

Melville United Church
Sunday, September 6, 2015
15th Sunday after Pentecost



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Jen Auger

Welcome & Sharing the Light:

Prelude:

Life and Work of the Church:

Call to Worship

All who are present in this place, shout joyfully to God!

Sing a new song to our Creator!

God calls us to be present, and in our presence to seek the path of peace and justice.

Sing a new song to our Creator!

When God speaks, things happen. At the sound of God's voice, creation comes into being.

Sing a new song to our Creator!

Come, let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn: Joyful, Joyful VU 232**

Opening Prayer

Creator God, your presence is real throughout all Creation. In every corner of the universe your mark can be found.

Help us to find you, to experience you, to celebrate you, and to honour you in all the places where we find ourselves.

Your Spirit is present in everything around us: every leaf, rock, river, animal, and person.

Yet we admit, sometimes we do not notice you there, or honour your presence.

Our world suffers as a result. We act as if others do not matter, we can do what we want, and we ignore the delicate balance of life.

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
Summer Office hours:	10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Th. & F.
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We wish to be faithful stewards of this wondrous world of which we are a part.

And so here we are, aware again in this moment that we stand in your presence in every moment of our lives.

We are here, to open ourselves again to find you, to experience you, to celebrate you, and to honour you.

May your Spirit rush into our broken hearts and fill us again with the awe of Creation.

Amen.

Words of Affirmation

When we are overwhelmed by the hurt around us, when we feel downcast reflecting on what we have done to contribute to this hurt, still this amazing truth offers us hope: no matter what we have done, when we are present to God, God's light shines afresh upon us, and gives us new life. Darkness has never put it out.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Readings:

Genesis 1:1-25 (Seasons of the Spirit)

In the beginning: darkness. A formless void. Then Creator's breath danced over the waters, and Creator said, "Let's have light." And so it was. There was swirling darkness and light until they were separated and each made distinct. Creator gave a name to the light: "Day." And a name to the darkness: "Night." Creator God looked and smiled, and said, "Isn't that good."

Absolutely amazing.

God breathed in and out. The evening settled in, until the morning came again; the first day. And Creator said, "Let's have a space, an expanse between the waters below and the waters above." And so it was.

Waters surged up and waters rolled down and a blue dome of sky appeared in between. God looked at creation, smiled, and said, "Isn't that good."

Absolutely amazing.

God breathed in and out. The evening settled in, until the morning came again; the second day. Creator said, "Let's gather the waters under the sky over here, and have dry land over there." And so it was. The waters gurgled and pulled back to make space for sand and soil and dust. Creator gave a name to the dry land: Earth. And a name to the gathered waters: Oceans. And Creator said, "Now let's have growing things coming up from the earth. Seeds that explode into plants and trees, with fruit full of seeds. Every kind imaginable." And so it was. Greens and browns and every colour of blossom rose up out of the soil. God looked at creation and smiled, "Isn't that good."

Absolutely amazing.

God breathed in and out. The evening settled in, until the morning came again; the third day. Creator said, "Let's have lights in the sky. How about one great light for the day, and another one for the night. They will shape the days and the years and the seasons." And so it was. The Creator gave a name to the light of the day: Sun. And a name to the light of the night: Moon. Then Creator added more lights for extra beauty, and named them: Stars. God looked at creation and smiled, "Isn't that good."

Absolutely amazing.

God breathed in and out. The evening settled in, until the morning came again; the fourth day. And Creator said, "Let's have living creatures swimming in the waters and flying in the sky. Let's have wings and fins and feathers and gills." And so it was. Tiny fish and great sea monsters and songbirds and soaring creatures filled the waters and air. The Creator blessed them: "Swim for joy and fly for pure delight. Fill the sky and the seas. Be as abundant and ongoing As the love I have poured into you." God looked at creation and smiled, "Isn't that good."

Absolutely amazing.

God breathed in and out. The evening settled in, until the morning came again; the fifth day. And Creator said, "Let's have all kinds of living creatures. Some that run and others that creep, some with four legs or many legs or none at all. Let them be wild and many." And it was so. The land was vibrating with creatures of all shapes and sizes, every colour

and texture and temperament. The earth was wild and alive. God looked at creation and smiled, "Isn't that good."

Absolutely amazing.

Psalm 33:1-9

John 1:1-14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Response: Listen, God is Calling **MV 97**

Listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort and joy.

Reflection: Being Present to Creation

***Hymn:** My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV 138

Invitation to the Offering

Ministry of Music:

***Offering Response:** 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:

We give you these gifts, Gracious God, trusting that you will use them to proclaim your Word throughout our world. We give them knowing that, whatever we share, it can help to shine your light on all that surround us. Amen.

Joys & Concerns

Prayers of the People, Prayer of Jesus

*Closing Hymn: Forth in Your Name, O Christ VU 416

*Sending & Blessing

*Parting Song: We Will Go With God MV 223

Postlude:

Partners in Prayer: St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Wiarton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Vivian and Havey Andrews

Counters: Mary Lloyd, Lynne Lamb