

**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday, May 10, 2015**  
**Mothering Sunday/Christian Family Sunday**



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

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Prelude/ Centering Time:** A Song of Peace - Wihla Hutson

**\*Hymn:** Come In, Come In and Sit Down

**VU 395**

**A Calling to Mind:**

We will begin, not with a Call to worship, but with a Calling to mind...  
Call to mind someone you love. Close your eyes and imagine: the shape of her eyes, the curve of his smile, the sound of their laughter...  
Call to mind... the way he smells, the way she feels - and the look they give you that says "I've had enough"...

If you can hold that face, that feeling, that love then consider this:

One hundred trillion cells, seven million years of evolutions, forty weeks of gestation, years of love and lessons and laughter - tears too no doubt - have gone into that person you brought to mind who holds your heart - what a wonder.

Think on it...

And now, think on this:

The planet holds over 7 billion souls - every single one a unique one-off-never-to-be-repeated-ever creation: the creative imagination of the divine is reflected in every face. The Spirit of God is in every first and last and in-between breath.

Mother God, thank you for our family - as vast as the ocean, as intimate as a face, a smell, a touch, a look, a feeling...

*(pause)*

'Body of Christ', 'Family of God', 'Brothers and sisters in God': on this Mothering Sunday we remember what these words mean, and we are called never to underestimate the deep desire with which God created this vision: it is so important that the world remembers that *no one* is an only child.

**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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Sunday May 10, 2015

**Opening Prayer:**

For our sisters and our brothers.

**For our fathers and our mothers.**

For the true families we have made.

**We give thanks, O God.**

You are the Mother and Father of us all.

**We are one in Christ's love.**

As we worship together, Holy Parent,

**open us to what it means to be called your children. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** Deep In Our Hearts

**MV 154**

**Sacrament of Baptism**

Being accepted into the Christian family of faith today is Paige Madison McFarlane, child of Matthew and Carly McFarlane and Brooklynn Karen Elaine Shaw McGinnis, child of Greg and Michelle McGinnis.

**Statement of Purpose:**

From the beginning of time, people have come before God and their community to celebrate the miracle of life, and to give thanks to God for the special gift that our children are to us. That is what we do in our sacrament of baptism. We give thanks to God, we express our own faith in God as central to our lives, and we commit ourselves afresh to the nurturing of our children in the Christian church.

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. By water and the Spirit, we are welcomed as children of God, we are claimed by Christ, we are united with the Christian community of every time and place and we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

**Presentation of the ones to be Baptized**

On behalf of the congregation of Melville United Church I present, Paige Madison McFarlane, child of Matthew and Carly McFarlane and Brooklynn Karen Elaine Shaw McGinnis, child of Greg and Michelle McGinnis for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

*(family comes forward)*

**Scripture:** Galatians 3:27-29 (The Inclusive Bible:  
The First Egalitarian Translation)

Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus. Furthermore, if you belong to Christ, you are the offspring of Abraham, which means you inherit all that was promised.

**Profession of faith by the parents:**

You have brought your child here for baptism. In baptism we are joined to the Christian family through the sign and seal of God's eternal love. Do you believe in God and God's love?

**Yes, I do so believe.**

Do you believe that God is revealed to us in Jesus the Christ who lived and died, and who lives on in the Christian church?

**Yes, I do so believe.**

Do you believe that God, through the Holy Spirit, is active in the world to direct and to strengthen you?

**Yes, I do so believe.**

Will you do your best to provide a Christian home for your child, encouraging her to grow in her own faith and to seek confirmation?

**Yes I will, God being my helper.**

**Commitment by Congregation** (*congregation stands*)

We are to receive these children as part of our faith community. In so doing, we remember our calling to share life together, and to be open to the future that they contain. We are also called to support these families and these children with love and with Christian teaching. Are you willing, as you are able to share in this responsibility?

**We are willing, God being our helper.**

Let us remain standing as we repeat "A New Creed" together.

**Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed VU 918**

**We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.**

**Blessing of the Water** (*children bring water and people call out blessings*)

**Prayer**

Loving God of grace, pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this water, that this font may become your womb of new birth, our fount of blessing and source of grace. May it be a sign and promise of new life, not only for the one who will be baptized this day, but also for all who pass through the waters of baptism. We pray in the spirit of Christ, who was himself baptized. Amen.

**The Baptism (Paige)**

Paige Madison McFarlane, you are baptized in the name of God our mother and father whose arms are open wide;  
in the name of Jesus, the Son, who teaches us how to love;  
and in the name of the Holy spirit, whose wings will encourage you and keep you safe.

**Sign of the Cross and Blessing**

Paige, child of God, we bless you with water and the sign of the cross so that the world will always know, and you will never forget, that you are a precious child of God.

**Laying on of Hands/Blessing**

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you. May God look upon you with kindness and bring you peace.

**The Baptism (Brooklyn)**

Brooklyn Karen Elaine Shaw McGinnis, you are baptized in the name of God our mother and father whose arms are open wide;  
in the name of Jesus, the Son, who teaches us how to love;  
and in the name of the Holy spirit, whose wings will encourage you and keep you safe.

**Sign of the Cross and Blessing**

Brooklyn, child of God, we bless you with water and the sign of the cross so that the world will always know, and you will never forget, that you are a precious child of God.

**Laying on of Hands/Blessing**

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you. May God look upon you with kindness and bring you peace.

**Lighting of the Baptismal Candles**

Your parents will now light your candles. The candles represent the light of Christ which shines in you and in each one of us and it reminds us that the light of God's presence is with us always.

*The children are introduced to the congregation as the following blessing is sung.*

**Sung Blessing:** Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

**VU 444**

### Prayer

Gracious God, keep these children in your grace as they grow in mind and body. Keep their parents in your love as they give guidance to their children. Keep us all that we may be always faithful to you. Through Christ. Amen.

### Presentation of Certificates

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 139: 1-18 (Inclusive Bible-First Egalitarian Edition)  
(God knew us before we were born)

YHWH you've searched me, and you know me. You know if I am standing or sitting, you read my thoughts from far away. Whether I walk or lie down, you are watching; you are intimate with all of my ways. A word is not even on my tongue, YHWH, before you know what it is: you hem me in, before and behind, shielding me with your hand. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, a height my mind cannot reach!

Where could I run from your Spirit? Where could I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you're there; if I make my bed in Death, you're already there. I could fly away with wings made of dawn, or make my home on the far side of the sea, but even there your hand will guide me, your mighty hand holding me fast. If I say, "The darkness will hide me, and night will be my only light," even darkness won't be dark to you; the night will shine like the day - darkness and light are the same to you.

You created my inmost being and stitched me together in my mother's womb. For all these mysteries I thank you - for the wonder of myself, for the wonder of your works - my soul knows it well. My frame was not hidden from you while I was being made in that secret place, knitted together in the depths of the earth; your eyes saw my body even there. All of my days were written in your book, all of them planned before even the first of them came to be. How precious your thoughts are to me, O God! How impossible to number them! I could no more count them than I could count the sand. But suppose I could? You would still be with me!

Reader: Eleanor Johnston

**Reflection:** 'Mother's days'

### Dancing with Angels

**Scripture:** Matthew 23:37 (Inclusive Bible-First Egalitarian Edition)  
Jesus said, "Oh Jerusalem, Jerusalem - you murder the prophets, and you stone those sent to you! Oh, how often have I yearned to gather you together, like a hen gathering her chicks under her wings! But you would have none of it. Therefore your house is being left to you - abandoned."

### Disputed Territory

### Child of Mine

### Wholly God

**\*Hymn:** Come Touch Our Hearts (verses 1-4)

**MV 12**

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** Rain Down, music and words by Jaime Cortez

**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:**

**Mother-Father God, with grateful hearts we bring our offerings today knowing that if we gave everything we have it would not begin to match your generous love to us. Use these, our gifts, to bless those whose needs are great; in our families, in our community, in our church, and in our troubled 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:**

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**\*Hymn:** Would You Bless Our Homes and Families

**VU 556**

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

The whole creation celebrates God's love.

**We, too, are part of God's family of love.**

Go now into the world to carry the friendship of God to everyone you meet.

**We go now to be generous as God is generous and to love as God loves.**

Go in the peace of Christ knowing God is with you now and always.

**Amen!**

**\*Parting Song:** Melville Benediction

**Let's go out from here and take our place  
respect creation, sharing all God's grace.  
Treasure the past and things we have done.  
Open our mind to new things yet to come.  
God will be with us within around above.  
Bless all our doings let us go and love.  
Bless all our doings let us go and love.**

**Postlude:** Hymn of Praise - James Denton

**Prayer of the Week:**

Mother-Father God, all are loved by you, no one misses out. We live in the great bounty of your love and acceptance, and with all creation, we rejoice. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Alma United Church

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Palermo, Oakville

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**

Karen Smillie, Eleanor, Johnston,  
Eleanor Brown, Ruth Sproule

**Counters:**

Karen Smillie, Lloyd Ross  
Brenda Ecclestone

**May 10** - Coffee in Parlour today - Peggie Dickie and Elizabeth Stinson

<b>May</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Ministry</b>
10	Christian Family Sun. Baptism	Marion
17		Marion
24		Marion
<b>June</b>		
7	90 <sup>th</sup> Anniv. of Church Union	