

Melville United Church
Sunday September 9, 2018
Season of Creation - Planet Earth & Humanity
Welcome Back Sunday



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude:

Welcome & Announcements:

Sharing the Light: (based on A Song of Faith)

God is Holy Mystery,
beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.
Yet, in love,
the one eternal God seeks relationship
with all of creation including each of us.
As we share this light may we be reminded
that God's presence is part of who we are.

Call to Worship:

As the clods of Earth make way
for the smallest thread of the tallest tree root,
so Love makes a way for us.
As the deepest caverns are formed by quakes and glaciers,
so Love shows us how to open.
As the rocky cliffs rise to withstand white waters,
so Love stands tall in the onslaught of fear.
As the rocks cause brooks to babble
and streams to jump,
so Love inspires hearts to beat and leap.
So come, people of God, let us worship
with the Earth and its creatures
at God's holy invitation to be one with all that is.

Hymn: All Creatures of the Earth and Sky (words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi) (tune VU 217)

Melville United Church
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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
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Opening Prayer:

Today, Holy Presence, we celebrate
our planet and our humanity.

We bring our empty hands and ask that they be filled.

We bring hearts that are heavy and ask for support.

We bring yearning eyes and ears that long to know you.

You divide the land and sea and call us out of our routine.

**This time is set apart that we may become aware
of your presence in new ways.**

Move in our hearts and cause our spirits to rise within us
and let us join the song Earth inspires. Amen.

Prayer For Inner Healing and words of Affirmation:

We are joined to every grain of sand:

Earth does not belong to us - we belong to Earth.

We are joined to every shining leaf:

Earth does not belong to us - we belong to Earth.

We are joined to every drop of rain:

Earth does not belong to us - we belong to Earth.

We are joined to every creature's breath:

Earth does not belong to us - we belong to Earth.

We are joined to every beam of light:

Earth does not belong to us - we belong to Earth.

We are joined to every particle of creation:

Earth does not belong to us - we belong to Earth.

We may know this, and yet -

**We confess our arrogance, ignorance, and greed
in how we treat Creation.**

(Silence for reflection)

We are joined forever to Creator's remarkable love
which brings us to a place of healing and action.

Through this love, we can live out these words:

Earth does not belong to us - we belong to Earth. Amen.

Ministry of Music: The Wonder of Life -by Scott Kearns

Responsive Reading: So Very Good Based on Genesis 1:1-2:3

Voice 1: Once upon a time, at the very beginning
Earth was a giant mess.

It was empty; it was shapeless, it was dark.

Until God's breath blew across the water
and everything started to change.

God said,

Voice 2: "Light!"

Voice 1: and there it was,
and it was

Voice 3: so very good.

Voice 1: And God said,

Voice 2: "Night!"

Voice 1: and there it was.

**Voice 3: And there was nighttime,
and there was daytime,
as God told the story of the world's first day.**

Voice 1: And God said,

Voice 2: "Sky!"

Voice 1: and there it was

**Voice 3: so very good. And there was nighttime,
and there was daytime,
as God told the story of the world's second day.**

Voice 2: And God said, "Earth!" and there it was.

And God said,

Voice 2: "Sea!"

Voice 1: and there it was.

Voice 3: And they were so very good.

Voice 1: And God said,

Voice 2: "Plants! And seeds! And fruit trees!"

Voice 1: and there they were.

**Voice 3: And they were so very good.
And there was nighttime,
and there was daytime,
as God told the story of the world's third day.**

Voice 1: And God said,

Voice 2: "Sun and moon and stars!"

Voice 1: and there they were.

**Voice 3: And they were so very good.
And there was nighttime,
and there was daytime,
as God told the story of the world's fourth day.**

Voice 1: And God said,

Voice 2: "Birds! Fish! Sea monsters! Whales! Hummingbirds!
Eagles! Birds and fish everywhere!"

Voice 3: And they were so very good.

Voice 1: So God blessed them and said,

Voice 2: "More life! More birds, more fish, more babies,
everywhere!"

**Voice 3: And there was nighttime,
and there was daytime,
as God told the story of the world's fifth day.**

Voice 1: And God said,

Voice 2: "Cows! And snakes! And camels! And dogs!"

Voice 1: Animal after animal – God just couldn't stop
because God saw that

Voice 3: it was so very good.

Voice 1: And God wanted more!
God said,

Voice 2: "Men and women and children!

People like us to take care of the fish and the birds and the
cows and snakes and the dogs and all the animals."

Voice 1: And God blessed them, saying,

Voice 2: "More life! More humans to care for the fish and the
birds and the animals everywhere throughout the earth.
More trees and fruits and plants, something for the animals
and humans to eat. More life for everything everywhere,
more life will still come from my breath."

Voice 3: And it was so very good.

**And there was nighttime,
and there was daytime,
as God told the story of the world's sixth day.**

Voice 1: God took a deep breath.

God saw that everything was finished.

And God relaxed.

And as God breathed out slowly

over all that new creation,

God blessed the day,

as a day just for rest,

**Voice 3: because rest was the story of the world's
seventh day. And it was so very good.**

Theme Conversation:

Promises:

Hymn: Roll Over the Ocean

Children's Prayer:

Dear God,

Help my lips to praise.

Help my hands to serve.

And help my heart to love. Amen.

Scripture: Romans 1:19-21

For what is knowable about God is plain and obvious to everyone; indeed, it is God who has made it obvious to them. Though invisible to the eye, God's eternal power and divinity have been seen since the creation of the universe, understood and clearly visible in all of nature. Humankind is, therefore, without excuse. For although they knew God, they didn't give God honour or praise and never even said, "Thank you." Instead, their reasoning became increasingly empty and inept, and their undiscerning hearts were darkened.

Message: And God Saw That It Was Good

Hymn: Soil of God, You and I

MV 174

Offering:

Offering Song: We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky (verse 1- MV 143)

**We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
for we are part of all that is
within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life
in ev'ry earthly nation.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

**Creator, we are showered with gifts from sunrise to sunset and all
through the night. We are humbly grateful. We offer now these
gifts with our hands and our hearts in the hope that they may be
used wisely for the blessing of all creation. Amen.**

Joys & Concerns:**Prayer Prelude:** Breathe on Me, Breath of God (vs 1,3) VU 382

**Breathe on me breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**

**Breathe on me, breath of God,
till I am wholly thine,
until this earthly part of me
glows with thy fire divine.**

Prayers of the People: beginning with - Living Earth's Wisdom
- Bruce Sanguin in *If Darwin Prayed*

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Miracle of Life (tune - Hymn to Joy-VU 232) Words by Scott Kearns

***Blessing/Sending Forth:** (by Annie Besant in Earth Prayers)

***Parting Song:** We Will Go with God MV 223

**We will go with God, my sisters!
We will go with God!
We will go with God, my brothers!
We will go with God!
On this day of great joy we will go with God.
On this day of great joy we will go with God.**

Prayer of the week:

Creator God, we enter into the Season of Creation with hope that you will show us the myriad ways creation worships you. The soil beneath our feet and all that bursts forth from it reveal your love. Teach us how to rest in solidarity with the web of life that holds us together with you. Refine our definition of humility and dominion so we may do what we were created to do - care for the earth and each other. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Elora
Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: West Plains, Burlington
Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Joan and John Cuming,
Karen Smillie, Joyce Keizerwaard

Counters: Karen Smillie, Kaillie Rawn