



** you are invited to stand in body or spirit*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Prelude: Improvisation

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

Scientists say that our universe exploded into creation 13.7 billion years ago

And God was there in the midst of this new universe

Scientists say that the birth of our solar system - Sun, Earth and our neighbour planets occurred about five billion years ago.

And God was there in the midst of this new solar system

Scientists say that humans came into being about 150,000 years ago

And God's grace was present, operating from within each creative advance, pushing toward life moment by moment, era by era.

"God looked at all of this creation, and proclaimed that this was good - very good." Let us rejoice in the presence of our Creator God who is within us and around us as we worship together this morning.

***Hymn:** All Things Bright and Beautiful

VU 291

Opening Prayer: (unison)

Lord of all creation, Source of all life and light and time. In the beginning, you created the heavens; the stars and all planets are your handiwork. They showed forth your glory while humanity was yet a thought in your eternal consciousness. Their light has shone through ages of your creation, and sounds of the universe have been your praise in each new era. Earth joined the heavenly chorus with songs of rushing wind, flowing water, and volcanic explosion. Your world honours you in concert, age to age greeting you with a cry of thanksgiving, like a newborn babe. All the works of your hands gladly receive your new works. Amen

Written by Carol E. Bayma, Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2014, page 27. Used with permission

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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
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September 28, 2014
16th after Pentecost

Prayer for Inner Healing: (unison)

Creator God, we feel that we are at the centre of a whirlwind and we don't know whether we are coming or going. Help us to find the peaceful quiet centre of your universe to re-energize ourselves. We are sorry for the times we don't appreciate you God in our new beginnings, when we don't recognize our need for other people and for the times we fail to respond to the needs of others. Forgive us God. Help us to know that You are always with us and all Your creation. Amen

Words of Affirmation:

Chorus: Like at 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)

Theme Conversation

Ministry of Music: Be Aware of Wonder D. E. Wagner

Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:1-10 (*Inclusive Bible - Egalitarian Translation*)

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. But the earth became chaos and emptiness, and darkness came over the face of the Deep - yet the Spirit of God was brooding over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Light: BE!" and light was. God saw that the light was good, and God separated light from darkness. God called the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening came and morning followed - the first day. Then God said, "Now, made an expanse between the waters! Separate water from water!: So it was. God made the expanse and separated the water above the expanse from the water below it. God called the expanse "Sky." Evening came, and

morning followed - the second day. Then God said, "Waters under the sky: be gathered into one place! Dry ground: appear!" So it was. God called the dry ground "Earth" and the gathering of the waters "Sea." And God saw that this was good.

Reflection:

For a moment let us consider how we got here. Where did our journey begin? What was the journey like? What have we done since we have arrived? Where was God in that journey?

But where did your journey really begin? How far back can you go?

Listen to the story of beginning:

In the beginning

First, there was nothing. The earth was without form, and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep. Then out of nothing, light! Out of the vacuum, chaos, vast amounts of matter and antimatter in nearly equal numbers. Most of this annihilated and filled the universe with photons and neutrons, and then the very first hydrogen atom was formed.

But what if it wasn't? If it were still just chaos and darkness?

In the beginning the hydrogen atoms collided and formed helium. The hydrogen and helium collapsed and at some point, the very first unique star was formed. More of the gases collapsed, and the first generation of massive stars came into being. Nuclear fires raged in the centre of these stars, and in one, the very first batch of heavy elements was formed, among these, the very first carbon atom.

But what if it never was?

In the beginning, the new stars burned and burned, then one, by one they exploded and interstellar clouds were enriched with the particles of burnt-out stars; these combined and the next generation of stars were born from the dust. About five billion years ago, one particular cloud, one particular galaxy collapsed to form our very own Sun and its unique planetary system

But what if it didn't?

In the beginning, somewhere in the universe, the first oxygen atom was formed, Later, two hydrogen atoms collided with an oxygen atom, the first unique water molecule was formed. Water droplets combined

together into the first clouds, and the first drops of rain fell onto the earth. The earth was covered with water.

But what if there was no water?

In the beginning... at some point on earth, the temperature and pressure reached a unique point. Some hydrogen, carbon, nitrogen and oxygen atoms that had been forged in the heart of the stars reached just the right conditions to combine, and formed a unique molecule, the first of its kind, a basic amino acid.

But what if that had never happened? How would life as we know it have looked?

In the beginning, the waters of the earth churned, reactions between the mud and the water took place and somewhere the very first protein was formed. Proteins combined, and the very first unique DNA molecule was formed. Somewhere on the small blue planet the very first unique living thing came into being.

But what if that had never happened?

In the beginning the waters teemed with life. The creatures of the sea produced waste gases, which gradually transformed Earth's atmosphere. Conditions on the planet's surface were changing, and at some point the very first unique creature crawled out of the sea to begin a new life on the land.

But what if life had stayed in the sea?

In the beginning, from the dust of the earth, the dust of the stars, the creatures of the earth grew and multiplied. Some 150,000 years ago, humans walked on this planet for the first time. The first Adam, and the first Eve, lived.

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 148 VU pg. 870

Reflection:

The first Adam, and the first Eve, lived.

But what if they never did?

In the beginning... primitive men and women lived outdoors and in caves. Humans evolved and they learnt to build shelters, until one day the first person created the first ever tent under which to shelter from the sun and the rain.

But what if there had never been a tent?

In the beginning, humans studied the world around them, and developed tools to manage their surroundings and to improve their ability to survive and to obtain food from the earth. One day, somewhere, a person thought for the first time to take a round object, to revolutionize the potential of transportation, the first wheel had been created.

But what if that moment of inspiration had never come, how would you have gotten to Melville this morning?

In the beginning people got sick from all kinds of diseases. One fortuitous Friday, a Scottish scientist got back to his lab after a few days away and noticed that one of his petri dishes of bacteria samples had been contaminated with mould. He saw that the mould appeared to have stopped the growth of the bacteria. Alexander Fleming had accidentally discovered the first ever antibiotic, for the use in the treatment of human infections.

But what if that accident had never happened, how many of us have benefitted from this discovery?

In the beginning, in a small room a group of mathematicians and engineers drank lots of coffee, and dreamt up the idea of a communication network that could span the world, where written messages could be sent instantaneously to someone the other side of the world. Months later the first ever email was sent, and then later still, the World Wide Web was born, with the first ever website being uploaded.

But what if they hadn't had all that coffee?

In the beginning a particular man and a particular woman met for the first time. A little further down the line from that unique encounter, your parents became your parents, and for the very first time, someone with your unique combination of DNA and atoms and history was formed, and you became you.

But what if your parents had never met?

Your own body is a unique collection of the atoms that were created billions of years ago in the interiors of stars, the fraction of a fraction of a percent of normal matter that escaped annihilation in the first microsecond of the universe.

But what if these events did not occur?

***Hymn:** Called by Earth and Sky **MV 135**

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:**

You have given to us so much, God - this world and everything in it.

We respond to your generosity when we share your creation with others.

You have given to us so much, God -opportunities for service and examples of caring.

We respond to your generosity when we share your goodness with others.

You have given to us so much, God - support for each new day and guidance for our entire lives.

We respond to your generosity when we share our lives with others.

Written by Bill Steadman, Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2013, page 23. Used with permission

Joys and 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

Prayer of Jesus: a version written by Jim Cotter

Eternal spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth!

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trial too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and forever. Amen

***Hymn:** God of the Sparrow **VU 229**

*** Sending Forth:**

John 1:1-4 (*Inclusive Bible - Egalitarian Translation*)

In the beginning there was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life, and that life was humanity's light - a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

***Blessing**

Like the mountains,
 we reach out into the world to proclaim God's majesty.
 Like the oceans
 we seek to blanket the world with the Spirit's depth of new life.
 Like the fields,
 we stretch to the horizons filled with the seeds of faith to root the world
 in Christ, the Word.
 Like the harvest,
 we go forth to nourish the world, hearts and hands full of Christ's
 purpose, the Spirit's direction, and God's blessings of grace.

***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: Prelude in G F. Mendelsohn

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Mon. Sept. 29 - Sun. Oct. 5, 2014

Tues. 30	9:00	Quilting	Parlour
Thurs. 2	7:00	Choir	Parlour
Fri. 3	10:00	Coffee Hour	Parlour
	11:00	Meditation	Library
Sun. 5	11:00	World Wide Communion Sunday	Sanctuary

Partners in Prayer: Centre Wellington Foodbank
 Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Balfour St., Brantford
 Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Eleanor Johnston, Barb Lynden,
 Mary Hume, David Gohn