

Melville United Church
Sunday, June 18, 2017
2nd Sunday after Pentecost



** 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:

From north and south, from east and west,

God calls us together to worship and serve.

Out of poverty and wealth, out of health and disease,

God calls us together to worship and serve.

Out of a spirit of jubilation and despair,

out of times of hope and uncertainty,

God calls us together to worship and serve.

Come, people of God, let us worship together.

***Hymn:** Come and Find the Quiet Centre

VU 374

Opening Prayer:

God of grace, as we gather here to worship and learn, to sing and to pray, to build community and restore ourselves for service, be with us. Encourage us to open our hearts and minds to encounter your goodness, and our souls to be buoyed by your loving presence. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Gracious Host of heaven and earth,

we celebrate your invitation to worship and serve in your name.

We are honoured by your call and long to answer in faithfulness.

Yet we confess those attitudes and allegiances which hold us back:

fear...discouragement... guilt...laziness...

lack of confidence...greed...self-centredness...

lack of compassion...and all other things that lie in our hearts.

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	Jen Auger
Minister of Music:	Matthias Schmidt
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Allan Hons
Pastoral Care	Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree
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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May we hear you speak our names.

We pray you will fill us with courage

so we can move forward in faith

and respond with compassionate love. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

You have been named by God and called by the Spirit of Christ to do your part in this world. Live in faith and proclaim the good news of God's love.

Thanks be to God!

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: 'Tis the Gift to be Simple **VU 353**

Scripture: Romans 5:1-5 *(Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition)*
(Look forward to becoming all that God intended)

Now since we have been made right in God's sight by our faith, we are at peace with God through our Saviour Jesus Christ. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us to the grace in which we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to the day on which we will become all that God has intended. But not only that - we even rejoice in our afflictions! We know that affliction produces perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and character, hope. And such a hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 1 *(paraphrase by James Taylor - Everyday Psalms)*
(The source of happiness)

Happiness can't be captured.

**Like a wild bird or a bouncing ball,
it is always just beyond your grasp.**

It is not found in fads or fashions,

nor in climbing to the top of the heap.

Happiness comes from immersing yourself in God.

**Instead of struggling to stay on top,
yield yourself to the deep flow of God's universe.**

You will not drown.

You will be swept along by forces beyond your imagining.

Foam on the surface blows about;

driftwood piles up on sandbars;

people obsessed with themselves

end up as rotting debris on the rocks.

But the current rolls on.

To find happiness, let yourself be carried away
by something stronger than a social eddy.

Scripture: John 3:1-9 *(Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition)*
(You must be born from above)

A certain Pharisee named Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, came to Jesus at night. "Rabbi," he said, "We know you're a teacher come from God, for no one can perform the signs and wonders you do, unless by the power of God."

Jesus gave Nicodemus this answer: "The truth of the matter is, unless one is born from above, one cannot see the kingdom of God."

Nicodemus said, "How can an adult be born a second time? I can't go back into my mother's womb to be born again!"

Jesus replied: "The truth is, no one can enter God's kingdom without being born of water and the Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is Spirit. So don't be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. The wind blows where it will. You hear the sound it makes, but you don't know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

"How can this be possible?" asked Nicodemus.

Message: Reincarnation & Life After Death

***Hymn:** My Life Flows on in Endless Song

VU 716

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Ian W. Bevell - Irish Blessing

***Offering Hymn:** What Can I Do?

MV 191

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. (Repeat)

***Offertory Prayer:**

We say -

thank you, God -

for every little thing!

We say -

thank you, God -

for all the joy you bring!

We say -

thank you, God -

for breath and life and love!

We say -

thank you, God -

for all the blessings that you give!

We say -

thank you, God -

As we give from our hearts.

May these gifts be blessed

as they are used to do your work. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Be Still and Know

MV 77

Be still and know that I am God.

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** In the Bulb There is a Flower

VU 703

***Blessing:**

Go now, into the world with eyes open to the wonder and beauty.

Go with an awareness of the Holy Mystery which surrounds you.

Go knowing you do not go alone.

We go knowing God is with us always. Amen!

***Parting Song:** Melville Benediction

Let's go out from here and take our place.

Respect creation sharing all God's grace.

Treasure the past and things we have done.

Open our minds for new things yet to come.

God will be with us below, around above,

Bless all our doings. Let us go and love!

Bless all our doings. Let us go and love!

Postlude: D. Buxtehude - Prelude in D

Prayer of the Week:

God of mercy, may we follow the example of Jesus and seek to be those who look at the world with eyes of compassion. God of mystery, may we be open and aware that you work in mysterious ways. God of surprises, may we be always open and ready to accept the movement of Spirit among us. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Elora

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: St. Paul's, Milton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Mary Lloyd, Karen Smillie,

Richard Wright, Lynne Lamb

Counters:

Mary Lloyd, Karen Smillie