

Melville United Church  
Sunday, June 7, 2015  
United Church of Canada 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

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

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

**Prelude/Hymn Sing**

**Welcome**

**Sharing the Light**

**Music/Centering Time** - massed choir - Down to the River to Pray - arr. Sheldon Curry

**Call to Worship:**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

This is the day that God has made.

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Come, let us worship our God!

**\*Hymn:** Holy, Holy, Holy

**VU 315**

**Opening Prayer:**

Holy Oneness, this week marks 90 years of being The United Church of Canada.

**We gather and give thanks for the times**

**when we have been communities of Christ Followers**

**who have made way for inclusion, compassion, justice, and care.**

We celebrate this morning how the church has worked toward living into right relationship

**with each other and by being a justice-seeking church that helps mend the world.**

We celebrate who we are today

**as we struggle to discern your purpose for us in a changed world.**

And we celebrate as we lean into the future,

**trusting in the Spirit's guidance to lead us where we need to go**

**and to become who we need to be.**

Be with us now as we worship together in this place.

**Be with us as we celebrate who we have been,**

**who we are and who we hope to become.**

Let us share the joy of journeying together.

**Amen.**

**Prayer of Confession:**

Gracious God, as we share our joy in being together to celebrate this anniversary today we also recognize that the other side of joy is sorrow. We recognize that, as individuals and sometimes as a church, we have not always lived out of who you would have us be.

Sometimes we ask for living water, but dip our buckets in old wells. Sometimes we offer dried crusts and stale water, while complaining that no one will come to our banquet.

Forgive our foolish ways, O God, and let your life-giving Spirit flow through us bringing new life to our parched souls. Amen.

**Words of Assurance:**

Hear the Good News! God loves us more than we love ourselves and God's Spirit sets us free to love others.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Chorus:** All Creatures of Our God and King - vs 5

VU 217

**Let all things their Creator bless,**

**and worship God in humbleness:**

**sing praises, sing praises!**

**Praise God eternal, praise the Son,**

**and praise the Spirit, three in one:**

**sing praises, hallelujah!**

**hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**Reflection:** The Church Then

-Rev. Kate Gregory - Belwood/Metz

**Scripture:** John 7:37-39a

**Reflection:** The Church Now

-Rev. Greg Smith-Young - Elora/Bethany

**\*A New Creed**

**VU 918**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 43:18-21

**Reflection:** The Church Yet to Be

-Rev. Lynn Hamilton - Barrie Hill/Speedside

**\*Hymn:** Come, O Holy Spirit

MV 23

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** United in Christ

- Price/Besig

**Offering Song: What Can I Do? MV 191**

What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. (Repeat)

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

Ever-present God,  
with this offering, we present also ourselves:  
all that we have been,  
all that we are,  
and all that we shall become.  
Accept us and accept our gifts  
that your love may be made known to all.  
Amen.

**Prayer Prelude: Spirit of Life VU 381**

Spirit of Life, come unto me.  
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

**Prayers of the People:**

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**Sharing:** Children & Youth

**\*Hymn: I'm Gonna live So God Can Use Me VU 575**

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

**\*Parting Song: Down to the River to Pray**

As we go down to the river to pray,  
studyin' about that good ol' way  
and who shall wear the starry crown.  
Good Lord, show us the way.  
O sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.  
O sisters, let's go down, down to the river to pray.

As we go down to the river to pray,  
studyin' about that good ol' way  
and who shall wear the robe and crown.  
Good Lord, show us the way.  
O brothers, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.  
O Brothers, let's go down, down to the river to pray.  
As we go down to the river to pray,  
studyin' about that good ol' way  
and who shall wear the starry crown.  
Good Lord, show us the way.

**Postlude:** Now Thank We All Our God by J. S. Bach for organ - Matthias Schmidt, piano -  
Betty Weinstein

**Partners in Prayer:** St. John's Anglican Church, Elora

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** St. James, Simcoe

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Elizabeth Stintson, David Gohn, Karen Smillie, Ruth Sproule,  
Peggie Dickie, Richard Wright, Dorothy Collin, Isobel Glennie

**Counters:** Ruth Sproule, Lorna Bevcar, Karen Smillie