



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

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

**\*Processional/Palm parade**

- Prepare the Way of the Lord (from Godspell)

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Prelude/Centering Time:** Improvisation

**Call to Worship:**

People of God, we are here,  
in this sacred space, in this sacred moment.

**Our daily concerns can be momentarily put aside,  
as we recall the stories of our faith.**

Here we see conventions turned upside down,  
as the king who comes does not claim a crown.

**Here salvation is misunderstood.**

Here we find the beginning of trouble.

**Here we remember whose we are.**

Come, let us worship God together.

**\*Hymn:** He Came Riding on a Donkey - vs 1,2 **VU 124**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Today we celebrate, God - because we know the story.**

**We celebrate that Jesus walked with his disciples,  
talked with his people, was loved by his family.**

**We celebrate that, through them, we have come to know him.**

**Help us, we pray, to make his story ours.**

**In his name and in your love we ask it. Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

Sacred Spirit, sometimes we would count ourselves  
among those who understood Jesus, and answered his call.

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.
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**At other times we would count ourselves among those who misunderstood.**

For all of those times that we have “gotten it wrong”

**forgive us.**

Humble us when we believe that we are wise and powerful and better than other people.

**Remind us of your power when we act as if we are powerful.**

Remind us of our commonality when we behave as if we are superior.

**Guide us to accept your wisdom, your power and your strength.**

**Amen**

**Words of Affirmation:**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God! He will teach us and guide us and lead us by example. Open your Spirit to God’s loving presence that is in and around and part of us and all that is.

**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:** And On This Path MV 8

### **Covenanting with New Council**

**Scripture** - 1 Corinthians 12

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us.

The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

The church of Christ is like a single body which has many parts.

If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it;

if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

All of us are Christ’s body, and each one is a part of it.

Friends, we celebrate with joy and gratitude that you have been called by God, and chosen by the people of Melville United Church for leadership in this congregation. This ministry is a blessing, an honour, and a responsibility. It recognizes your special gifts and calls you to work among us, with us, and on our behalf. We thank you and challenge you to offer your best to God, and to all God’s people.

### **Questions and Promises**

As you come to assume the duties of your office, let us make a covenant before God and with one another.

To the council members:

As a disciple of Jesus the Christ, will you continue to live out your faith with praise and thanksgiving? Will you carry out your duties in this congregation with integrity and joy?

**Response: I will, God being my helper.**

To the congregation

Will you, the members of Melville United Church honour the leadership of these people? Will you assist them through daily prayer, generous support, and personal example, so that, together, we may be a faithful church of Jesus the Christ?

**Response: We will, God being our helper.**

Prayer

Loving God, you have called these people to serve you. Send your Holy Spirit upon them and upon us all that we may keep the promises we have made today. Help them to fulfill their responsibilities. May their leadership help us all to reflect your love and grace always. Amen.

Declaration

in the name of God: Creator, Christ, and Spirit, we recognize and affirm you in your ministry as Church Council of Melville United Church.

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 118:1-4, 19-29 Pt 1,3,4 **VU 837**

(The stone the builders rejected)

**Scripture Reading:** Mark 11:1-11 (*Inclusive Bible-First Egalitarian Edition*)  
(*Jesus’ joyful entry into Jerusalem*)

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent off two of the disciples with this

instruction: "Go to the village straight ahead of you, and as soon as you enter it you will find tethered there a colt on which no one has ridden. Untie it and bring it back. If anyone says to you, 'Why are you doing that?' say, 'The Rabbi needs it, but will send it back very soon.'"

So they went off, and finding a colt tethered out on the street near a gate, they untied it. Some of the bystanders said to them, "What do you mean by untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them take it.

They brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks across its back, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread leafy branches which they had cut from the fields. And everyone around Jesus, in front or in back of him, cried out, "Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of our God! Blessed is the coming reign of our ancestor David! Hosanna in the highest!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the Temple precincts. He inspected everything there, but since it was already late in the afternoon, he went out to Bethany accompanied by the Twelve.

#### Reflection:

**Scripture Reading:** Philippians 2:5-13 (*Inclusive Bible-First Egalitarian Edition*)

*(Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.)*

Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Christ, though in the image of God, didn't deem equality with God something to be clung to - but instead became completely empty and took on the image of oppressed humankind: born into the human condition, found in the likeness of a human being.

Jesus was thus humbled - obediently accepting death, even death on a cross! Because of this, God highly exalted Christ and gave to Jesus the name above every other name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God: Jesus Christ reigns supreme!

Therefore, my dear friends, you who are always obedient to my urging, work out your salvation with fear and trembling, not only when I happen to be with you, but all the more now that I'm absent. It is God at work in you that creates the desire to do God's will.

#### Reflection:

**\*Hymn:** When They Heard that Jesus was Coming **MV 128** vs 1,2,3,5,6

#### Offering:

**Ministry of Music:** H. H. Hopson - On Humble Beast Now Rides the King

**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:

**God, often we feel what we do and contribute is only a drop in a great ocean of need, but today we send these gifts into the world knowing that each drop is precious and able to make a difference. Bless these our gifts and each of us who gives. Amen.**

#### Joys & Concerns

**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:

**Hosanna! Save us.**

From what do you desire to be saved?

**Save us from our indifference to the poor  
and others we exclude in our community.**

You are a forgiven people; open your hearts to all in need.

**Hosanna! Save us.**

From what do you desire to be saved?

**Save us from our disregard for the earth  
and our exploitation of creation.**

You are a forgiven people; open your hearts to nurture the world.

**Hosanna! Save us.**

From what do you desire to be saved?

**Save us from our over-indulgences.**

You are a forgiven people; open your hearts to the satisfaction that is found in knowing you are a child of a loving God.

**Hosanna! Save us.**

From what do you desire to be saved?

**Save us from our lack of desire for knowledge.**

You are a forgiven people; open your hearts to rejoice in enquiry.

**Hosanna! Save us.**

From what do you desire to be saved?

**Save us from our timidity and lack of courage.**

You are a forgiven people; open your hearts to the embracing goodness of God that is with you always.

**Hosanna! Save us.**

From what do you desire to be saved?

**Save us from our lack of understanding.**

You are a forgiven people; open your hearts to the wonders of the journey in the eternal flow that is the God of Love.

**Our prayers continue...**

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**\*Hymn:** All Glory, Laud and Honour

**VU 122**

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God!

**Hosanna! We open our hearts to his faithfulness.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God!

**Hosanna! We stand beside those who are crucified today.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God!

**Hosanna! We work with those who follow him.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God!

**Hosanna! We give thanks for all God's blessings.**

Go now, beloved, and know that God goes with you - always!

**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:** G. F. Hamdel - March ( from Judas Maccabeus)

**Prayer of the Week:**

Holy God, we rejoice in this day you have given us. Be gracious in our times of questioning, and make us bold followers of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Central Pentecostal Church

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Morgan's Point

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**

Virginia Ingleby, David Gohn,  
Joan and John Cuming,

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