

Melville United Church
Sunday, January 27, 2019
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree



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

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship: *(written by Richard Bott, Gathering ACE 2018-19, pg 46. Used with permission)*

Without you...

The body of Christ is incomplete.

Without me...

some gifts are lost.

Without her...

we may not have all we need.

Without him...

something is missing.

Without all of us...

to live justice and healing in the world...

wholeness is not possible.

We are not all the same.

But we are all needed.

Wanted.

Loved.

**In this time and place,
in all times and places.**

Thanks be to God! Let us worship together.

***Hymn:** We Are One

VU 402

Opening Prayer:

You, who are One, gather and send us all your gifts, that are many.

Work through each one of us. Remind us, O God, of your care for us and the care you seek us to exercise for one another. For with you and with one another, we are better together. Amen.

January 27, 2019

Prayer of Confession: *(written by Beth Johnston, Gathering, ACE 2018-19, pg.50. Used with permission).*

God of love and forgiveness;

no matter how hard we try,

we sometimes get it wrong.

We do not live up to our own expectations;

and we don't live up to yours.

Forgive us.

Renew us.

Restore us.

Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

Remember, you are the body of Christ and individually, members of it.

Your gifts are needed. Your love is needed by a world in pain.

But remember most of all - you are loved far more than you can ever know.

Thanks be to God!

Ministry of Music:

Time with the Younger Ones:

Hymn: I Can Feel You Near Me God

MV 48

Children's Prayer:

Dear God,

Help my lips to praise.

Help my hands to serve.

Help my heart to love.

Amen

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)*
(Ezra reads the Torah to the people)

All the people came together in the broad expanse before the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses which God had given to Israel.

On the first day of the seventh month, Ezra the scribe brought out the

Book of the Law before all the assembled people, women and men, and children old enough to understand the reading. Ezra read the book aloud from early morning till noon while facing the broad expanse before the Water Gate, in the presence of the women and men and children. All listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra, standing on the raised platform, opened the book in the presence of all the people. When he opened the book all stood up.

When Ezra blessed the Most High, the great God, all the people raised their hands with the response, "Amen, Amen"; then they bowed their heads and worshiped YHWH lying face down on the ground.

Reading from the Book of the Law, they interpreted it and gave it meaning so that the people understood it.

Then Nehemiah the governor and Ezra the priest and scribe, along with the Levites, instructed the people, saying to all of them, "This day is holy to the Most High, your God. Do not mourn. Do not weep" - for the people all had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

Nehemiah continued, "Go now and enjoy rich food and sweet wine, and be certain that you send a share to those who cannot provide for themselves, for this day is holy to YHWH. Let no one be sad, for YHWH's joy is your strength."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 19:7-14 *(James Taylor, Everyday Psalms)*
(Interdependence)

An underlying harmony,

a delicate equilibrium built on the value of every thing,
binds together past, present, and future.

There are no exceptions.

No one is above the universal law of interdependence.

Nothing stands alone.

Life dies and becomes new life.

Spirit and flesh are one.

My life is inextricably linked to yours,

and our common survival is tied to the trees and insects.

This is the beginning of wisdom.

It is better than wealth, more valuable than possessions.

Awareness of it will change you forever.

But we are too often deaf;

we close our ears to the voices of the winds and waves,

to the insights of the rocks and the plants.

God, keep us from thinking we know it all -

an assembly of facts does not equal truth.

Human minds cannot encompass eternity.

Keep us always open to wonder, to beauty,

and to mystery, oh greatest of mysteries.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(*You are the body of Christ and each one a part of it*)

The body is one, even though it has many parts; all the parts - many though they are - comprise a single body. And so it is with Christ. It was by one Spirit that all of us, whether we are Jews or Greeks, slaves or citizens, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit. And that Body is not one part; it is many.

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," does that make it any less a part of the body? If the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," would that make it any less a part of the body? If the body were all eye, what would happen to our hearing? If it were all ear, what would happen to our sense of smell? Instead of that, God put all the different parts into one body on purpose. If all the parts were alike, where would the body be?

They are, indeed, many different members but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," any more than the head can say to the feet, "I do not need you." And even those members of the body which seem less important are in fact indispensable. We honour the members we consider less honourable by clothing them with greater care, thus bestowing on the less presentable a propriety which the more presentable do not need. God has so constructed the body as to give greater honour to the lowly members, that there may be no dissension in the body, but that all the members may be concerned for one another. If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honoured, all the members share its joy.

You, then, are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it. Furthermore, God has set up in the church, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then miracle workers, healers, assistants, administrators and those who speak in tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles or have the gift of

healing? Do all speak in tongues, or do all have the gift of interpretation of tongues?

Set your hearts on the greater gifts.

Message: Better Together

***Hymn:** Spirit, Open My Heart

MV 79

Offering:

***Offering Hymn:** We Give You But Your Own

VU 542

**We give you but your own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is yours alone,
we give it gratefully.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

**We give thanks, Holy Presence,
for the diversity that we share
and for the love that binds us together.
Take these gifts, given in love,
that they may serve in drawing together
all creation in praise. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Spirit of the Living God

**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:

The Lord's Prayer:

***Hymn:** Blest Be the Tie That Binds **VU 602**

***Blessing:**

Go now into the world.

We go to share our individual gifts.

Go in love knowing you are never alone.

We go, knowing we are part of a caring community.

Go, knowing you are needed and valued just as you are.

Thanks be to God! 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:

Founder of the firmaments, Creator of the skies, and Giver of love, we offer praise for the ordered world created in wisdom and governed with natural laws. In love, we are offered the fruitfulness of creation, the guidance of wisdom, and the fullness of community.. Help us treasure these gifts. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: St. James Anglican Church, Fergus

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Bob Zirk, Mark Andrews,
 Vivian & Havey Andrews

Counters: Richard Wright and Phil Brown