



Melville United Church
Sunday, March 22, 2015
5th Sunday of Lent



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude: Improvisation

Call to Worship:

God is with us, we are God's people.

In times of weakness, in moments of temptation, the covenant holds.

God is with us, we are God's people.

When the journey is rough, when friends let us down, the covenant holds.

God is with us, we are God's people.

As we struggle to be a faithful community, the covenant holds.

God is with us, we are God's people.

As we work for justice, in our response of worship, the covenant holds.

Come, people of God let us worship together.

***Hymn:** As Comes the Breath of Spring **VU 373**

Opening Prayer:

God of grace, compassionate beyond our knowing, patient beyond our imagining, persistent beyond our comprehending: you invite us to imitate your love, to reflect in small measure your forbearance, to act, however we can, as your agents in the world. Gather us now to attend to your word and to sing your praise, as, in Jesus' name, we come to worship. Amen.

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:	Mary Lloyd
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.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
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Prayer of Confession:

God of infinite chances,

you are ever more ready to hear than we are to pray;

you are ever more ready to offer forgiveness

than we are to seek it for ourselves, or for others.

Create in us a clean heart, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within us.

Write your law on our hearts,

and take away our feeble protestations about not knowing what to do. Amen

Words of Affirmation:

The One who loves us is faithful, remembering our mistakes no more.

Look within your heart and know that you are loved and accepted by our gracious and loving God.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Chorus: How Deep the Peace MV 95

How deep the peace, the confidence,

of those whose wrongs are forgiven.

How deep the peace, the confidence,

of those whose hearts are healed. (Repeat)

Theme Conversation:

***Hymn:** O, Sing to Our God

VU 241

Responsive Reading: Psalm 119:9-16 (*a paraphrase by James Taylor, Everyday Psalms*) (*A better vision*)

The mass media paint pretty pictures
of flaming passion and sensual pleasures.

I will not deny it - they tempt me.

Their insidious lies sneak under my skin -
I have trouble telling right from wrong.

**Only your guidance, gathered through the generations,
keeps my feet from straying off the proven path.**

Your wisdom keeps my thoughts from wandering.

I treasure each insight that you teach me.

You are holy, God;

infect me with your holiness.

Make me more like what I was meant to be
when you first conceived me.

I can say all the right words but still I am tempted.

I would rather hear you than the whispers of lust;

turn my obsessions away from possessions.

Help me shut out the clamor of worldly wisdom;

let me concentrate on you.

You are my guiding light, my model, my mentor.

I will try to understand you;

I will try to remember your wishes.

Scripture Reading: John 12:20-33 (*Inclusive Bible-First Egalitarian Edition*)
(*Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth*)

Among those who had come up to worship at the Passover festival were some Greeks. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put forth this request: "Please, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew, and together the two went to tell Jesus.

Jesus replied,

"Now the hour has come for the Chosen One to be glorified.

The truth of the matter is, unless a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. If you love your life you'll lose it; if you hate your life in this world you'll keep it for eternal life.

Anyone who wants to work for me must follow in my footsteps, and wherever I am, my worker will be there too. Anyone who works for me will be honoured by Abba God.

Now my soul is troubled. What will I say: 'Abba, save me from this hour?'

but it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Abba, glorify your name!"

A voice came from heaven: "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again."

The crowds that stood nearby heard this and said it was a clap of thunder; others said, "It was an angel speaking."

Jesus answered, "It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours.

"Sentence is now being passed on this world; now the ruler of this world will be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from this earth, I will draw all people to myself."

By these words Jesus indicated the kind of death he would die.

Reflection:

Rev. Marion Loree

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (Inclusive Bible-First Egalitarian Edition)

(I will write my law on their hearts)

“Behold, the days are coming, says YHWH, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them up out of the land of Egypt - a covenant they broke, though I was their spouse, says YHWH. But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says YHWH: I will put my Law in their minds and on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

“No longer will they need to teach one another or remind one another to listen to YHWH. All of them, high and low alike, will listen to me, says YHWH, for I will forgive their misdeeds and will remember their sins no more.”

Reflection:

Rev. Marion Loree

Hymn: Come Touch Our Hearts**MV 12****Offering:****Ministry of Music:** J. Schrader - Order My Steps**Offering Song:** 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:**

Holy Presence, we dedicate to you all that we have and all that we are. Use these gifts to further your mission throughout the world. May all we have, all we do, all we say speak loudly of your love for us and all of creation. Bless our tithes and offerings this day, that they may bear much fruit in the lives of those who need it most. Amen.

Prayer Prelude: O God Hear My/Our Prayer

VU 948

**O God hear my prayer, O God hear my prayer:
when I call answer me.**

**O God, hear my prayer, O God, hear my prayer:
come and listen to me.**

**O God hear our prayer, O God hear our prayer:
when we call answer us.**

**O God, hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer:
come and listen to us.**

Prayers of the People: beginning with a prayer called Written on Our Hearts by Bruce Sanguin, *If Darwin Prayed*, pg 151

Prayer of Jesus:***Hymn:** O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go**VU 658*****Blessing/Sending Forth:**

As you leave this sacred space, remember that we are a forgiven people and God has written love on our hearts.

We go, remembering our sacredness,

Go, remembering your place in the eternal flow of life,
and realizing the power love has to change lives.

We will flood the world with the law of love. Amen

***Parting Song:** Sent Out in Jesus’ Name MV 212

**Sent out in Jesus’ name, or hands are ready now
to make the world the place in which the kin-dom comes. (Repeat)
The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love, of justice and of peace.**

The task is ours to do, to set it really free.

O, help us to obey, and carry out your will.

Postlude: J. S. Bach - Prelude in g

Prayer of the Week:

In our hearts, O God, we are known by you. Every crevice of our past, every heartbeat of our present, is known and loved by you. Inscribe in us the desire to know you, too, and knowing you, may we live more fully as your people. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Marshall Memorial, Ancaster

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Barb Lynden, Ruth Sproule,
Graeme Chalmers, John Cuming

March	Theme	Ministry
22	Lent 5	Marion
29	Palm/Passion Sun.	Marion
April 3	Good Friday	Marion
5	Easter Sunday	Marion/Jen
12	1 st after Easter	Ruth Cooke
19	Earth Sunday	Mary Elliott
26	Camping Sunday	Mary Elliott