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\* *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:**

The chorus of morning birdsong proclaims it;  
the grandeur of the mountains displays it.

**The presence of God!**

The laughter of playing children affirms it;  
the warmth of a mother and her baby reflects it.

**The presence of God!**

The relief of a refugee finding a country sighs it;  
the joy of the unemployed person finding a job, shouts it out loud.

**The presence of God!**

Come, people of God, let us worship together.

**\*Hymn:** God is Here

**VU 389**

**Opening Prayer:**

We praise you, O God, for the gift of creation

**and the surprise of re-creation.**

Open our eyes to see new things.

**Open our minds to think fresh thoughts.**

Open our communities to welcome new partners.

**Open our spirits to follow your Spirit.**

**Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession:**

We are often led to believe and behave  
as if we need no one other than ourselves.

**But then we hear Jesus' voice saying,**

**"love one another, just as I have loved you."**

**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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We become afraid to admit that our own well-being depends on others, including Mother Earth.

**But then we hear Jesus' voice saying,  
"love one another, just as I have loved you."**

We often believe and behave as if the only relationships that matter are those with people like us,

**But then your words come to us saying,  
"All are one in Christ Jesus."**

We accept exploitation of Creation and of people because we benefit.

**But then we hear Jesus' words saying to us,  
"whatever you do to the least of these you do to me."**

Forgive us, Holy Presence, for the ways we contribute to the isolation, separation, and destruction that plague us,

**Restore us to the deep and rich relatedness  
for which we were born. Amen.**

#### **Words of Affirmation:**

We are assured by the One who is our unity

**that we are given a new heaven and a renewed Earth.**

The vision awaits us to claim it as our own.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

#### **Time with the Younger Ones:**

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

#### **Scripture:** Revelation 21:1-6

Then I saw new heavens and a new earth. The former heavens and the former earth had passed away, and the sea existed no longer. I also saw a new Jerusalem, the holy city, coming down out of heaven from God, beautiful as a bride and groom on their wedding day.

And I heard a loud voice calling from the throne, "Look! God's Tabernacle is among humankind! God will live with them; they will be God's people, and God will be fully present among them. The Most High will wipe away every tear from their eyes. And death, mourning, crying and pain will be no more, for the old order has fallen."

The One who sat on the throne said, "Look! I'm making everything

new!" and added, "Write this, for what I am saying is trustworthy and true."

And that One continued, "It is finished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To those who are thirsty I will give drink freely from the spring of the water of life.

#### **Words to Inspire:** Dream work (*Bruce Sanguin, The Way of the Wind - an excerpt*)

Every night when we sleep, we leave our bodies and travel into a realm of creative imagination. In our dream body (astral body), we are not limited by matter, time, or space. We can travel through these dimensions freely. This practice is not so much about interpreting our dreams, as letting our dreams interpret our lives for us. Sometimes it is better to simply allow the images and narrative of the dream to live in us over a period of time.

After 3 years of taking my dreams seriously, I believe that dreams function to maintain health and wholeness by:

- Giving us a graphic depiction of the state of our soul
- Helping us to come to terms with our deepest fears
- Connecting us to higher realms
- Showing us what's going on below conscious awareness
- Enabling us to be more authentic (dreams don't lie)
- Opening up new possibilities
- Showing us our unintegrated shadow.

We all dream, many times a night. Carl Jung once said that an unexplored dream is like an unopened letter from a long lost friend. ...The simplest and most effective method of working with our dreams is to identify with all the characters and symbols. You created them, after all. You 'are' these characters. Enter into the character and allow that character to speak to you.

#### **Scripture:** Acts 11:1-18

The apostles and the community in Judea heard that Gentiles, too, had accepted the word of God. As a result, when Peter went up to Jerusalem, some of the Jewish believers took issue with him. "So you have been visiting the Gentiles and eating with them, have you?" they said.

Peter then explained the whole affair to them step by step from the beginning: "One day when I was in the town of Joppa, I fell into a trance while at prayer and had a vision of something like a big sheet being let

down from heaven by its four corners. This sheet came quite close to me. I watched it intently and saw in it all sorts of animals and wild beasts - everything possible that could walk, crawl or fly. Then I heard a voice that said to me, "Now, Peter, make your sacrifice and eat." I replied, 'I can't, my God. Nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth!' And a second time the voice spoke from heaven, 'Don't call profane what God has made clean.' This happened three times, then the sheet and what was in it was drawn up to heaven again.

"Just at that moment, three couriers stopped outside the house where we were staying; they had been sent from Caesarea to fetch me, and the Spirit told me to have no hesitation about returning with them. These six believers came with me as well, and we entered Cornelius' house. He told us he had seen an angel standing in the house who had said, 'Send messengers to Joppa and bring back Simon, known as Peter; he has a message for you that will save you and your entire household.'

"I had hardly begun to speak when the Holy Spirit came down on them in the same way she came on us in the beginning, and I remembered what Christ had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy spirit.' I realized then that God was giving them the same gift that had been given to us when we came to believe in our Saviour Jesus Christ. And who am I to stand in God's way?"

This account satisfied them, and they gave glory to God, saying, "God has granted the repentance that leads to life - even to Gentiles!"

**Message:** Imagine!

**Hymn:** I See a New Heaven

**VU 713**

**Offering:**

**Offering Hymn:** What Can I Do?

**MV 191**

**What can I do? What can I bring?**

**What can I say? What can I sing?**

**I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.**

**I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

(Repeat)

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**Giver of Life, we share what we have received. May these gifts reflect our praise and gratitude for the work of your spirit, that draws us ever deeper into the richness of relationship with each other, with the Earth and with you. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns:**

**Prayer Prelude:** God, Listen to Your Children Praying

**VU 400**

**God, listen to your children praying,**

**God, send your Spirit in this place;**

**God, listen to your children praying,**

**send us love, send us power, send us grace!**

**Prayers of the People:**

**Lord's Prayer:**

**\*Hymn:** How Firm a Foundation

**VU 660**

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Go to love others as Christ loves you

and to celebrate God's goodness with all of creation.

**We go surrounded by God's Spirit.**

The former things are no more;

God is making all things new.

God dwells among us even now.

**We go to help make God's dream come true.**

Go, knowing you do not go alone. Amen.

**\*Parting Song:** Melville Benediction

**Prayer of the week:**

God who loves Creation in all its rainbow diversity, speak to us who narrow, define, pigeon-hole, and exclude those who are not like us. May we view the world as you see it in all its strange beauty and wonderful diversity. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Alma United Church

**Western Ontario Waterways:** Wasaga Beach

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Mark Andrews, Chris Hopewell,  
Graeme Chalmers

**Counter:** Chris Hopewell and Phil Brown