

Melville United Church
Sunday, May 17, 2015
Seventh Sunday of Easter/Ascension



** 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: Improvisation

Call to Worship:

We are gathered here because we are God's beloved people.

We are happy to be with our friends of faith.

God lives in us and all that is.

We are happy to come and discover more about the God within us.

Come and find inspiration for daily living.

We are happy to come and find purpose in our service to others.

Come, people of God, let us worship our God together.

*Hymn: River

MV 3

Opening Prayer:

Blessed are you, Holy One, creator of all that is and all that ever will be. Give us visions of the life you intend for us. Make your ways our ways. Guide us in building a Spirit-led community that bears fruit which is pleasing to you and beneficial to our neighbours. Open our minds and our hearts to you now. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

O God, we confess to you that we do not always follow your ways.

We often do not fully embrace your call to live as Jesus' disciples in this world.

We confess that we don't always listen to the ideas of others.

Though you call us to collaboration we often choose competition.

We confess that we often feel threatened by the new future you are calling us to.

Though we hear your voice we are afraid of change.

Forgive us and open our hearts that we might be filled with your love.

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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Forgive us and open our lives that we may walk in your paths.

Amen

Words of Assurance:

People of God, let all that would stand in the way of a restored and happy life be like chaff that is driven away by the wind, for God is with you and you are God's beloved children.

Thanks be to God!

Chorus: Alleluia MV 50

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Alleluia! Alleluia! (Repeat)

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: Here I Am Lord (*from Rescue of the Night*) words to come from *Matthias*

Scripture Reading: Acts 1:1-11 (*The Inclusive Bible, The First Egalitarian Edition*) (*The Ascension of Jesus*)

In my earlier account, Theophilus, I dealt with everything that Jesus had done and taught, from the beginning until the day he was taken up, after he had given instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After the Passion, Jesus appeared alive to the apostles - confirmed through many convincing proofs - over the course of forty days, and spoke to them about the reign of God.

On one occasion, Jesus told them not to leave Jerusalem. "Wait, rather, for what God has promised, of which you have heard me speak," Jesus said. "John baptized with water, but within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

While meeting together they asked, "Has the time come, Rabbi? Are you going to restore sovereignty to Israel?"

Jesus replied, "It's not for you to know times or dates that Abba God has decided. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth."

Having said this, Jesus was lifted up in a cloud before their eyes and taken from their sight. They were still gazing up into the heavens when

two messengers dressed in white stood beside them. "You Galileans - why are you standing here looking up at the skies?" they asked. "Jesus, who has been taken from you - this same Jesus will return, in the same way you watched him go into heaven."

Scripture Reading: John 17:6-19 (*The Inclusive Bible, The First Egalitarian Edition*) (*"So that they may have my joy made complete in themselves*) I have manifested your Name to those you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me; and now they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you've entrusted to me does indeed come from you.

I entrusted to them the message you entrusted to me, and they received it. They know that I really came from you; they believe it was you who sent me. And it's for them that I pray - not for the world, but for these you've given me - for they are really yours, just as all that belongs to me is yours, and all that belongs to you is mine. It is in them that I have been glorified. I am in the world no more, but while I am coming to you, they are still in the world.

Abba, holy God, protect those whom you have given me with your Name - the Name that you gave me - that they may be one, even as we are one. As long as I was with them, I guarded them with your Name which you gave me. I kept careful watch, and not one of them was lost, except for the one who was destined to be lost in fulfillment of scripture.

Now I am coming to you; I say all this while I am still in the world that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I gave them your word, and the world has hated them for it because they don't belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I don't ask you to take them out of the world, but to guard them from the Evil One. They are not of the world any more than I am of the world. Consecrate them - make them holy through the truth - for your word is truth.

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world; I consecrate myself now for their sakes, that they may be made holy in truth.

Reader: Graeme Chalmers

Responsive Reading: Psalm 1

VU 724

Reflection: The Source of Happiness

Rev. Marion Loree

***Hymn:** Seek Ye First the Kingdom

VU 356

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Offering Song: I Am a New Creation

I am a new creation

No more in condemnation

Here in the grace of God I stand.

My heart is overflowing

My love just keeps on growing

Here in the grace of God I stand.

And I will praise you, God.

Yes, I will praise you, God.

And I will sing of all that you have done.

A joy that knows no limit

a lightness in my spirit

Here in the grace of God I stand.

***Offertory Prayer:**

As you have given to us abundantly, generous God, so we would be generous to others. Bless these gifts as they flow into our world to become part of God's flourishing realm of compassion, justice, and love. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Where Two or Three Are Gathered

MV 14

Where two or three are gathered in my name

I am there. I am there. (Repeat)

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection **VU 586**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Go now to be God's good people in the world.

We will delight in God's wonders.

Go and be generous to those in need.

We will show kindness to all we meet.

Go, and let the Spirit of God fill your hearts with joy.

We go with God. 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: J. S. Bach - Wer nur den lieben Gott laesst walten

Prayer of the Week:

God of all wisdom, give us visions of the life you intend for us. May your ways be our ways. Guide us in building a Spirit-led community that bears fruit which is pleasing to you, and beneficial to our neighbours. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Belwood/Metz Pastoral Charge

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: People's Memorial Ridgeway

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Vivian and Havey Andrew,
Lynne and David Lamb

Counters: Ken McManus, Art Russell,
Eleanor Johnston

May 17 - Coffee in Parlour today - Ruth Sproule

May	Theme	Ministry
17	Ascension	Marion
24	Pentecost	Marion
31	Trinity	U.C.W.
June		
7	90 th Anniv. of Church Union	