



\* Congregation please stand as you are able.

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Call to Worship:** *(based on Psalm 29)*

The voice of God is over the waters;

**over the mighty waters,**

**God speaks with creative power.**

The voice of God breaks the cedars;

**over the cedars, fire, wilderness, and forest,**

**God speaks with authority.**

Forever present, may God bless the people with strength and peace!

**May God bless us with strength and peace.**

Come, let us worship God together.

\***Hymn:** Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized

**VU 99**

**Prayer of Approach and Confession:**

Wonderful God, your promises are true.

**Open our hearts to receive  
your greatest gift of love today.**

As we hear your voice proclaim Jesus as your own,

**so let us know you claim us as your own, too.**

We so often forget that you are with us all the time.

**We imagine you in biblical scenes  
and forget to look for you in our everyday lives.**

Too often, we relegate you to church on Sunday

**and forget that your love is lived  
through our ordinary lives and activities each day.**

Forgive us, and remind us again

of our holiness as your beloved children.

**Fill our hearts with joy as we accept your gift of love. Amen.**

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	
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Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
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**Words of Affirmation:**

God's voice publically claimed Jesus saying:

"You are my own, my Beloved. On you my favour rests."

**We too are called by God.**

**God knows us, loves us, claims us and names us.**

Know that you are beloved and empowered by the source of all that is.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Ministry of Music:****Time for the Children:**

**Hymn:** I Am a Member of the Human Race

**I am a member of the human race and so (clap, clap) are you. (clap, clap)**

**I have responsibilities and rights and so (clap, clap) do you. (clap, clap)**

**If we know this and we show this and we grow together  
we can make this world a better place for ev'ry member of the  
human race,  
including you, (clap, clap, clap, clap) including me. (clap, clap)**

**I am a member of the family and so (clap, clap) are you. (clap, clap)**

**I have a value that's beyond compare and so (clap, clap) do you. (clap, clap)**

**If we know this and we show this and we grow together  
we can make this world a better place for ev'ry member of the  
human race,  
including you, (clap, clap, clap, clap) including me. (clap, clap)**

**Children's Prayer:**

**Dear God,**

**Help my lips to praise.**

**Help my hands to serve.**

**Help my heart to love.**

**Amen**

**Scripture:** Luke 3:15-17,21-22 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)*  
*(Jesus is baptized by John)*

The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying, "I am baptizing you in water, but someone is coming who is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not fit to untie! This One will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire. A winnowing-fan is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire."

When all the people were baptized, Jesus also came to be baptized. And while Jesus was praying, the skies opened and the Holy Spirit descended on the Anointed One in visible form, like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "You are my Own, my Beloved. On you my favour rests."

**Scripture:** Isaiah 43:1-7 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)*  
*(I have called you by name. You are mine)*

But now, Leah and Rachel and Jacob, hear the word of YHWH - the One who created you, the One who fashioned you, Israel: do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.

When you pass through the seas, I will be with you; when you pass over the rivers, you will not drown. Walk through fire, and you will not be singed; walk through flames and you will not be burned.

I am YHWH, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your deliverer. I give Egypt as ransom for you, Nubia and Seba in exchange for you. You are more precious to me than Assyria; you are honoured, and I love you. I will give people in exchange for you, whole nations in exchange for your life.

Have no fear, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east and gather them from the west. To the north I will say, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back! Bring my daughters and sons from afar, return them from the ends of the earth - everyone who is called by my Name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made!'

**Reader:** Allan Hons

**Scripture:** Acts 8:14-21 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)*  
*(Money cannot buy God's gift of Spirit)*

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down to

these people and prayed that they would receive the Holy Spirit. She had not yet come down upon any of them, since they had only been baptized in the name of Jesus. Upon arriving, the pair laid hands on the Samaritans and they received the Holy spirit.

When Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of hands by the apostles, he offered them money, saying, "Give me this power, too, so that anyone I lay hands on will receive the Holy spirit."

Peter replied, "May your money perish with you, for thinking that you can buy what God has given for nothing! You have no part or share in this ministry, for your heart isn't right before God.

**Message:** What money can't buy.

**\*Hymn:** I Have Called You by Your Name **MV 161**

**Offering:**

**\*Offering Hymn:** We Give You But Your Own **VU 542**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**Loving God, like the magi, we bring our gifts.  
We bring the work of our hands and hearts.  
We bring a portion of our material wealth.  
We pray that these gifts may be utilized  
in your work and multiplied by your grace. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns:**

**Prayer Prelude:** Spirit of the Living God **VU 376 vs 2**

**Spirit of the living God,  
move among us all;  
make us one in heart and mind,  
make us one in love:  
humble, caring, selfless, sharing.  
Spirit of the living God,  
fill our lives with love!**

**Prayers of the People:** *(beginning with a baptismal remembrance)*

Turning to the east, let us pray:

for children and youth, precious in God's sight,  
and reflections of the growing Christ child.

Renewed by the water of life

**may we raise them up in faith.**

*(Water is sprinkled)*

Turning to the south, let us pray:

for all creation, precious in God's sight,  
and a living reflection of new life in Christ.

Renewed by the water of life

**may we continue to work towards earth's renewal.**

*(Water is sprinkled)*

Turning to the west, let us pray:

for men and women, precious in God's sight,  
and reflections of God's widening embrace.

Renewed by the water of life

**may we seek and serve Christ in all peoples.**

*(Water is sprinkled)*

Turning to the north, let us pray:

for elders and those who have gone before us,  
precious in God's sight  
and reflections of Christ's patience and wisdom.

Renewed by the water of life

**may we continue to be God's story  
of unending love in both word and deed.**

*(Water is sprinkled)*

...our prayers continue....

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**\*Hymn:** God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing **VU 425** (tune 406)

**\*Blessing:**

Beloved of God,  
Go into this world that God loves.

**We go to bless it with our imagination;  
transform it with our courage;  
and renew it with our compassion.**

And may the Spirit's presence  
fill you with abundant hope and everlasting joy.

**Amen!**

**Parting Song:** May God's Sheltering Wings **MV 214**

**May God's sheltering wings,  
her gathering wings protect you.  
May God's nurturing arms,  
his cradling arms sustain you,  
and hold you in her love,  
and hold you in his love.** (Repeat)

**Postlude:**

**Prayer of the Week:**

Holy Spirit, open us to your possibilities and your promises. Help us hear,  
with fresh ears, the story of God's love in Jesus. May your voice, Holy  
Presence, speak to our hearts, dispel our fear, and call us by name.  
Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** The Door Youth Centre

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Mary Lloyd, Barb Gregory,  
Lorna Ziegler, Mark Andrews

**Counters:** Richard Wright and Phil Brown