

April 6, 2014

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**Melville United Church  
Sunday, April 6, 2014  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

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*\* Congregation please stand as you are able.*

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Prelude:** C. I. Debussy - Prelude # 8

**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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**With all the earth I will sing your praises.**

*All Prayers are from Seasons of the Spirit*

**Call to Worship:**

*(Excerpts of Psalm 19:1-2 and Matthew 6:24-33, NRSV)*

The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims [God's] handiwork.

**Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns,  
and yet your heavenly [Parent] feeds them.**

Day to day pours forth speech, and night declares knowledge.

**Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow;  
they neither toil nor spin,**

**yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory  
was not clothed like one of these.**

But strive first for the kingdom of God,  
and [God's] righteousness,  
and all these things will be given to you as well.

**\*Hymn:** VU 299 Teach Me God to Wonder

**Opening Prayer:**

Let us gather to call ourselves into mindfulness of the sacred gift of time:  
worship time and Sabbath time.

**O Spirit, you swept through the ages:  
be among us now  
to fill us with radical amazement at the wonder of creation and creativity.  
Call to us that we may hear your voice in beauty,  
in witness, in song, and in prayer,  
and respond with all that we have to offer:  
body, mind, soul, and spirit.  
Whisper to us when we doubt your goodness  
and despair of hope  
in a world fraught with signs of destruction,  
that we may yet hear your still small voice. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession:

**Magnificent God,  
when we think of awe,  
our mind stumbles.  
We are too busy for awe.  
We know too much to be in awe.  
We are too jaded for awe.  
We ignore the spiritual gift of awe.  
We feel awe, yes, before a mountain,  
a sparkling lake,  
a hummingbird.  
We do not feel awe before the blessings of every day.  
(a moment for silent confession)  
Forgive us, Magnificent One.  
Help us to experience awe this week  
in washing dishes,  
in the pesky backyard squirrel,  
in our office colleagues and challenges,  
in an evening stroll.  
For we would be deeply faithful to you. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Know that the ground of all being, from which all beauty,  
creation, and wisdom arise,  
is the ground of your being.

Let your fears and anxious worries cease;  
turn and see the beauty and goodness from which you are formed,  
knowing that just to be, is a gift. Amen.

**Hymn:** Humble Thyself (Band Song)

**Theme Conversation:**

**Readings:**

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Psalm 19 (read with refrain in VU)

Matthew 6:25-34

Reader:

**Message:** "PAINTING THE STARS"

**\*Hymn:** MV 10 Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

**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:**

**Miraculous God, we give thanks that you have provided enough for all. In this season of sharing, may we learn to live with less, so that these gifts, and those given through PAR, may grow even greater in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Prayer of the People

Lord's Prayer

**\*Hymn:** VU 596 Come and Bless Us Lord

**\*Benediction:**

\*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:** Improvisation

Partners in Prayer: St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Elora

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Port Dover - Wodehouse

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**

Isabel Weaver Elizabeth

Stintson, Bob Zirk, Virginia Ingleby

**Counters:**

Karen Smillie, Patty Foster

Dorothy Collin