

Melville United Church
Sunday, March 30, 2014
4th Sunday of Lent

* Congregation please stand as you are able.

Bold print invites congregational response.

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude: Improvisation

Sharing the Light

Chorus: I Praise You, O God MV 61 (repeat)

I praise you, O God, with all of my heart.

With all the earth I will sing your praises.

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Call to Worship: O Antiphon for Spring (*Joyce Rupp-The Circle of Life*-pg 81)

O spring rising out of winter's arms

Come! Come melt what is frozen in us.

Open the buds of our longing with your gentle breezes.

Soften the hard earth of our hearts with your rains.

Breathe warmth upon the cold places in us.

O come!

Hymn: Here I Am to Worship

Opening Prayer: Carrying Spring in My Heart

(Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr- *The Circle of Life* -pg 103)

East

Great Spirit of the East, you are dreaming me,

singing me from the stars,

laughing in dawn's sunbeams,

calling me from little green leaves.

Dance your vision in my bones.

Birth your love in my being.

Surprise me with the taste of joy

and teach me the sounds of hope.

Opening Prayer: Carrying Spring in My Heart(Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr- *The Circle of Life* -pg 103)South

Great Spirit of the South, I lift up my face toward your light,

I unite my heart with your love.

Spring is promising me new life.

My fruitful times will be restored.

The emptiness of winter days

will be left far behind me.

Receive my gratitude.

Touch my open heart and fill it.West

Great Spirit of the West, even in springtime,

surrender is required,

The yielding soil is broken open and readied

for the garden to receive the seed.

My springtime heart turns toward you

to receive the teachings you offer.

Give clarity to my decisions and actions

so I can release what keeps me from growing.

May every yielding of my strong will

be a graceful letting go so new life can stir.North

Great Spirit of the North, light returns in abundance as spring appears.

Come with your strong rays of hope.

Come with your whispering winds of rain.

Send courage to accept the inevitable pain

that is a part of the birthing process.

May I lean into your strong embrace

as the first signs of revitalization

grow stronger in me every day.***Hymn:** As Comes the Breath of Spring - VU 373**Listening to Spring**(by Macrina Wiederkehr, *The Circle of Life*, Pg 90)
*At the sound of the chime please respond...***I am listening.****Hymn:** Create In Me a Clean Heart**Theme Conversation:****Ministry of Music:**

G. Young - God is My Shepherd

Responsive Reading: Psalm 95 (James Taylor - *Everyday Psalms* -pg 113)
(Unity with Creation)

Come and climb up to the top of the rock;

stand on top, and stretch your arms out to the sky.

Reach out to the holiness that wraps its breath around you.

In grateful silence, soak up the shining light of life.

God is the rock upon which we live;

all the earth is God's.

From ocean abyss to mountain pinnacle,

from polar ice field to tropical rain forest,

God lives in every subtle link of life.

Bow your head before the wonder of it all;

feel the strength of the rock rise through your feet.

We are not alone;

we are one in God.

Lichens and trees, ants and people -**all are held in the palm of God's hand.**

Do no isolate yourself from God's creation.

Do not consider your concerns first.

You will cut yourself off from God who created you;

you will think of yourself as God.

Your struggles will lead you farther astray;

you will sink farther into a morass of your own making.

In your loneliness, you will begin to believe that there is no God;

you will never know the peace that passes understanding.

Reader: Edith Hons

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-5 (Hope in God does not disappoint)

To Be a Flower (Written by Jan Thornington. Gathering, Lent/Easter 2014, pg 65. Used with permission.)

Hymn: In the Bulb There is a Flower - **VU 703**

Celebration of Spring: (Joyce Rupp - *Circle of Life* -pg 99)

A Commitment to Hope (Joyce Rupp - *Circle of Life* - pg 101)

A Blessing of Hope (Joyce Rupp - *The Circle of Life* -Pg 102)

***Hymn:** The Spring Has Come - **VU 187**

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:**

Liberating God, we offer you all that we are and shall be. Open our eyes and our hearts to recognize you in each person we meet. May we have courage to listen, courage to hear, and courage to act. Bless us and bless these gifts to your service. Amen

Prayer Prelude: Be Still and Know (sing 3 times) MV 77
 Be still and know that I am God.
 Be still and know that I am God.

Springtime Prayer: (Joyce Rupp -*Prayers to Sophia* -pg 98)

Prayer of Jesus: (A Paraphrase - VU 916)

***Hymn:** This Is God's Wondrous World - **VU 296**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

We journey now out of winter and into spring.
 Let us enter into the amazing power
 and vitality of springtime with gratitude and awe.

Winter is past! Spring has come!

Great Miracle of greening and growth,
We turn our hearts toward your light
as you resurrect our dormant gifts.
We turn our hearts toward your warmth
as you draw us faithfully into fuller growth.

Go now knowing God goes with you.

Amen.

***Parting Song:** Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every 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 around, within, above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen. Amen. Amen.

Prayer of the Week:

Creating Spirit, your love is like the breath of spring in our lives. Open us to the new life that flows in and around us. Let hope live in us as we move and live into this season of new growth and resurrection. Amen.

Postlude: . F. Haendel - Sarabande

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Partners in Prayer: Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Munn's, Oakville

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Lorna Bevcar, Peggie Dickie,
Joan and John Cuming

Counters: Gary O'Leary (C), Jane O'Leary
John Duncan

