



Melville United Church
Sunday, June 30, 2019
Canada Day/Multiculturalism Sunday



Melville United Church St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781 Team Ministry	
Minister of Worship, Pastoral Care & Outreach	Rev. Marion Loree
Faith Formation & Youth	Martha Duncan
Ministry 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, 519-843-3841

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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:
We are gathering the nations, relearning the languages;
all will gather in the presence of our glorious God. (Isaiah 66:18b)
From north and south, east and west, we are coming,
for all are called to be citizens of God's realm. (Luke 13:29)
Let us thank and praise God for our gifts of diversity!
Let us worship God from whom all these blessings flow!

***Hymn:** Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped **VU 221**

Opening Prayer:
All-inclusive God, you call us
to be in right relationship with one another.
You promise to be with us
wherever two or three are gathered.
Our country is made up of people
from many different places and cultures.
Open our hearts to truly seek
the blessings of diversity among us. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:
Creator, it isn't easy to live out our convictions.
Sometimes prejudice or fear about difference gets in our way.
If we have rushed in and ignored another's wisdom,
forgive us.

If we have acted in ways that limit the participation of others,
forgive us.

If we have closed our minds and excluded others,
forgive us.

Push us out of our comfort zone
 that we might greet you in the faces of strangers.
**Open our hearts and minds to the mystery
 and beauty of your diverse creation. Amen.**

Words of Affirmation:

Be assured that God, the very source and essence of our being, loves you and has a dream about how you can best flourish as part of this wondrous Creation.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Ministry of Music: Maple Leaf Rag - by Scott Joplin

Time with the Younger Ones:

Hymn: O Canada

VU 524

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-10 (*The Inclusive Bible, the First Egalitarian Translation*)
(Abram and Sarai leave their home)

YHWH said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people, and the home of your parents, and go to a place I will show you. I will make of you a great people. I will bless you and make your name so great that it will be used in blessings. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse those who curse you. And all the people on the face of the earth will be blessed through you."

Abram, who was 75 years old when he left Haran, began the journey as YHWH had instructed, and his nephew Lot went with them. Abram took Sarai his spouse, Lot, all their possessions, and all the dependents they acquired in Haran, and set out for Canaan.

When they arrived in Canaan, Abram and his family traveled through the land until they arrived at the sacred place at Shechem and came to the oak grove of Moreh. The Canaanites occupied the land at that time.

YHWH appeared to Abram and said, "I will give this land to your descendants." Abram built an altar where YHWH appeared to him.

Then they moved off toward the hill country east of Bethel and set up camp, with Bethel toward the sea and Ai to the east. Abram built an altar to YHWH and invoked the Name of YHWH.

After that they traveled in stages toward the Negev.

At this time there came a famine to the land. The famine was so severe that Sarai, Abram, and Lot went down to Egypt to live a while.

Words to Inspire: Don't Call Me a Stranger: The Cry Of a Migrant
(National Council of Churches, India - Wisdom is Calling)

Don't call me a stranger:
 the language I speak sounds different
 but the feelings it expresses are the same.

Don't call me a stranger:
 I need to communicate,
 specially when language is not understood.

Don't call me a stranger:
 I need to be together,
 specially when loneliness cools my heart.

Don't call me a stranger:
 I need a family because mine I've
 left to work for yours.

Don't call me a stranger:
 the soil we step on is the same
 but mine is not 'the promised land'.

Don't call me a stranger:
 the colour of my passport is different
 but the colour of our blood is the same.

Don't call me a stranger:
 I toil and struggle in your land
 and the sweat of our brows is the same.

Don't call me a stranger:
 borders, we created them
 and the separation that results is the same.

Don't call me a stranger:
I am just your friend
but you do not know yet.

Don't call me a stranger:
we cry for justice and peace in different ways
but our goal is the same.

Don't call me a stranger:
yes! I am a migrant
but our God is the same.

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55 (*The Inclusive Bible, the First Egalitarian Translation*)
(*Song of Mary, The Magnificat*)

Mary said: "My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, my saviour. For you have looked with favour upon your lowly servant, and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed.

For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name. Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you. You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places.

You have filled the hungry with good things, while you have sent the rich away empty. You have come to the aid of Israel your servant, mindful of your mercy - the promise you made to our ancestors - to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever."

Message: A Migrant's Story -Rev. Theresa Burnett-Cole

Hymn: When I Needed a Neighbour **VU 600**

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:**

God of All, we raise our voices united in a vision of your peaceable kin-dom. Take our offering of time, talent, and finances and use them to break down the walls that keep us from loving each other. Amen.

Prayer Prelude: Send Your Holy spirit **VU 370**

**Send your Holy spirit
on our gathered people,
merciful and loving God,
hear us, as we pray.**
(Repeat)

Prayers of the People:

...We pray saying...:

Response: O God, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer:

***Hymn:** Draw the Circle Wide **MV 145**

***Blessing:**

Friends...

...let the people say!

Amen!

Parting Song: Dance With the Spirit **MV 156**

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
Walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**
(Repeat)

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

Creating God, as we mark another anniversary of Confederation we remember and give thanks for all we enjoy in this great land. We commit ourselves anew to the work of justice, healing, and reconciliation for all. Together we dream about the country that we hope to become, a country where all people enjoy the freedom be their best selves. Amen.

Partners in Prayer Bethel Baptist Church, Fergus

Western Ontario Waterways: Dundalk

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Lynne and David Lamb,
Mark Andrews

Counter: David Gohn and Lynne Lamb