

Melville United Church
Sunday, September 20, 2015
Season of Creation - Sky 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: Improvisation

Call to Worship: based on Psalm 19:1-6

- (paraphrase - James Taylor - *Everyday Psalms*)

“The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament showeth God’s handiwork...”

The whole earth is God’s textbook.

**From the edges of the atmosphere to the core of the planet,
the wonders of the world expand our understanding.**

Rocks have no words, nor do cells have syllables,
yet their message can be read anywhere.

Even the fiery stars, racing through space,
**yield their secrets to those whose minds are open
to the mysteries of God’s universe.**

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

***Hymn:** Called by Earth and Sky **MV 135**

Opening Prayer:

**Loving God, when we think of the vast expanse of sky we are in awe.
We can seem so tiny by comparison,
and so irrelevant.**

**Yet you know us - each one of us -
and you love us - each one of us.**

**Guide us, Creator God,
in the awesome task of caring for your earth
and for the sky above us all. Amen.**

<p>Melville United Church St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781 Team Ministry</p>	
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
Summer Office hours:	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Th. & F.
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Prayer for Inner Healing:

Creator God, we have only one sky:

a seemingly endless void that surrounds us.

It can seem like a great, blue nothingness,

and yet we know that it contains the very air we need

to breathe in and out every moment of every day.

We have hurt the sky, Holy One.

We have polluted it, we have clouded it with skyscrapers,
we have burnt holes in the ozone layer through our carelessness and
greed.

Forgive us.

**Teach us ways to treat Sky more gently, that it may be a source of
wonder and of life for generations to come. Amen!**

Words of Assurance:

When we are overwhelmed and frightened by things we have done,

God offers us a word of hope.

We are reminded that there is a rainbow after every storm,

a dawn after every nighttime,

and God's wondrous forgiveness always.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Chorus: I Praise You, O God

MV 61

I praise you, O God, with all of my heart.

With all the earth I will sing your praises.

I praise you, O God, with all of my heart.

With all the earth I will sing your praises.

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: Teach Me God to Wonder

VU 299

Scripture: based on Jeremiah 4:23-28 - (Seasons of the Spirit Worship Resource)
(Look to the Sky)

Pay attention - your actions have consequences.

I looked on the earth and saw a waste.

Precious land ravaged for oil, rivers becoming toxic with chemicals.

I looked to the heavens:

instead of light and clouds, planes and clouds of pollution.

Pay attention - our actions have consequences.

I looked on the mountains:

disasters and quaking, the earth shaking like a sick child.

I looked at the air

empty of birds, the land empty of creatures, the waters empty of
swimmers - no life at all.

Pay attention - our actions have consequences.

I looked at the fruitful land.

Forests and fields turned to desert. Nothing can grow in soil drained of
nutrients or covered with cement.

I looked at the cities.

People killing each other, destroying, rioting,
human hurt and anger unleashed, mirrored by God's hurt and anger.

Pay attention - your actions have consequences.

This is not the end.

Look to the Sky, there will be mourning and darkness.

I am still with you, and I will not relent or turn back.

Look to the Sky and see what you have done.

Look to the Sky and ask forgiveness for the pain and hurt you've brought
to creation.

Look to the Sky and remember God's constant and generous love.

Look to the Sky and remember the beauty and wonder of creation.

Look to the Sky and change your ways.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 19:7-14 (paraphrase by James Taylor- *Everyday Psalms*)
(A celebration of curiosity)

The ways of God are wonderful.

With sure skill, God has woven the web of life.

Predictable patterns emerge;

we recognize them and rejoice.

The laws of the universe unfold like a flower before our thirsting minds;

we begin to understand.

Our intellects explore the fabric of a planet pulsing with life.

We sense the underlying order of the universe -

it is so true, so right, that we stand in awe.

These insights are worth more than wealth and popularity;
more than chocolate kisses or honeyed words.

By them we come to understand our place;
within this pattern we find our role and responsibility.

Yet pride seduces us into considering ourselves special.
Keep us from presuming our own importance, God;
protect us from those who promote selfish, short-sighted goals.
Then we can be innocent of crimes against your tapestry of life.

Let all that I learn and all that I do be acceptable to you, God of all life.

Reader: **Barb Gregory**

Scripture: Philippians 2:14-16a (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

In everything you do, act without grumbling or arguing; prove yourselves innocent and straightforward, children of God beyond reproach, in the midst of a twisted and depraved generation - among which you shine like stars in the sky, while holding fast to the word of life.

Message: Wonder and Awe

Hymn: How Great Thou Art - vs 1,2 4

VU 238

Offering:

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 bring.**

Ministry of Music: L. Larson - Be Aware of Wonders

***Offertory Prayer:**

As endless as the sky is your love for us, O God. Endless, too, is our love for you. Receive these gifts, offered as tools to help us - through our church - to do your work in 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: (Before the Strangeness - Bruce Sanguin - *If Darwin Prayed*)

Prayer of Jesus: Aramaic Translation (Bruce Sanguin - *If Darwin Prayed*)

**Loving presence, luminous in all creation,
hallowed be your name.
Thy kin-dom come.
May we reflect on Earth
the yielding perfection of the heavens.
Help us to receive an illumined measure from Earth this day.
Forgive us when we trespass against others,
human and other-than-human,
as we forgive others who trespass against us.
Keep us on the path of wisdom
when we are tempted to take the selfish path.
May it be your rule we follow,
your power we exercise,
and your radiance that allures.
May this be the truth that guides our lives,
the ground from which our future will grow,
until we meet again. Amen.**

***Hymn:** This Is God's Wondrous World

VU 296

***Blessing: A Celtic Blessing**

Deep peace of the running wave to you.

Deep peace of flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the infinite peace to you.

Go now, knowing God is with you always!

Amen.

***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. S. Bach - Prelude in C

Prayer of the Week:

Creator God, you desire to be in relationship with us, and for us to be awestruck by your beauty. May our attention move upward and outward to notice you and your handiwork in the sky, in the stars, and in the warmth of the sun. May we be reminded that you delight in all of creation and speak beyond words. Guide us to respond and to be claimed by wonder, and connection to you and each other. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Elora/Bethany Pastoral Charge

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Bethel Stone, Paris

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Joan and John Cuming,
Isobel Glennie, Mary Hume

Counters: Mary Lloyd, Kaillie Rawn,
Karen Smillie