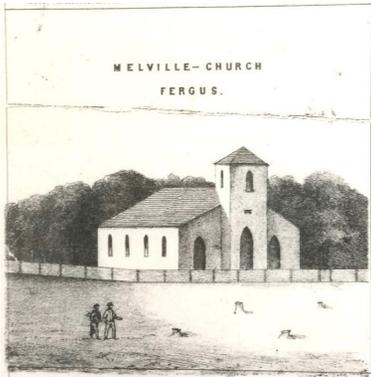


Melville United Church
 Sunday, May 6, 2018
 173rd Anniversary Sunday



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Judy Zarubick

Prelude:

Welcome & Announcements:

Sharing the Light:

Call to Worship:

We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence,

**We gather together as one body in Christ,
 to hold each other and the whole world in love.**

We gather to praise God.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Hymn: Praise Our Maker VU 316

Opening Prayer: *adapted from Bruce Prewer*

Holy and mysterious Lover of the world,

let this day be a worthy celebration of our Lord's resurrection love.

By the Easter good news, encourage us to put away our worries, and to discard our fears,

that with minds open to your Spirit we may better love you and more adequately worship your holy name.

Amen!

Prayer for Inner Healing: *Bruce Prewer*

Most holy God, most of the time we see ourselves as nice people, who are trying to do the loving thing in a difficult world.

We try not to lie, cheat, malign, abuse or injure others.

We try to serve you through the church and within the community.

We pray for peace and justice, and we attempt to forgive those who sin against us.

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

By the standards of love in the wider community we have not done so badly.

Yet deep within we know how far we fall short of the love-standard set by Jesus, and we even fall beneath the level that our own ideals have set us.

We feel compromised and misled by this hustling world with its glitter. We become frustrated and undermined by a negativity within ourselves which diverts us and leads us into withholding love.

Loving God, we certainly need your pardoning grace and humbly we ask for it. But also we need much more.

We seek the grace of self-honesty, and a sharper awareness of our own hearts. We need your illuminating Light, helping us to see through the humbug of society. We need to allow ourselves to become saturated with your love.

We ask for the spur of your Spirit to make us more eager for the art of true loving, and more determined to practice what we preach.

Grant us these graces we pray, for without you we are as nothing. Hear our prayer, through Christ our Saviour. Amen!

Words of Affirmation:

Sisters and brothers in the family of God, listen well for it is written of old: "You are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." This was made visible and accessible in Jesus of Nazareth. Welcome into your minds this living truth, and accept into your hearts the saving grace of Christ Jesus.

Let it be, dear Lord, let it be! Amen!

Ministry of Music: Let Your Light Shine - Mary McDonald

Scripture: Isaiah 63:7-9 *from The Message*

All the Things God Has Done That Need Praising

⁷⁻⁹ I'll make a list of GOD's gracious dealings,
all the things GOD has done that need praising,
All the generous bounties of GOD,
his great goodness to the family of Israel—
Compassion lavished,
love extravagant.
He said, "Without question these are my people,

children who would never betray me."

So he became their Saviour.

In all their troubles,
he was troubled, too.

He didn't send someone else to help them.

He did it himself, in person.

Out of his own love and pity
he redeemed them.

He rescued them and carried them along
for a long, long time.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 98 - Refrain 1 **VU 818**

Scripture: John 15:9-17

⁹⁻¹⁰ I've loved you the way my Father has loved me. Make yourselves at home in my love. If you keep my commands, you'll remain intimately at home in my love. That's what I've done—kept my Father's commands and made myself at home in his love.

¹¹⁻¹⁵ I've told you these things for a purpose: that my joy might be your joy, and your joy wholly mature. This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends. You are my friends when you do the things I command you. I'm no longer calling you servants because servants don't understand what their master is thinking and planning. No, I've named you friends because I've let you in on everything I've heard from the Father.

¹⁶ You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you.

¹⁷ But remember the root command: Love one another.

Hymn: Let All Things Now Living **VU 242**

Message: The Voice - *adapted from writings of Deborah Deavu*

Hymn: Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet **VU 245**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Holy, Holy, Holy VU 942

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.**

**As long as we act there is a future for creation,
a future for the universe.**

**We know this, we know this,
Yes, God's reign will surely come.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

**Generous God, you poured yourself into human form to teach us the
blessing of being human. You poured your bounty into your universe to
sustain every single atom of your creation. Receive these bits and pieces
we return to you and bless them until we learn that we are capable of
giving not just a little, but everything. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Where Two or Three Are Gathered MV 14

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.**

**Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.**

Prayers of the People:

Lord hear our prayer...

And in your love answer.

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn: You Shall Go Out with Joy VU 884**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

In the power of the Holy Spirit we now go forth into the world, to fulfil our
calling as the people of God, the body of Christ.

Go in peace,
love and care for one another

and may all the blessings of God Almighty,
the Creator, Word, and Spirit,
rest upon you now and always. Amen

***Parting Song: Take Up His Song MV 213**

Take up his song of peace and go into the world.

Take up his song of hope in ev'ry moment.

In ev'ry moment of the journey,

we're laying down our lives;

lay them down, in love, lay them down,

and take up his song. (Repeat)

Prayer of the week:

In the beginning The Voice spoke. Help us to hear and understand what
The Voice is calling us to do and be today. Give us the strength to answer
the call.

Partners in Prayer: Alma United Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Silver Spire

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Vivian and Havey Andrews
Barb Gregory, Larry Broome

Counters:

Kaillie Rawn, David Gohn