

**Melville United Church  
Sunday, February 8, 2015  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**



*\* Congregation please stand as you are able.*

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

**Sharing the Light**

**Prelude:** Improvisation

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Call to Worship:**

Wait for God...even when waiting isn't easy or comfortable.

**We wait. We hope. We wait.**

Wait with hope and trust...even when God's presence isn't obvious or clear.

**We wait. We hope. We wait.**

As we worship our God this day...

**we know that the Spirit is with us.**

Call on God for God has called you by name.

**We lift our eyes to see God in this place.**

Know that God is near.

**We know Spirit lives in each of us gathered here.**

Come, people of God, let us worship together.

**\*Hymn:** Come, Let Us Sing **VU 222**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Holy Presence, Creator God, renew our strength this day. We gather to remember your great love for us. You know each of us by name and call us to works of peace and justice. Lift us up on your wings of love and guide us with your ancient wisdom and truth. Empower us to be your people that all may know the power of your love. Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

God, you ask, "Have you not known? Have you not heard?"

**We try to understand and we think we hear,  
but there is so much noise in our world.**

**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.
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We hear those who shout the loudest,  
whose sound-bites demand the most attention.

**Forgive us for not hearing the voices of the silenced,  
not seeing those who are made invisible.**

Sometimes, God, the pain and needs of our communities and our world  
overwhelm us.

**Remind us again that your love never ends.  
Lift our burdens. Renew our strength.  
Heal our ills in body and soul. Amen.**

**Words of Affirmation:**

Don't you know? Haven't you heard? God's love is more powerful than  
death. God's strength is unending and true. In God's powerful strength  
and love you are renewed and restored to life.

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**Chorus:** Will You Come and See the Light - vs 1 **VU 96**

**Will you come and see the light from the stable door?**

**It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.**

**It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?**

**Theme Conversation:**

**\*Hymn:** Every Move I Make (with band)

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 40:21-31 (Inclusive Bible)

(God gives strength to the weary and empowers the powerless)

Did you not know? Have you not heard?

Was it not told to you from the beginning?

Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

YHWH sits above the vaulted roof of the world, and its inhabitants look  
like grasshoppers!

God stretches out the skies like a curtain, and spreads them out like a  
tent for mortals to live under!

God reduces the privileged to nothing and throws the rulers of the earth  
into chaos.

No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do

they take root on earth, than God blows on them and they wither; and a  
storm wind sweeps them away like chaff.

"To whom can you liken me? Who is my equal?" Says the Holy One.

Lift up your eyes and ask yourself who made these stars, if not the One  
who drills them like an army, calling each by name?

Because God is so great in strength, so mighty in power, not a single one  
is missing.

How can you say, tribe of Leah and Rachel and Jacob,

"My destiny is hidden from YHWH, my rights are ignored by my God?"

Do you not know? Have you not heard?

YHWH is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

This God does not faint or grow weary; with a depth of understanding  
that is unsearchable.

God gives strength to the weary, and empowers the powerless.

Young women may grow tired and weary, young men may stumble and  
fall,

but those who wait for YHWH find a renewed power;

they soar on eagles' wings,

they run and don't get weary,

they walk and never tire.

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 147:2-11

(a paraphrase - James Taylor- *Everyday Psalms*)

(Not impressed by appearances)

We are the refugees.

**Our homes and our spirits have been destroyed.**

**Across the earth we have fled seeking asylum.**

**God gathered us together, and gave us a second chance.**

We are the sick, the infirm, the elderly.

**God gave us nurses, and medicines,**

**and medicare to cover the costs that would have crushed us.**

We are the students, the scientists, the scholars.

**The more we explore our universe,**

**the more the mysteries we encounter fill us with awe.**

We are the poor, the oppressed,

the people at the bottom of the pile.

**We see the powerful and mighty come tumbling down,**

**betrayed by their own corruption.**

How can you see all this, and doubt the power of God?

**If God can make the rain fall, the grass grow,  
the rivers run, and the sun shine,  
if God can balance the needs of nature  
so that both lion and lamb can live,  
then surely God can also affect human affairs.**

We are not well-dressed, or privileged;  
we are not wealthy or important.

**But God does not judge by appearances  
God is not impressed by titles and positions,  
nor influenced by body-building and cosmetic beauty.  
In the eyes of God, a pauper matters as much as a priest,  
a person on welfare as much as a president.**

What matters is how well we hear God,  
and how much we care for each other.

**Scripture Reading:** 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

(I have become all things to all people)

Not that I do boast about preaching the Gospel; I am under compulsion and have no choice. I am ruined if I do not preach the Gospel! If I do it willingly, I have my reward; if unwillingly, I am nonetheless entrusted with a charge. What then is my reward? It is simply this: that when preaching, I offer the Gospel free of charge and do not assert the authority the Gospel gives me. Although I am not bound to anyone, I put myself into the service of all so as to win over as many as possible.

To the Jews I became even more Jewish, to win over the Jewish people; even though I am not subject to the Law, I made myself subject to the Law, to win those who are subject to the Law. To those who have no law, I was free of the Law, too - though not free from God's Law, being subject to the Law of Christ - to win those who have no law. To the weak I became weak to win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might save at least some of them. In fact, I do all that I do for the sake of the Gospel in the hope of having a share in its blessings.

**Message:** All things to all people?

**Hymn:** On Eagle's Wings (Psalm 91)

**VU 808**

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** F. E. Aulbach (104) Unto Thee O Lord

**Offering Song:** In the Bleak Mid-winter vs 4 VU 55

**What can I bring him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**God, we are all in this together. May we keep that in mind as we return to you a portion of what we have been given. We pray that our offerings may be one means of moving your creation a little closer to peace, justice, and reconciliation. Amen.**

**Joys & Concerns:**

**Prayer Prelude:** Come and Fill Our Hearts (sung 3 times) MV 16

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
You alone, O God, are holy.  
Come and fill our hearts with your peace,  
Alleluia! (Repeat twice more)**

**Prayers of the People:**

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**\*Hymn:** Walk with Me VU 649

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Go forth upon wings like eagles.

**We soar with the hope of God's powerful love.**

Run the race that is set before you.

**God runs with us, and strengthens us, every step of the way.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**\*Parting Song:** Go Tell It On the Mountain - chorus

**VU 43**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain**

**that Jesus Christ is born. (repeat)**

**Postlude:** A. Campara - Rigardion

**Prayer of the Week:**

As we come to recognize meaning in the unfolding drama of our lives,  
God our Creator, we begin to see the patterns that emerge in the lives  
of those who serve you. May we live out our calling in ways that  
balance our worship and our busyness. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Grand River Community Church

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Harriston

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Ken McManus, Dorothy Collin,  
Eleanor Johnston, Bob Zirk

<u>Date</u>	<u>Theme</u>	<u>Ministry</u>
<b>February</b>		
1		Jen
8		Marion
15	Transfiguration	Ken McManus
22	Lent 1	Marion