

Melville United Church  
Sunday, July 27, 2014  
7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**  
**Sharing the Light**

**Call to Worship:**

Come into the presence of God.  
Come to focus on holy things.  
Come and be renewed.  
Come to be encouraged.  
Come and simply be in the presence of God.

**In the presence of God, we come,  
humbly, respectfully, gladly, openly.**

**In the presence of God, we come as we are,  
trusting that we are welcome here.**

Come, let us seek communion in Spirit together.

**\*Hymn:** Sing Praise to All (alt words-gretta vosper) **VU 220**

**Sing praise to all that has offered us life and sustains us -  
All that has opened our hearts to the love borne within us:  
Family and friends, beauty we see without end -  
Gifts that our lives lay before us.**

**Sing praise to all that has opened our minds to new vistas -  
All that has called us to seek out new truths through the ages:  
Vision and word, music that sought to be heard  
These are the gifts that will mold us.**

**Sing praise to minds that will fashion our bold new tomorrows -  
Yesterday's wisdom released from its dogma and credos.  
Evermore free, to live out what we believe  
Walking the path that life hallows.**

**Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.  
All that have life and breath join you, their notes sweetly blending.  
God is your light! Soul, ever keep this in sight:  
amen, amen never ending.**

**Opening Prayer:**

Gracious God, Gentle Spirit, we have come to worship today with all of who we are. Some of us come with uncertainty about our relationship with you. Some of us come filled with joy and peace, feeling your presence. Some of us come thinking of past hurts and broken promises in our lives. Some of us come with the feeling that all will be well.

All of us come knowing that somehow a connection with Spirit enhances our lives and gives us what we need to live each day fully. Open us to your wisdom as we pray and sing and learn together. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession:**

Creating Spirit, we are people of good intentions. We have good intentions to love one another; good intentions to be an authentic community together, to honour our words and promises, and to always honour you.

We confess that we have not always lived up to our good intentions.

**We are not perfect people and we have broken promises. Forgive us, Holy Presence, for the ways in which we have failed one another, and the ways in which we have failed you. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:**

Hear the good news: we are forgiven again and again. We have second chances, and third chances and fourth chances.... to keep on trying to do our best - and to live up to our good intentions.

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**Chorus:** I Praise You, O God MV 61  
**I praise you, O God, with all of my heart.**  
**With all the earth I will sing your praises.**

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**Scripture Story:** Genesis 29:15-28  
 (Jacob marries Leah and Rachel)

**Reflection:** A Lesson in Patience

**Hymn:** Take Time to Be Holy VU 672

**Scripture Reading:** Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**Reflection:** Mustard seeds, yeast and treasure

**Hymn:** It Only takes a Spark VU 289

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 8:26-39

**Reflection:** Sighs too deep for Words

**Hymn:** Precious Lord, Take My Hand VU 670

**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:**

**Giving and Gracious Spirit, you have shown us what it means to give. You have showered us with gifts of love, of grace, and of life itself. Now, with gratitude, we offer you back our humble gifts and we offer you our whole selves. Some of our gifts are of time, some are of spirit, and some are of finances. We pray that all of these will be blessed and used to continue your ministry in this community and the world. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns:**

**Prayer prelude:** Mother and God VU 280  
**Mother and God, to you we sing;**  
**wide is your womb, warm is your wing.**  
**In you we live, move and are fed**  
**sweet, flowing milk, life giving bread.**  
**Mother and God, to you we bring**

**all broken hearts, all broken wings.**

**Prayers of the People:**

Dear God of Life, when we feel happy to be alive,

**you are there.**

When we feel weary and sad,

**you are there.**

When the day is full of light and promise,

**you are there.**

When the night closes in with gloom and despair,

**you are there.**

In all things, in all places, in every moment,

**you are with us.**

You know all about our lives.

**You know the things for which we might give thanks.**

You also know the things from which we might pray for relief.

**You know us from the inside out.**

You already know it all, God. Our prayer time with you is not just about passing on requests or compliments.

**We pray to be connected to your Spirit which dwells within us.**

You are the beginning and end of all things. In you we live and move and have our being. Hear us now as our prayers continue...

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**\*Hymn: God Be With You till We Meet Again VU 422**

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth**

Go, as the mustard seed, planted to bring peace and justice to the world.

**We go to be agents of love seeping into places of power.**

Go, as pearls of treasure, drawing others to seek God's way of love and forgiveness.

**We go, led by the Spirit, to be open examples of wonder and wholeness.**

Go, as yeast in life's dough, living in a way that quietly inspires new life in others.

**We go, knowing God is with us now and always. 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.**

**Prayer of the Week:**

God of the covenant, help us to continue to trust in you, knowing that when we live in Spirit we become like the mustard seed - growing and spreading branches of love and justice. Inspire us to be like the yeast that adds zest to life and help us to remember always that you never leave us, that you are part of us and that we are treasured just for being who we are. Amen.