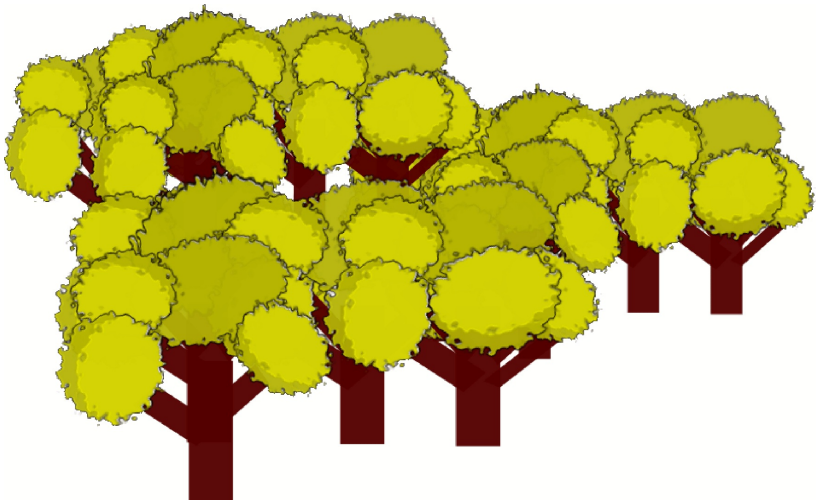

Melville United Church
St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781
Team Ministry

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.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-826-9385, 519-835-8605 519-843-3841

September 24, 2017

Melville United Church
Sunday September 24, 2017
Celebration Sunday

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* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*
Bold print invites congregational response.
Presiding Today: Marion Loree

Prelude: Improvisation
Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:
Come and celebrate, the wondrous creation that blesses and amazes us.
Thanks be to God, for the wonders of creation.
Come and celebrate, the abundance and resilience of all life.
Thanks be to God, for the abundance of creation.
Come and celebrate, the wonders of being part of God's world.
Thanks be to God, for the love which is ours.
Come, people of God, let us worship and celebrate together.

***Hymn:** River **MV 3**

Opening Prayer:
God of all life, your hands touch Creation,
and it moves;
your heart beats,
and life pulses anew;
your Spirit dances,
and the world is changed!
In this time together,
help us to move,
to live,
to be changed,
open our hearts
to celebrate your infinite love.
Forgive us, dear God, the times we forget your presence
Help us remember.

Forgive us when we put ourselves first.
Heal our self-centeredness.
Give us hearts full of compassion
for each other and for all of creation.
In Jesus' name we ask it.
Amen.

Words of Assurance:
You were made by Love, for love.
The One who made us knows us inside and out.
Spirit empowers us
to begin again and again and again.
Thanks be to God!

Ministry of Music: For the Beauty of the Earth J. Rutter

Celebrating Who We Are:
Scripture: 1 John 2:29
You know that God is righteous, you should know, then, that everyone whose life is righteous is born of God.

1 John 3:1-2
My dear friends, now we are God's children, but it has not been revealed what we are to become in the future. We know that when it comes to light we will be like God, for we will see God as God really is.

Welcoming of New and Transferring Members
(Marbeth McLean, Bruce Lloyd, Eleanor Johnston)

The church is a community of people with varied gifts, united by one Spirit. We gather to celebrate God's presence, to discern God's truth, and to follow the way of Jesus. By our baptism we are welcomed into Christ's church and, later, we may choose to become members of a community of faith.

This community of faith is known as Melville United Church and today we welcome Marbeth McLean, Bruce Lloyd and Eleanor Johnston who have chosen to be recognized as 'official' members here either by

transfer or profession of faith.
(Those to be recognized come forward)

As members of Melville United Church will you join with us as together we celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, love and serve others, seek justice and resist evil?
Response: I will, God being my helper.

Congregational Commitment *(congregation please stand)*
Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to these three persons our support and care.
As your brothers and sisters in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.

Bruce, Marbeth and Eleanor, in the name of Jesus the Christ, we welcome you to the privileges and responsibilities of membership in this congregation. We give thanks for your presence among us and pray that Melville will be a place of welcome and inspiration, a place where you can grow in faith and feel you have found a spiritual home. *(We show our welcome)*

Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me (vs 1,4,5) **VU 567**

Celebrating Things We Do:

Scripture:
1 Corinthians 3:9
We are coworkers with God; you are God's farm, God's building.

1 Corinthians 15:58
Be steadfast and persevering, my beloved sisters and brothers, fully engaged in the work of Jesus. You know that your toil is not in vain when it is done in Christ.

Galatians 6:9-10
Never grow tired of doing good. We will reap a harvest at the proper time - if we don't grow weary. So, while we still have time, do good to all and especially to those of the household of faith.

Philippians 2:13
It is God at work in you that creates the desire to do God's will.

Reflection: Doing God Work

Hymn: Worship the Lord (vs 1,5) **VU 401**

Celebrating Creation - Wilderness

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-2, 6;
Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock deep into the wilderness, Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God.
The messenger of YHWH appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a thornbush. Moses saw - "The bush is ablaze with fire, and yet it isn't consumed!"
"I am the God of your ancestors," the voice continued "the God of Sarah and Abraham, the God of Rebecca and Isaac, the God of Leah and Rachel and Jacob!"

Mark 1:12
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.

Reflection: Wilderness

Celebrating Creation: Water

Scripture:
John 4:13-14,
Jesus replied, "Every one who drinks this water will be thirsty again. But those who drink the water I give them will never be thirsty; no, the water I give will become fountains within them, springing up to provide eternal life."

Revelation 21:6; 22:16-17
And that One continued, "It is finished. I am the Alpha and the Omega,

the Beginning and the End. To those who are thirsty I will give drink freely from the spring of the water of life.
"It is I, Jesus, who has sent my angel to give you this testimony about the churches. I am the Root and Offspring of David, the Morning Star shining bright."
The Spirit and the Betrothed say, "Come!"
Let the one who hears it answer, "Come!"
Let the thirsty come forward. Let all who desire it accept the gift of life-giving water."

Reflection: River

Hymn: Make a Joyful Noise (Psalm 100) **VU 820**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Irish Blessing - Ian W. Bevell

***Offering Hymn:** For the Gift of Creation **VU 538**

***Offertory Prayer:**
Every time we find ourselves in the wilderness
and God whispers our name,
Let us give thanks.
Every time we are led out of a time of chaos and pain,
Let us give thanks.
Every time we taste cool, clear water,
let us give thanks.
Every time our spiritual thirst is quenched,
Let us give thanks.
Great Creator, River of Life, all we have is yours.
Take what we offer with our thanks and praise. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Holy Sacred Spirit MV 15
Holy sacred Spirit,
breathe your breath on us.

Holy sacred Spirit,
breathe your life in us. (Repeat)

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn**: We Are One (vs 1,2,4) **VU 402**

***Blessing:**
May you go from here continuing the celebrate.
We celebrate that we belong to God.
May you go from here remembering that God works through you.
We celebrate the gifts God has given us.
May you go from here to continue the work that is begun.
We celebrate what we have, what we do and all that we are.
Go, knowing that the love of God, the peace of Christ
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit is with you - always!
Amen!

***Parting Song:** You Shall Go Out with Joy **VU 884**

Postlude: J. S. Bach - Concerto in a minor

Prayer of the Week:
Your justice rolls down like a river, O God, and your righteousness is like an ever-flowing stream. Immerse us in the rushing waters that we may be swept up in your current of love and washed by your mercy. Quench the thirst of all who seek. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Grace Christian Fellowship
Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Bethel - Cook's Mills
Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Joyce Keizerwaard,
Vivian, Havey and Mark Andrews

Counters: Norma Martin, Richard Wright