn

Reflection:

Rev. Marion Loree

Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9-15 (*Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation*)

(*The baptism, temptation, and mission of Jesus*)

It was then that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized in the Jordan River by John. Immediately upon coming out of the water, Jesus saw the heavens opening and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. Then a voice came from the heavens: "You are my Beloved, my Own. On you my favour rests."

Immediately the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

After John's arrest, Jesus appeared in Galilee proclaiming the Good News of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The reign of God is at hand! Change your hearts and minds, and believe this Good News!"

Reflection:

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:**

We offer our gifts today that they may flood and flow into the world bearing God's good news of justice and compassion to all. Amen.

Communion Hymn: Deep in Our Hearts

MV 154

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The elements of communion today will be served in your seats. When the plate is passed, please take one and hold it until all are served and we will partake together. The same with the cup, take one and hold it until all have been served and we will drink together.

Invitation:

As we come to this table we are reminded that this is not the table of Melville United Church; nor is it the table of the United Church of Canada or any particular denomination. It is the table of Jesus the Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith and long to live justly and in peace with their neighbour, are welcome here.

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 thanks and praise.

In the flood,

.....And so with all that is, seen and unseen, and with all the faithful of every time and place, we join in this hymn of praise and thanksgiving;

O holy, holy, holy God,

(MV 203)

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!**

Before us stretch the days of pilgrimage....

...Remembering your boundless love for us as shown in Jesus,
we sing of the mystery of faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, (MV 204)

Christ will come again!

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,

Christ will come again!

At this time we also remember....

The Lord's Prayer:

VU 959

We pray you, God of Love, send your Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we, and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other, and to all the world.

Amen, amen, O Holy One!

(MV 205)

Hosanna and Amen!

Amen, amen, O Holy One,

Hosanna and Amen!

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

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 of the Elements:

Ministry of Music: Dick Averre Be Made One

Post Communion Prayer:

**We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness; that wine
poured out replenishes; that time spent with the Risen Christ and one
another is gift and grace. Amen.**

*Hymn: Go Forth for God

VU 418

29

Palm/Passion Sun.

Marion

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

As you leave this sacred space, remember that you are called by God, remember your sacredness, remember your place in the eternal flow of life, realize that God delights in each and every one of us.

**We will remember we are beloved of God
and we will flood the world with the good news of God's love.
Amen!**

***Parting Song:** Sent Out in Jesus' Name MV 212

**Sent out in Jesus' name, or hands are ready now
to make the world the place in which the kin-dom comes. (Repeat)
The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do, to set it really free.
O, help us to obey, and carry out your will.**

Postlude: J. Brahms - O Welt ich muss dich lassen

Prayer of the Week:

O God, lead us into the wilderness so that we may be driven to see you, hear you, rely on you. Keep us in the wilderness until we know angels serve us, animals accompany us, and temptation has no power over us. Lead us out of the wilderness to proclaim your good news. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Elora Canadian Reformed Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Korean, Hamilton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Lillian and David Gohn,
Richard Wright, Eleanor Johnston

March	Theme	Ministry
1	Lent 2	Open
8	Lent 3	Marion
15	Lent 4	Open
22	Lent 5	Marion