

Melville United Church
February 16, 2014
6th after Epiphany



** Congregation please rise as you are able.*
Bold print invites congregational response.

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

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE: Improvisation

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

Happy are you who are guided by God, who keep the commandments, and seek with your whole hearts.

Happy are we for God is steadfast and we feel steadier in God's way.

Happy are you when you cast off shame and let your hearts bear God's love openly.

**We praise God with upright hearts, moulded in love,
taught by compassion and sustained by the Spirit.**

Come, people of God, let us praise the Creator with love and happiness.

***Hymn: VU 835** Praise to the Lord (*Psalm 113*)

Opening Prayer (unison)

Creator God, we thank you for creating order out of chaos.

Redeemer God, we thank you for loving what you created enough

Melville United Church

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

Team Ministry

Minister:	Rev. Marion Loree
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.
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to keep introducing change. Sustainer God, we thank you for loving our failures enough to challenge us to keep trying. Eternal One, we praise you for the love that is never bound, bored, or broken but finds life in our living as we find ourselves alive in love. Amen.

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

Forgive us, O God of Moses, O Abba of Christ, for the times we ignore the choices you set before us, the choices which enable us to follow your ways. Forgive us for the times we seek the easy way instead of your way. Help us to embrace your commandments. Melt our hearts with love. Give us the courage to make the choices set before us and to make them in love. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

For God so loved the world,
God gave earth to heaven,
 dry land to the waters,
humankind to the garden,
 descendants to Abraham,
rainbows to the ark,
 a new covenant to Israel,
commandments to Moses,
 a new place to the Israelites,
and Jesus the Christ to the world.
 And God so loves you, too. Give thanks and be glad!
Thanks be to God! Amen!

Chorus: MV 50 Alleluia (Duncan)

Theme Conversation:

Jen Auger

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Hymn: VU 585 Jesus Bids Us Shine

Ministry of Music: Stand by Me - T. Kendzia

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:21-30
 (God's laws are more than rules)

Responsive Reading: Psalm 119:1-9
(In good company - a paraphrase by James Taylor - Everyday Psalms)

How fortunate are those who have not fouled up their lives!

They can hold their heads high in God's presence.

They are single-minded in pursuing God's way;

They are not tempted to turn aside.

They try not to harm anyone;

they follow the Lord's footsteps,

for God has shown us the way.

God, help me to follow you faithfully.

Let me keep my eyes fixed on your example,
 so that I do not disgrace myself;

then my feet will not stumble,

and my stride will not slacken.

I can come before you with a clean conscience.

I would like to walk with you, God;

please walk with me.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church

All: Thanks be to God.

Reader: Liam Ogilvie

Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20 -
(The Inclusive Bible - the First Egalitarian Translation)
 (I set before you life and death; choose life)

Today I have set before you life and success, or death and disaster. For today I command you to love YHWH, your God, to follow God's ways and keep the commandments, the laws and the customs. If you do, you will live and increase, and YHWH, your God, will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your hearts stray and you

do not listen to me, if you let yourself be drawn into the worship of other gods, and serve them, I tell you today, you will not survive. You will not live long in the land which you are now crossing the Jordan to enter and occupy.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live, by loving YHWH, your God, by obeying God's voice and by clinging to YHWH. For that will mean life for you, a long life in the land which God swore to give to your descendants Sarah and Abraham, Rebecca and Isaac, and Leah and Rachel and Jacob.

Message/Reflection: "CHOICES"

Rev. Marion Loree

***Hymn:** MV 178 Who is My Mother

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

OFFERING

Offertory Hymn: MV 191 What can I do?

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 (unison)

Source of Life, in you we live and move and have our being. Without your life-giving presence we would not be. And so we dedicate our lives and these gifts to you, dear God, whose love teaches us abundance and belonging. May these offerings be used to bring life and healing to those who need it most and may our lives reflect the love and wonder of your grace. Amen.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayer Prelude: MV82 Bathe Me in Your Light (vs1)

Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;

let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.

**Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.**

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn: VU 333** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

(Bill Steadman)

Go forward into life,

living with a daring yet caring faith,

caring with a strong yet gentle heart,

serving with a clear yet sensitive purpose.

Go from this place into a world of opportunity,

and as you go, may the peace of Christ embrace you, the love of God

support you, and the presence of the Holy Spirit encourage you, this

day and always.

Let the people say...

Amen!

*Choral Closing: Melville Benediction

Let's go out from here and take our place,

Respect creation, sharing all God's grace.

Treasure the past and things we have done,

Open our minds to new things yet to come.

God will be with us within, around, above,

Bless all our doings. Let us go and love!

Bless all our doings. Let us go and love!

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Prayer of the Week: Explorer of our hearts, discerner of our souls, we invite you into the depths of our struggles. We open the locked doors. With words of love and the boldness of truth, we ask you to knock on the hardest places in our hearts and to soften them so that we may love you and love our neighbours. Amen.

OUR WORSHIP ENDS - OUR SERVICE BEGINS

Postlude: Prelude in F - D. Buxtehude

Partners in Prayer: Elora Road Christian Fellowship

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Knox, Ayr

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Bob Zirk, Barb Lynden
Linda and Norm Porritt

Counters: Mary Lloyd (C), Hugh Mahoney
Dorothy Collin

ANNOUNCEMENTS Feb. 16, 2014

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, welcome! Please sign our Guest Book at the back of the church or in the entranceway.

Our sympathies are extended to Helen Thompson and family on the loss of her brother, David Vrooman who passed this past week.

The Annual Report is at the back of the church. There is a limited number so if you pick one up, please bring it with you to the Annual Meeting on Feb. 23rd after the service.

Come and celebrate 2013 at Melville's Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 23 in the Fellowship Hall after the worship service. Lunch will be provided as well as a programme for the children. The Finance Ministry Team will present the budget for 2014. The Stewardship Ministry is looking for members to fill vacancies on the various Ministry Teams. Prayerfully consider where your talents can be best used. Mark your calendar and plan to join us.

Rev. Marion will be in her office at the church on Tuesday and Friday mornings as time permits. If you need to see her you can drop in at those times or call her to arrange a different time. Telephone messages can be left on her confidential voice-mail anytime.

Shrove Tuesday, pancake supper will be held on Tuesday, March 4th in the Fellowship Hall from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm. Please mark you calendar and plan to join us. Freewill Offering and All You Can Eat! If you would like to help, please contact Ralph Rainford.

Musical at Melville. Spring will come and as in the past years we are planning our own - original - Musical production: THE WALL. This is planned for the Sunday after Easter, April 27th with rehearsing starting in February. We need Children for the Choir and Actors (non-singing parts) If you or you child/ren are interested please contact Matthias Schmidt at (519) 836-9720 or matsch@rogers.com

The 5 Love Languages of Children. This 3-session workshop for parents, grandparents and caregivers will be held here at Melville UC on the 1st Wednesdays of Feb., Mar., and Apr., from 7-8:30p.m. Facilitators are Heather Halls and Shawna Dunsmore. There is no cost, but please RSVP to Jen so we can prepare materials for you.

Wii Bowl for Kids - Church Challenge. It is that time of year! Please join us in supporting Big Brothers Big Sisters, Feb. 21 6-8 p.m. Wii Bowling, pizza and prizes! For all ages!! Pledge sheets available, or \$15/person at the door.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Feb. 17 - Sun. Feb. 23, 2014

Tues. 18	9:00	Quilting	Parlour
Thurs. 20	7:00	Choir	Parlour
Fri. 21	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	11:00	Meditation	Library
	5:00	Wii Bowl	Fellowship Hall
Sun. 23	11:00	Sunday Service	Sanctuary
		After Service Annual Meeting	Fellowship Hall