

Melville United Church
Sunday, October 18, 2015
21st Sunday after Pentecost - Baptism 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:

In faith we call out to God.

We long to be near you, O God.

In faith we call out for God's healing touch.

We long to be near you, O God.

In faith we call out for a foundation that cannot be shaken.

We long to be near you, O God.

Come let us worship God together!

***Hymn:** Let Us Build a House

MV 1

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, how great are the works of your hands!

In wisdom you have made them all.

In faith, we come near to you in worship.

Bless us with the power of your Spirit

and hear our call to you. Amen

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Sometimes we push our way to the front of the crowd.

We ignore others - we just want to be first.

We want to be recognized.

We want people to see how good we are.

Yet often when we do this, it is without giving a second's thought to what the consequences might be.

We don't stop to think what is best for others, only what we want.

Forgive us, ever accepting and loving God. Amen.

Melville United Church St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781 Team Ministry	
Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Rev. Robin Osborne
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.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com

Words of Assurance:

We are offered forgiveness and a new beginning, time and time again. Rather than dwell on mistakes we have made, Spirit invites us to start afresh, moment after moment and to embark on new adventures without fear.

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.**

Hymn: God, We Pray at This Beginning

VU 443

Sacrament of Baptism

Being accepted into the Christian family of faith today is, Rowan Lachlan Sulley, child of June and Brian Sulley.

Statement of Purpose:

From the beginning of time, people have come before God and their community to celebrate the miracle of life, and to give thanks to God for the special gift that our children are to us. That is what we do in our sacrament of baptism. We give thanks to God, we express our own faith in God as central to our lives, and we commit ourselves afresh to the nurturing of our children in the Christian church.

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. By water and the Spirit, we are welcomed as children of God, we are claimed by Christ, we are united with the Christian community of every time and place and we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

Presentation of the one to be Baptized

On behalf of the congregation of Melville United Church I present Rowan Lachlan Sulley, child of June and Brian Sulley for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

(family comes forward)

Scripture: Galatians 3:27-29 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)

Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus. Furthermore, if you belong to Christ, you are the offspring of Abraham, which means you inherit all that was promised.

Profession of faith by the parents:

You have brought your child here for baptism. In baptism we are joined to the Christian family through the sign and seal of God's eternal love. Do you believe in God and God's love?

Yes, I do so believe.

Do you believe that God is revealed to us in Jesus the Christ who lived and died, and who lives on in the Christian church?

Yes, I do so believe.

Do you believe that God, through the Holy Spirit, is active in the world to direct and to strengthen you?

Yes, I do so believe.

Will you do your best to provide a Christian home for your child, encouraging him to grow in his own faith and to seek confirmation?

Yes I will, God being my helper.

Commitment by Congregation (*congregation stands*)

We are to receive this child as part of our faith community. In so doing, we remember our calling to share life together, and to be open to the future that he contains. We are also called to support this family and this child with love and with Christian teaching. Are you willing, as you are able to share in this responsibility?

We are willing, God being our helper.

Let us remain standing as we repeat "A New Creed" together.

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed

VU 918

We are not alone,

we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,
 the Word made flesh,
 to reconcile and make new,
 who works in us and others
 by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,
 to live with respect in Creation,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and resist evil,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope.

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing of the Water (*children bring water and people call out blessings*)

Prayer

Loving God of grace, pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this water, that this font may become your womb of new birth, our fount of blessing and source of grace. May it be a sign and promise of new life, not only for the one who will be baptized this day, but also for all who pass through the waters of baptism. We pray in the spirit of Christ, who was himself baptized. Amen.

The Baptism

Rowan, you are baptized in the name of God our mother and father whose arms are open wide;
 in the name of Jesus, the Son, who teaches us how to love;
 and in the name of the Holy spirit, whose wings will encourage and guide you.

Sign of the Cross and Blessing

Rowan, child of God, we bless you with water and the sign of the cross so that the world will always know, and you will never forget, that you are a precious child of God.

Laying on of Hands/Blessing

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you. May God look upon you with kindness and bring you peace.

Lighting of the Baptismal Candle

Your parents will now light your candle. The candles represent the light of Christ which shines in you and in each one of us and it reminds us that the light of God's presence is with us always.

The Child is introduced to the congregation as the following blessing is sung.

Sung Blessing: Bless This Infant

Prayer

Gracious God, keep this child in your grace as he grows in mind and body. Keep these parents in your love as they give guidance to their children. Keep us all that we may be always faithful to you. Through Christ. Amen.

Presentation of Certificates

Responsive Reading: Psalm 104 Part 1 - Refrain 2 **VU 826**
 (With Wisdom, God created the earth)

Scripture: Mark 10:17-27 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)
 (What must I do?)

As he was setting out on a journey, someone came running up and asked, "Good Teacher, what must I do to share in everlasting life?" Jesus answered, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: No killing. No committing adultery. No stealing. No bearing false witness. No defrauding. Honour your mother and your father."

The other replied, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my childhood."

Then Jesus looked at the person with love and said, "There is one thing more that you must do. Go and sell what you have and give it to those in need; you will then have treasure in heaven. After that, come and follow me."

At these words, the inquirer, who owned much property, became crestfallen and went away sadly.

Jesus looked around and said to the disciples, "How hard it is for rich people to enter the kingdom of God!"

The disciples were amazed at this and said to one another, "Then who can be saved!"

Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible - but not for God. With God all things are possible."

Reader: Mary Lloyd

Reflection: What Must I do?

Scripture: Job 38:1-7, 34-41,40:1-5 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(God's rebuttal to Job's complaint)

Then YHWH answered Job from the heart of the storm:

Who is this obscuring my plans with such ignorant words? Hitch up your belt like the fighter you are; now *I* will ask the questions and *you* will answer *me*!

Where were you when I created the earth? If you know the answer, tell me! Who decided its size? Do you know? Who stretched the measuring line across it? Into what foundation were its pillars sunk? Who laid the cornerstone while all the choruses of morning stars sang and the heavenly court shouted for joy?

Can you boom out your voice at the clouds, and cause them to rain on command? Can you send the lightning on its way? Does it report back to you, "Here we are?" Who instills the ibis with its prophetic wisdom? Where does the rooster pick up its intuition? Who classifies the clouds, and pours out the heavenly water jars until the soil is muddy, and the dust has become solid?

Do you stalk the prey for the lioness? Do you provide food for her cubs, when they lie low in the den, or crouch in a culvert? Who provides the raven its nourishment when its young cry out to God; when they wander about without food?

The YHWH said to Job. Do you still want to argue with Almighty God? If you have something to say, speak up!

Then Job answered YHWH:
 "I am worthless; what can I say?
 I'd better hold my hand over my mouth!
 I spoke once, but I have no answer -
 twice, but I'll say nothing more."

Reflection: Who Do You Think You Are?

Hymn: Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore **VU 563**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: I Thank You, Lord

Offering Hymn: Every Day Is a Day of Thanksgiving **MV 185**

**Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
 God, you've been so good to me.
 Ev'ry day you're blessing me.
 Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
 I will glorify you, O my God, today!**

**You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
 You opened the door that I might see, you're blessing me.
 And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
 I will glorify you, O my God, today!**

***Offertory Prayer:**

**Thank you, God, for making us servants of your work in the world.
 Receive these gifts we offer, and multiply what we give,
 transforming it into an overflowing abundance to serve the needs of
 others we pray. 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:**

***Hymn:** Come and Bless Us, God **VU 596**

***Blessing:**

Go from here remembering who you are - beloved children of God.

We go to join the mighty chorus of creation, giving thanks for all life.

Go from here with the confidence of the presence of God within and around you, with the promise of the companionship of the Christ along side you and with the enlivening of the Spirit to keep you joyful.

We go to be God's people in the world. 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. M. Michel - Prelude on Come and Bless Us God

Prayer of the Week:

Patient God, we have so many questions. We demand things, and often want to know where the path will lead before we set out. Set our hearts to rest and remind us that life is made up of more questions than answers, and that that's okay. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: The Door Youth Centre

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Cawthra Park, Mississauga

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mary Hume, Isabel Weaver,
Karen Smillie, Havey Andrews

Counters: Ken McManus, Eleanor Johnston