

Melville United Church
Sunday, September 27, 2015
Season of Creation - Mountain 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:

Come, let us go up to God's mountain.

It is a place of joy for the whole world!

God's mountain is a place of safety and security.

It is a place of joy for the whole world!

On God's mountain we renew our strength, ready to serve God another day.

It is a place of joy for the whole world!

Come, let us go up to God's mountain.

Come, let us worship God!

***Hymn:** Come Let Us Sing

VU 222

Opening Prayer:

Creator God, you have promised

to create a new heaven and a new earth.

You have promised to forget the past

and to offer us a new and bright tomorrow.

May we embrace it - both the blessing and the challenge.

May we find, in all aspects of life, the beauty of your presence,

and so may we find ourselves empowered

to proclaim your glory and truth to all creation. Amen

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Too often, amazing God, we give up.

We have heard there are goals and dreams just around the corner,

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Team Ministry

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| 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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and yet we find ourselves wanting to throw in the towel before we achieve what you have promised.

Forgive us, God.

Help us to know that your promises are not mere fluff and fancy,

but are filled with power and hope.

When we look for true joy rather than a quick smile;

when we seek things that we can share with others rather than horde for ourselves;

when we open ourselves to what you are doing in our world and in our lives,

may we have hope and trust once again! Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Hear these words from the apostle Paul: "I am convinced that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus: not death, or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers or height or depth, or any other thing that is created."

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:

Minutes for Mission: Gary and Jane O'Leary

Hymn: It Only Takes a Spark VU 289

Scripture: Romans 8:28-34 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)

(All things work together for good)

We know that God makes everything work together for the good of those who love God and have been called according to God's purpose. They are the ones God chose long ago, predestined to share the image of the Only Begotten, in order that Christ might be the firstborn of

many. Those God predestined have likewise been called; those God called have also been justified; and those God justified have, in turn, been glorified.

What should be our response? Simply this: "If God is for us, who can be against us?" Since God did not spare the Only Begotten, but gave Christ up for the sake of us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that God will freely give us everything. Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones? Since God is the One who justifies, who has the power to condemn? Only Christ Jesus, who died - or rather, was raised - and sits at the right hand of God, and who now intercedes for us!

Responsive Reading: Psalm 48 (paraphrase by James Taylor- *Everyday Psalms*)

(Above all other gods)

When things go right, give God the praise;

give God the glory.

Raise your eyes and see; the shadow of God looms over us like a thundercloud.

Before that awesome might, no one risks defiance,

not even the principalities and powers that rule this world.

They gather in force, confident of their powers;

they disintegrate in chaos, aware of their weakness.

The rain slices them into fragments.

The hail drives them into the ground. They cry out in agony.

Like leaves before an autumn wind, they scatter.

We do not lie; we witness in truth to what we have seen and heard.

The authority of God is above challenge;

it surpasses all other gods that humans worship.

The reality of God is more than human minds can grasp;

we can only struggle to understand.

The truth of God overwhelms our imaginations,

despite our attempts to confine it to our comprehension.

We know no more than to worship the God of creation, the one who created us, and all creatures, and all communities of creatures.

Let them all praise God.

Spend your life learning about this God,

so that you may pass on to your successors the truth - that this is God.

There is but one God, now and forever,

This God will lead us forward into the future.

Reader: Eleanor Johnston

Scripture: Isaiah 65:17-25 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(God's Holy mountain)

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth! The things of the past will not be remembered or come to mind! Be glad and rejoice forever and ever in what I create, because I now create Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight!

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. No longer will there be in it an infant who live but a few days, or old people who do not live out their days. They die as mere youths who reach but a hundred years, and those who fall short of a hundred will be thought accursed.

At last they will live in the houses they build, and eat the fruit of the vineyard they plant. They will not build for another to inhabit; they will not plant for another to eat. For the days of my people will be like the days of a tree, and my chosen ones will enjoy the fruit of their labours. They will not labour in vain or bear children doomed to die; for they and their descendants are a people blessed by God. Even before they call upon me, I will answer; and while they speak, I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb will feed side by side; the lion will eat straw like an ox. Serpents will be content to crawl on the ground; they will not injure or destroy in all my holy mountain," says YHWH.

Message: God's Holy Mountain - Have you been there? *(With God on the Mountain by Tracy Dartt)*

Hymn: I See a New Heaven **VU 713**

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: M. Hayes - The Light of Endless Love

***Offertory Prayer:**

We come to your mountain, loving God, bringing our gifts. We offer ourselves as servants of all your creation - voices to challenge injustice and destruction, hands to hold one another up, feet to walk and stand with any who feel they have no hope. Use us, and our gifts, to do your work. 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:

Response at the sound of the chime: **We pray with all creation.**

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** You Shall Go Out with Joy **VU 884**

***Blessing:**

Friends, go out into the world - God's world, our world - and share the love of God.

We go to daringly proclaim the good news of God's extravagant love.

Go and declare it to every living creature,

**We declare it so that all of God's creation might celebrate with us
the presence of the Creator in our midst.**

Go knowing that the God who made you will be with you, always.

Let the people say...

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: H. Peter - Prelude in D

Prayer of the Week:

Where we see limits and impossibility, O God, you see a future with promise. You invite us to dream of a time where there is justice and harmony for all the earth. Guide us to know, deeply, your imagination for us and our potential. Help us to gain wisdom from the past and yet to move into the future free from past ways of harm and destruction. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Alma United Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Binbrook-Blackheath

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Ruth Sproule, Peggie Dickie,
Diane Maloney, Elizabeth Stintson

Counters: Gary O'Leary, Jane O'Leary
Ken McManus