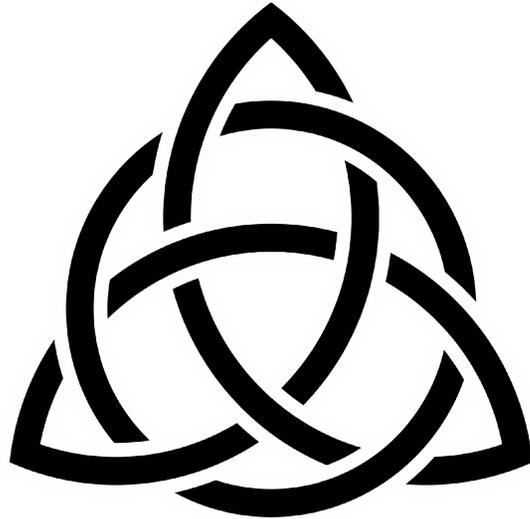


Melville United Church
Sunday, May 27, 2018
Trinity Sunday/Hamilton Conference 2018



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centering Time

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer (Responsive):

Grace, mercy and peace from God,
And the love of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Nothing has changed!

But we know that isn't true. So much has changed.

We gather as Hamilton Conference gathers for the last time, knowing
that everything changes

and will never be the same ever again.

We grieve the loss of members of our church who have moved away or
passed away.

**And we celebrate the legacy they leave us, witnessing
to their faith by sharing in our mission and ministry.**

We grieve the changes in our churches,

The times we feel bruised and broken.

We grieve as we mark the final days of the body that is
Hamilton Conference, and each of the Presbyteries
who served it and the church well.

**We celebrate and give thanks for the opportunities
serve God and for the friendships made along the way.**

In the name of the Risen One,

We gather in this place,

Knowing that everything has changed.

**Released from our fears,
Healed from our wounds,
Challenged by God's love,**

We gather to celebrate the Divine presence that remakes us.

The transforming pain that reshapes us.

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	
Minister of Music Team:	Rob White, Suzanne Flewelling
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

May 27, 2018

The Holy One's passionate energy that empowers us.

And who makes all things new again.

Amen.

And Amen!

***Hymn:** In The Bulb There Is A Flower

VU 703

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Ever Faithful God, we confess that we often find it difficult to change.

We hold on to the familiar and resist other ways of doing things.

Forgive us and help us open our imagination to new ways of being your church in the world.

Gracious God, hear our silent prayers, as we confess those things that separate us from you and from each other...(silence)

Words of Assurance:

Friends, hear the Good News. God, who has created and is creating, is doing new things in our church and our lives. Whatever we have thought or said or done to let God down or hurt another, we are forgiven, and we are loved.

Thanks be to God!

A Time for the Young & Young at Heart: "The Plant that Refused to Die"

Children's Song: God Is Passionate Life

VU 695

First Reading: 2 Corinthians 9:6a, 8-11 (*The Message*)

Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As one psalmist puts it, "He throws caution to the winds, giving to the needy in reckless abandon. His right-living, right-giving way never run out, never wear out."

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. God gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

Psalm: Psalm 29

VU 756

Gospel Reading: John 3:1-17 (*NRSV*)

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God!

Meditation: "Born Again. And Again. And Again..."

***Hymn:** The Spring Has Come **VU 187**

Offering:

Offering Song: As Long As We Follow **MV 140**

As long as we follow in the way that God is leading,
We know God's reign will surely come.
We know this, we know this.
Yes, God's reign will surely come.

***Offertory Prayer: (Unison)**

Generous God, we give thanks that you have called us to be your church. We offer our gifts and ourselves to continue to share your love in our churches, communities and world. Amen.

Prayer Prelude: Spirit of Life **VU 381**

Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** I See a New Heaven **VU 713**

Blessing/Sending Forth:

As we leave this sanctuary,
May our God of New Life,
The One who created and continues to create,
Wash over your lives,
Filling you with hope, love and mercy.
As you walk the ways of Christ.
May you be encouraged, renewed and transformed.
Go out now into the world in peace that it might be so.

Amen!

***Parting Song:** Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Postlude:

Prayer for the Week:

God of the Church Universal, we pray for our Conference and Presbytery staff and leaders as they faithfully bring the work of Hamilton Conference; Bruce, Erie, Halton, Hamilton, Niagara and Waterloo Presbyteries to an end. We lift up the interim Regional Council Staff and leaders and pray that they will feel your Spirit guiding them in the decisions they make for this new way of being your church. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Centre Wellington Foodbank

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: St. George

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Diane Maloney, Mark Andrews
Chris Hopewell

Counters:

Norman Martin, Chris Hopewell