

Melville United Church
Sunday, September 13, 2015
Season of Creation - Humanity Sunday

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree and Jen Auger



Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centering Time: Improvisation

Call to Worship: Psalm 8 (paraphrase by James Taylor - Everyday Psalms)

My God, my God! How amazing you are!

There is nothing like you in the whole earth.

I would describe you in terms of the stars or the skies,

the forest or the farthest reaches of the universe,

But they are your creation, and you are their creator.

You are all creation.

Our weapons, our bombs, our power to destroy,

are not important when compared to the cry of a newborn baby.

On a starry night, with your glory sprinkled across the skies,

I stare into the infinite ends of your universe, and I wonder,

Who am I? Why do I matter? Why do you care about me?

We humans are less than specks of dust in your universe,

our time frame shorter than a second in the great clock of creation;

Yet you have adopted us.

You have given us a special place in your family;

you have trusted us to manage your earth, on your behalf -

to look after not just the sheep and the oxen,

but also the wolves that prey on them;

to care for the birds, the fish, and even creatures
at the bottom of the sea we have never seen.

My God! My God! How amazing you are!

Melville United Church

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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
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***Hymn:** Come, Now is the Time to Worship

**Come, now is the time to worship
Come, now is the time to give your heart
Come, just as you are to worship
Come, just as you are before your God. Come**

**One day every tongue will confess You are God
One day every knee will bow
Still the greatest treasure remains for those
Who gladly choose You now**

Opening Prayer:

We gather here this morning in the presence of our Creator
and one another,
to pause from our day to day living.

**We come to take some time in our busy lives
to reconnect with God and each other.**

Jesus said, "I came not to be served but to be a servant."

We know this is an example we are called to follow
and yet we so often find it difficult.

**We want to be served;
we want to be important;
we want to have our needs met.**

Forgive us, loving God.

Open our hearts to the true joy that comes from serving others.

Draw out from us a desire to be a part of a serving community,
**where each of us shares a concern for the needs of each other,
and none are forgotten. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

God has made us - all of us.

And God loves us - all of us - as if we were God's favourite.

So be assured that, as you seek to realign your hearts with God's,
you are forgiven, and loved unconditionally.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Chorus: God, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary MV 18

**God, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living
sanctuary for you. (Repeat)**

Scripture: Genesis 1:26-28 (from Seasons of the Spirit worship resource)
(Made from Love for Love)

- One: God created light and sky, oceans and land, plants and trees,
lights for the day and the night,
creatures to fill the water and the sky and the earth.
- Two: Let's have humankind, made of my (our) essence.
They'll care for the creatures in the water
and the sky and on the earth,
and be cared for by these same ones,
sharing together this life banquet.
- One: And so it was. The Creator gave them genders,
unique bodies, diverse personalities, and all with one spirit.
Seeing the beauty of their souls was like looking in a mirror.
The Creator blessed them:
- Two: Fill this world with life, as I have filled you with life.
Love your brothers and sisters, every creature and plant.
You were made from love and for love.
May love be your being and your doing.

Question & Reflection:

Song: Roll Over the Ocean

**It's God. It's God. It's God who builds community.
It's God. It's God. It's God who builds community.
It's God. It's God. It's God who builds community.
It's God who builds community. (Clap, clap, clap) Hey!**

**Roll over the ocean. Roll over the sea.
Roll over the ocean in the deep blue sea.
Roll over the ocean. Roll over the sea.
Go and do your part to build community.**

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-5 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)
(Value others over yourselves)

If our life in Christ means anything to you - if love, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness or sympathy can persuade you at all - then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing that would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit, but everybody is to be humble: value others over yourselves, each of you thinking of the interests of others before your own. Your attitude must be the same as that of Christ Jesus.

Readers: Liam and Ella Ogilvie

Question & Reflection

Song: Roll Over the Ocean

It's love. It's love. It's love that builds community.
It's love. It's love. It's love that builds community.
It's love. It's love. It's love that builds community.
It's love that builds community. (Clap, clap, clap) Hey!

Roll over the ocean. Roll over the sea.
Roll over the ocean in the deep blue sea.
Roll over the ocean. Roll over the sea.
Go and do your part to build community.

It's us. It's us. It's us who builds community.
It's us. It's us. It's us who builds community.
It's us. It's us. It's us who builds community.
It's us who build community. (Clap, clap, clap) Hey!

Roll over the ocean. Roll over the sea.
Roll over the ocean in the deep blue sea.
Roll over the ocean. Roll over the sea.
Go and do your part to build community.

Scripture: Mark 10: 35-45 (Ralph Milton - *Lectionary Story Bible*)
(Everyone Is a Helper)

"I'm really ticked off!" said Susanna.

"Me, too," said Peter. "They had no right to do that!"

Andrew heard Susanna and Peter talking. "Who are you complaining about?" he asked. "What did they do?"

"It's James and John," said Susanna. "They want to be more important than the rest of us."

"Yeah," said Peter. "They went right up to Jesus and asked. 'When God's realm, God's kingdom, is over the whole earth, please let us sit right beside you. That way everyone will know we are your favourites.'"

"Did Jesus say 'yes'?" asked Andrew.

"Jesus said he couldn't promise them anything like that," said Peter.

"Well, I guess not!" Said Andrew. "They shouldn't have asked him in the first place."

Just then Jesus came walking toward them. James and John were with him. "You three look very angry," Jesus said.

"We're not angry at you, Jesus. We're angry at James and John. They shouldn't have asked you to make them more important."

James and John looked down at the ground. They knew they had made a mistake.

"I'm sorry," said James.

"So am I," said John,.

Jesus smiled at them. "You all know there are big, very strong kings. There are many rich people, who think they are the best. There are leaders in the army, who act as if they're everyone's boss.

"But that's not the way it is in God's realm. God's dream is that nobody would ever be more important than anyone else. And that's the way it should be among my friends. You must all be each other's helpers.

"That's what I am," said Jesus. "God didn't send me to be your king or your boss. God sent me to be your helper. I am here to help you."

Question & Reflection

Song: Roll Over the Ocean

**It's you. It's you. It's you who builds community.
It's you. It's you. It's you who builds community.
It's you. It's you. It's you who builds community.
It's you who builds community. (Clap, clap, clap) Hey!**

**Roll over the ocean. Roll over the sea.
Roll over the ocean in the deep blue sea.
Roll over the ocean. Roll over the sea.
Go and do your part to build community.**

**It's me. It's me. It's me who builds community.
It's me. It's me. It's me who builds community.
It's me. It's me. It's me who builds community.
It's me who builds community. (Clap, clap, clap) Hey!**

**Roll over the ocean. Roll over the sea.
Roll over the ocean in the deep blue sea.
Roll over the ocean. Roll over the sea.
Go and do your part to build community.**

Invitation to Offering:

Ministry of Music: D. Besig - United in Christ

Offering Hymn: For the Gift of Creation VU 538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,
we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

**Take all we offer you, O God: our gifts, our hands, our hearts.
Use them to help make our world a better place,
to share your love and laughter in gloomy places,
to share your abundance in places of hunger,
and to share your joy around the world. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns:

**Prayer Prelude: Day After Day MV 123
Day after day, night after night,
you speak through everything.**

**Day after day, night after night,
you speak through everything.**

Prayers of the People:

**Prayer of Jesus: (the "Youth Room" Lord's Prayer)
Our ever-loving Creator,
Let your spirit shine through us!**

**May we do all we can with our lives,
no matter where we are.
Fulfill our needs with
food for our bodies,
and inspiration for our souls.**

**Thank you for loving us,
and giving us another chance.
Give us the courage and strength
to forgive those who hurt us,
so we may all live in peace.
Help us to ignore the distractions
that keep us from knowing and loving you.
Guide our hearts away from false happiness.**

**You are reason, power and life,
a song that brightens and beautifies the world,
over and over again.**

Halleluiah! Rejoice!

***Hymn: We Are the Church**

(All God's People Sing)

Chorus:

I am the church! You are the church!
 We are the church together!
 All who follow Jesus, All around the world!
 Yes, we're the church together!

1. The church is not a building,
 the church is not a steeple,
 the church is not a resting place,
 the church is a people!

Chorus:

I am the church! You are the church!
 We are the church together!
 All who follow Jesus, All around the world!
 Yes, we're the church together!

2. We're many kinds of people
 with many kinds of faces,
 all colours and all ages, too
 from all times and places.

Chorus:

I am the church! You are the church!
 We are the church together!
 All who follow Jesus, All around the world!
 Yes, we're the church together!

3. And when the people gather,
 there's singing and there's praying,
 There's laughing and there's crying sometimes,
 all of it saying:

Chorus:

I am the church! You are the church!
 We are the church together!
 All who follow Jesus, All around the world!
 Yes, we're the church together!

4. I count if I am ninety,
 or nine or just a baby;
 There's one thing I am sure about
 And I don't mean maybe:

Chorus:

I am the church! You are the church!
 We are the church together!
 All who follow Jesus, All around the world!
 Yes, we're the church together!

Blessing/Sending Forth:** (based on Philippians 2:1-4 - The Message)Parting Song:** We Will Go With God MV 223

We will go with God my sisters!
 We will go with God!
 We will go with God my brothers!
 We will go with God!

On this day of great joy
 we will go with God.
 On this day of great joy
 we will go with God. (Repeat)

Postlude: J. M. Michel Suite Jazzique**Prayer of the Week:**

Creator God, you call us to remember our humanity because in knowing ourselves, we know you more fully. May we be reminded that we are your creation and that you call us, to responsibility. You delight in our potential. In the beauty around and within us, may we embrace your ways and remember our kinship with all creation. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Elora**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Armenian Evangelical, Cambridge**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Lynne Lamb, Isabel Weaver,
Bob Zirk, Joyce Keizerwaard

Counters:

Lynne Lamb