



Melville United Church  
St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781  
Team Ministry

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Jennifer Auger
Minister 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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*\* you are invited to stand in body or spirit*

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

**Prelude:** Improvisation

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Call to Worship:**

In wilderness and wild places,

**in groans and breath,**

in lonely spaces, in birth and rebirth,

**in fire and flame, in pain and joy**

beyond familiar traces, encounter the Holy.

**We gather in this place,**

separated from our usual spaces,

**to wonder, laugh, and maybe even cry,**

to discover and to hope,

**and to meet God here among us.**

Come, people of God, let us worship together.

**\*Hymn:** River

**MV 3**

**Opening Prayer:**

Dare we venture into the wild places?

**Wilderness spaces -**

**frozen tundra, windswept prairie,**

**tangled bush, jagged mountain ranges,**

**fathomless seas -**

Dare we find God present?

**In painful distress, disappointed hopes,**

**and almost abandoned dreams.**

Listen amid the deep and anguished sighs and groans.

**Yes, God, you are here!**

**In our joys AND in our sorrows -**

**you are here! Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

God of the wilderness, the untamed, untapped places,  
there are times when we have felt completely abandoned,  
and have cursed you and our lives;

**there are times when we have lashed out at others  
failing to recognize their hurt, their dependence, their need.**

God, as mourner and midwife,  
**breathe us into compassion and care.**

God, there are times when we have trodden roughly in wild places,  
wanting to make it ours, bend it to our will.

**We have tilled where we ought not;  
we have hewn and burned when we should not;  
we have built edifices to our own skill and glory;**

God, as mourner and midwife,  
**breathe us into compassion and care.**

God, there are times when we have not paid attention  
or blamed others for our own thoughtlessness and greed.

**We have ignored the signs of warning;  
we have been noisy in places of silence;  
we have been silent when there was a need to speak.**

God, as mourner and midwife,  
**breathe us into compassion and care. Amen.**

**Words of Affirmation:**

When we call to God in our distress, when we cry in our anguish and  
hurt, the Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words.

**We have the Spirit within us, renewing the whole creation.**

Know you are loved and valued and cared for!

**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

**Chorus:** Like a Rock **MV 92**

**Like a rock, like a rock,  
God is under our feet.**

**Like the starry night sky  
God is over our head.**

**Like the sun on the horizon,  
God is ever before.**

**Like the river runs to ocean,  
our home is in God evermore.**

(Repeat)

**Ministry of Music:** Down to the River to Pray S.Curry

**Theme Conversation:**

**Song:** I Feel God Around Me  
**Like a big hug, I feel God.  
Like a big hug, I feel God.  
Like a big hug, I feel God.  
I feel God around me.**

**Under my feet....  
Over my head...  
Deep in my bones...**

**Blessing of Prayer Shawls:**

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 8:22-27 (Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation)

(The Spirit comes to help us in our weakness)

Mary Lloyd

**A Reading:** a poem written by Wendell Berry

Rev. Marion Loree

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 1:9-13 (Inclusive Bible-Egalitarian Translation)

(Jesus is baptized and driven into the wilderness)

**Message:** There's a Voice in the Wilderness

**\*Hymn:** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

**VU 375**

**Offering:**

**\*Offering Hymn:** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

**VU 541**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known;  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**God of wilderness wanderings we hear your call and feel your  
Spirit groaning, urging us into life. Stir up your gifts within us that  
we may dare to care enough to bring love to birth. Use these gifts  
to bring care to those they touch and to those who give them.  
Amen.**

## Sharing Joys & Concerns

**Prayer Prelude:** Open our Hearts MV 21

**Open our hearts, open our minds.  
Open our lives to you O loving God.**

**Open our hearts, open our minds.  
Open our lives to you O loving God.  
Open our hearts.**

## Prayers of the People:

Response:

**Rest and wait in the wilderness.  
Listen and see with our hearts.**

**Come! Rest and wait in the wilderness.  
Listen and see with our hearts.**

## Prayer of Jesus:

**\*Hymn:** To Show by Touch and Word VU 427

## \*Blessing/Sending Forth:

To every gift of God there is a test of self-discovery, a promise of life.

**We go from this place into the wild places where God already is.**

May the blessing of God who searches the heart

lead you into the freedom of God's whole creation, today and every day.

**We go, knowing God is with us always. 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, within, around, above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen.**

Postlude:

## Prayer of the Week:

Immanent and transcendent God, present in our hearts and the cosmos, help us to see, think, feel, and act, not just for ourselves but for all creation. Broaden our focus to include Earth's wilderness areas, which lack cities but teem with life. Amen.

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Sept. 22 - Sun. Sept. 28, 2014

Mon. 22	10:00	Spirituality Circle	Parlour
Tues. 23	9:00	Quilting	Parlour
	7:30	Finance	Parlour
Thurs. 25	7:00	Choir	Parlour
	7:30	Play - "Surgeon Ahead"	Sanctuary
Fri. 26	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	11:00	Meditation	Library
	1:00	Alzheimer's	Parlour
	7:30	Play - "Surgeon Ahead"	Sanctuary
Sat. 27	7:30	Play - "Surgeon Ahead"	Sanctuary
Sun. 28	11:00	Sunday Service	Sanctuary
	1:00	Sr. Youth Group	Offsite

Partners in Prayer: St. Andrew's Presbyterian

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Arthur, Kenilworth

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

## Welcomers:

Karen Smillie, Joyce Keizerwaard,  
Joan and John Cuming