

Welcome to Melville United Church
 March 24, 2013 - Palm Sunday - Communion

MINISTERS: The People of the Congregation

*You are invited to stand in body and/or in spirit.

Our Mission

We seek, we pray, we act knowing that Jesus is amongst us.

Our Vision

Knowing we are not alone on our spiritual journeys, Melville United Church seeks to be an open, compassionate and inclusive Christian community; honouring and serving the living Christ in all that we do.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

The Life and Work of the Church and Community.

Welcome: (Eleanore and Catie Johnston)

PRELUDE: Improvisation

Gathering Meditation.

Today is the sixth Sunday of Lent. Lent is a time to think about the things that block us from following God's way of loving and caring for this world and one another.

So we ask:

Not what we can take	but what we can give
Not what we can possess	but what we can share
Not what we can acquire	but what we can contribute
Not what we can attain	But what we can achieve
Not what we can earn	But what we can spend
Not what we can secure.	But what we can give up.

This is how we will travel in Lent.

Lenten candles are lit

Gathering Music: MV 85 Take, O Take Me As I Am

***Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
 set your seal upon my heart and live in me.***

***Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
 set your seal upon my heart and live in me.***

Call to worship (sung)

One: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the way of the Lord
Children: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the way of the Lord

**All: Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the way of the Lord
Prepare ye the way of the Lord, prepare ye the way of the Lord**

OPENING SONG: Days of Elijah

Opening Prayer

O God, our Creator, Source of life and love,
we come here this Palm Sunday
to remember your way of love, justice and peace.
We celebrate and shout "Hosanna!"
with joy and excitement as people did so long ago.

Prayer of Reminder (unison)

**We come also with somber hearts,
for we know the celebration was short-lived.
We remember how Jesus suffered in the days
after he entered Jerusalem.
We remember how Jesus' followers hid in fear,
abandoning his message of God's love.
And we know that too often we are still victims of this fear.
Be with us as we hear the story again
and help us to be faithful to your way, gracious God. Amen.**

Assurance of God's Grace

As we let go of what hurts and separates us, our gracious and forgiving
God makes a new way of being in community possible.
God is with us!

Let us travel in peace, in new life, in hope, and in promise. Amen.

One: May peace be with you

All: And also with you.

One; Please greet those around you with the peace of Christ

WE APPROACH GOD

Theme Conversation - Letting go of Fear

SONG: VU 123 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (vs. 1)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

Reader: Jensen Pletch

SONG VU 123 Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (vs 2,3)

Choir Anthem: I am the Vine - Mark Patterson

Palm Sunday Skit

(Megan Miner, Catie Johnston, Liam Ogilvie, Sarah Schmidt, Megan Smith)

SONG: VU 124 He Came Riding on a Donkey

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offertory Invitation

As we gather this day, in nervous anticipation for what is to come, we each
bring what we can to welcome God's love into our midst. In doing so, let
us also remember the gifts the crowd brought to welcome Jesus into
Jerusalem - their cloaks, some palm branches, and loud "Hosannas".

Offertory Response: VU 538 For the Gift of Creation

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

Offertory Prayer (unison)

**Loving and gracious God, bless these gifts we bring, our treasure and
this food, that all might be used to build your way of love in our
world. Bless us as we use them, that we might be bearers of your
love. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns

SONG: VU 469 We Gather Here

Communion (insert)

Act of Letting Go

Today we extinguish our last Lenten candle. This candle represents fear. As this candle is blown out, let us pray in silence for God to remove the fear within us and in our world that stops us from living fully in God's grace. *Pause for silence*

Knowing that God accepts us for who we are, and loves us into who we can be, let us join together our closing song.

CLOSING SONG: VU 120 O Jesus, I Have Promised

Sending and Blessing

We wait on the edge:

the edge of fear, the edge of belief,
the edge of grief, the edge of renewal.

As we wait, may we be fully aware of God,
who waits here with us,
coaxing us to step forward in love and in courage.

Choral Response: Go Now in Peace Don Besig & Nancy Price

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there within, around, above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen, Amen, Amen

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POSTLUDE: March in F - G. F. Handel

OUR WORSHIP IS OVER - OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

Prayers used in today's service may be from "Seasons of the Spirit" or "Gathering" Magazine

Partners in Prayer: Bethel Mennonite Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: New Credit-Delaware

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mary Hume, Graeme Chalmers
Isobel Glennie, Peggie Dickie

Counters: Bob Foster (C), Dorothy Collin
George Collin

ANNOUNCEMENTS March 24, 2013

If you are a guest today, please know you are most welcome! Please sign our Guest Book at the back of the church or in the entranceway.

The Spirituality Circle is this Mon., Mar. 25 at 10 a.m. in the parlour.

Unit Faith meets on Mon. Mar 25 at 2:00 p.m. in the parlour.

Unit Grace meets on Tues. Mar. 26 at 2:00 p.m. in the parlour. Guest speaker is Lorna Bevcar speaking about her recent trip.

Maundy Thurs. - Pot Luck Supper at 5:30 followed by the Seder Service - Heritage Hall. Join us in the "Upper Room." There is food/manna aplenty for our physical and spiritual hungers!

Good Friday Service - come between 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. for coffee, hot cross buns and Fellowship in the parlour. This will be followed by the Good Friday Service at 10:30 in the Sanctuary.

Easter Sunday Service is at 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. It is a "Celebration of the Resurrection".

Easter Cards are ready for people to take today to our shut ins. Please consider taking one or more cards and having an Easter visit with one of these folks. Thank you from the Pastoral Care Team.

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Tower Street Door: Just a reminder: due to the bridge construction and since the sidewalk has been closed, please avoid using the door to Tower Street, except as an emergency exit. Thank you

In case of emergency alarm all children and youth will be directed to exit via the fire escape from the Upper Auditorium directly to the parking lot. We ask that in such an event, all parents please make their way directly to the parking lot to meet their children.

Our Lenten Study continues on Tuesday at 12 noon. We will begin by sharing soup. The study will begin at 12:30 p.m. The study books "Diving Deeply". All are welcome.

Baptism Sunday is April 28th. Please speak to Val if you are interested.

Melville United Book Group "I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity" by Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish. Copies available in the library.

Waterloo Presbyterial Annual Gathering on Mon. Apr. 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Forest Hill United Church in Kitchener. Cost is \$10 from your U.C.W. President or Margot at 519-742-6047

A Big Thank You to Rowe Electric and the Property committee for the wonderful job of the electrical update. It was appreciated on Saturday night to see the extra plugs for the coffee urns and and roasters. It makes life alot easier. Thanks, Bev.

Thank you everyone who supported our efforts in February with small financial donations for margarine purchases for the food bank. A total of \$235 was forwarded to the food bank. For the month of March we have been asked to collect drinking boxes and pudding cups. Melville is continuing to make a difference with our help of the food bank. Your support is truly appreciated, Mission and Outreach Committee.

Spring Garage Sale coming up. Please save your items from your spring cleaning for it. For info call Lorna at 5190787-0570.

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Looking for "extras" to play characters in a Global Village. April 13th from 1- 4 p.m. Characters will help create a fantasy world for youth from the area to explore global issues - lots of guidance provided. If interested in doing a little acting, exploring global issues, or just spending some time with a great group of youth, please email jen: youthleader@melvilleunited.com.

There are meat pies for sale for \$4/each. Please contact Bev Anticknap at 519-843-2491.

"PSSSST! Who is that?"

"I don't remember his name."

Wouldn't it be nice if more people would wear their name buttons? Please remember to wear yours if you have one. If you need a new name button, please ask Ralph Rainford or call the church office.

Drivers needed. The Pastoral Care Team would like to expand our ministry by offering rides for people who want to get to church or other important events and can't drive themselves. We also need someone who would co-ordinate this ministry. The co-ordinator would take phone calls or emails from those requesting a ride and would keep a list of those who are willing. Please contact any member of the Pastoral Care Team or call the church office.

Please bring your Zehrs tapes to the church. They will be given to The Door who can still redeem them. You can put them in the box out by the elevator door lobby.

Bulletins and Updates: If you want to be on the email list to receive weekly bulletins or other updates, please contact Gerri at the church office. Also, remember that the bulletins and calendar events are posted on our website, www.melvilleunited.com.

Irish Stew results: With so many other dinners in the community, we served approximately 100 people and we made \$750.00 after expenses. Thank you to all those who helped and also those who supported Melville.

With the adoption of Melville's vision statement at the annual meeting, we are now ready to form a Joint Needs Assessment Committee (JNAC).

Yaay!!! The purpose of the JNAC is to consider and review the ministry and mission of our pastoral charge and our relationship with the community we serve. The JNAC then uses the information to identify the ministry personnel needs of Melville.

This committee's main functions will be to complete a survey of the congregation, assess the responses, design the ministry model for Melville, prepare a job description and arrange to have the vacancy posted. This work will be taking place in a short timespan; April, May and June.

This committee will consist of 7 members from Melville plus 1 or 2 Presbytery Reps. Some members of the Ministry Transition Team will be part of this committee. If you would like more information about serving on the committee, or are interested in serving, please contact: Jane O'Leary or Graeme Chalmers

Sunday, April 7th is Mission and Service Sunday.

Desmund Jager Parsons will be our guest speaker.

Desmund will also offer a short workshop after the service during a hot dog luncheon with proceeds going to the Mission and Service Fund. Here is a short bio about Desmond.

Desmond Jagger-Parsons (Rev.) is the Minister of Outreach and Christian Development at Trinity-Kitchener. In 2005, he served as short-term (3 months) overseas personnel with the United Church of Canada, in the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) www.eappi.org While there he was part of a group of 20 from 8 countries, 11 denominations and 1 Muslim whose work it was to accompany Palestinians and Israeli peace activists who were participating in non-violent resistance to the Israeli Occupation and the violence it generates. In 2007 Desmond worked as the Middle East Program Coordinator for KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives. www.kairoscanada.org Desmond has also served on the Coordinating Committee for the United Network for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel www.unjppi.org Desmond has also served congregations as a student in Toronto and Saskatchewan. Before entering ministry, Desmond practised law in Newfoundland, from whence he hails.

Melville United Church

St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781

Team Ministry

Interim Minister:	Valerie Pitt
Youth Ministry Leader:	Jennifer Auger
Director of Music:	Matthias Schmidt
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Ralph Rainford
Pastoral Care:	Millie Cumming, Elizabeth Stinson
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

In Fall 2012, the council of Melville United Church agreed to become a **Child Honouring Community**. With religious & spiritual leaders from around the world, including former United Church Moderator Bill Phipps, we make the following commitment in honour of children:

We hereby make a new promise
to the young of our world

•

With utmost compassion
we urge an end to
all forms of maltreatment
and violence against children

•

We uphold the sanctity of children
We respect their personhood
We affirm their inherent dignity
and their right to peace
love and security

Please visit www.childhonouring.org to learn more about the child honouring movement.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Mar 25 to Sun. Mar. 31, 2013

Mon. 25	2:00	Unit Faith	Parlour
Tues. 26	9:00	Quilting	Heritage Hall
	11:45	Soup and Lenten Study	Parlour
	2:00	Unit Grace	Parlour
Thurs. 28	7:00	Maundy Thursday - Seder Supper	Heritage Hall
Fri. 29	9:30 - 10:30	Coffee/ Hot Cross Buns/ Fellowship	Parlour
	10.30	Good Friday Service	Sanctuary
Sun. 31	9:30	Choir	Choir Room
	10.30	Easter Sunday Service	Sanctuary