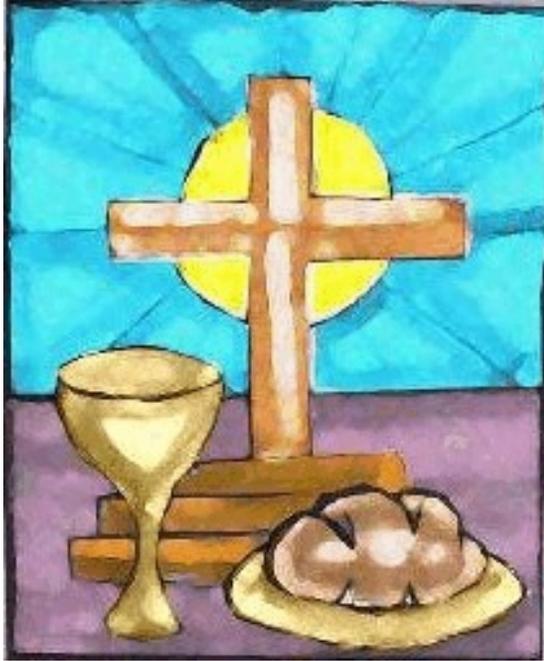


**Melville United Church  
Sunday, October 4, 2015  
World Communion Sunday**



*\* 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:**

Around the globe, God's people gather this day.

**On World Communion Sunday we gather around the Lord's table.**

We gather with different languages.

**We gather with differences too numerous to count.**

Yet we are more the same than different.

**Created in the image of God,**

**we are all named good and treasured by our Creator.**

Let us worship in unity, peace, and joy!

**Holy is our God!**

**Blessed are we to be in the presence of our God!**

**\*Hymn:** Come Touch Our Hearts

**MV 12**

**Opening Prayer:**

Our God, we draw near to you and to others in faith.

**We come remembering the taste of bread and wine.**

We come remembering the freedom of forgiveness

**and the strength of your presence.**

Draw us nearer to you.

**Help us to know our lives start from faith and end in faith. Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

Sometimes, loving God, we judge one another.

We look down our noses at other people, thinking we are better.

When we do that...

<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.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com

**God, forgive us.**

Sometimes we imagine that the ways we live and think are what you intend for all peoples.

When we do that...

**God, forgive us.**

Sometimes we think we are failures and that you think less of us if our human foibles trip us up.

When we do that...

**God, forgive us.**

When we are eager to condemn others or ourselves, remind us of your grace and compassion.

**Overwhelm us with your extravagant love, that we might share it with others. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:**

The Spirit of God is present today, as it was present yesterday and will be present tomorrow.

God's presence is constant and unfailing and allows us to accept and forgive ourselves and each other.

**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.**

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 26 (paraphrase by James Taylor- *Everyday Psalms*)

(Prove me, try me, test me)

Do not reject me, God. I have been true to you.

**I have trusted you;**

I have never doubted you for more than a moment.

**If you don't believe me, test me.**

Look into my heart and listen to my thoughts.

**See for yourself that I have been faithful.**

Can't you see that your love means everything to me?

**Everything I do, I do for you.**

I don't play around with pretense;

**I don't flirt with false ideals.**

I despise those who do wrong;

**I avoid those who flaunt their faithlessness.**

**I wash my hands of them.**

My hands are clean;

**I come to you with a clear conscience.**

I constantly count my blessings;

**I always speak well of you.**

I bless the day you entered my life.

**I glow when I am near you;**

I bask in the sunshine of your smile.

Don't look at me like something rotting in the back of the fridge;

**don't dump me out with your garbage.**

The trash can is full of people who cheat and swindle;

**they deceive their friends;**

they play both ends against the middle.

But I am not like them. I can hold my head high,

**because I have been faithful to you.**

**Scripture:** Job 1:1, 2:1-10 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Job's first affliction; faith intact)

Once upon a time, in the land of Uz, there lived a man named Job. Job was honest and upright, revered God and turned away from evil.

Once again the heavenly court gathered to present themselves before YHWH, and Satan was among them. YHWH said to Satan, "Where have you been?"

Satan replied, "Here and there. Roaming around the world."

YHWH said to Satan, "Have you noticed Job, my faithful one? There's no one on earth like him! He is unlike anyone else in the world, honest and upright, reveres God and turns away from evil! His integrity is intact - even though you incited me to ruin him without cause!"

Satan replied, "Skin for skin! A person will give away every possession just to stay alive. But reach out your hand and strike Job's flesh and bone, and he'll curse you to your face."

So YHWH said to Satan, "Very well. Job is in your hand. Just spare his life."

Then Satan left YHWH's presence and afflicted Job with painful boils from the soles of his feet to the crown of his head. Job would take a piece of broken pottery to scrape his skin with as he sat among the ashes.

Job's wife said to him, "So you're still holding onto your integrity? Curse God, and die!"

He replied, "Only foolish people talk like that. If we accept happiness from God, we should also accept adversity."

Through all this, Job never sinned with his words.

**Reflection:** "Tried and Tested"

**Scripture:** Mark 10:2-16 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Question of divorce; Jesus blesses children)

Some Pharisees approached Jesus and, as a test, asked, "Is it permissible for husbands to divorce wives?"

In reply Jesus asked, "What command did Moses give?"

They answered, "Moses permitted a husband to write a decree of divorce and to put her away."

But Jesus told them, "Moses wrote the commandment because of your hardness of heart. From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. This is why one person leaves home and cleaves to another, and the two become one flesh. They are no longer two, but one flesh. What God has united, therefore, let no one divide."

Back in the house again, the disciples questioned Jesus once more about this. He told them, "If a man divorces his wife and marries another, he commits adultery against her; and if a woman divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery."

People were bringing their children to Jesus to have him touch them, but the disciples scolded them for this.

When Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them. "Let the children come to me; do not stop them. It is to just such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. The truth is, whoever doesn't welcome the kingdom of God as a little child won't enter it."

And Jesus took the children in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

**Reflection:** "What *Has* God joined together?"

**Hymn:** We Are One

**VU 402**

**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:** Celtic Communion - M. Hayes

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**God of grace, amazed by your kindness, moved by your generosity,  
and inspired by your compassion, we offer these gifts as we pledge  
ourselves to the service of Christ and to Christ's vision for a renewed  
and just world for all people. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns:**

**Communion Hymn:** We Gather Here

**VU 469**

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*The elements of communion today will be served in your seats. When the plate is passed, please take one and hold it until all are served and we will partake together. The same with the cup, take one and hold it until all have been served and we will drink together.*

**Invitation:**

As we come to this table we are reminded that this is not the table of Melville United Church; nor is it the table of the United Church of Canada or any particular denomination. It is the table of Jesus the Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith and long to live justly and in peace with their neighbour, are welcome here.

May God be with us.

**God is here among us.**

Let us open our hearts to God

**We open them to God and to one another.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Grounded in the vine that is our source of existence, we give thanks for the gift of life that connects us to all creation.

**We are one with Earth and its creatures.**

Grounded in the body that is the life of Christ, we give thanks for our brothers and sisters who follow the way of Jesus.

**We are one with those who share our story.**

Grounded in our passion for justice, we give thanks for all who work for the common good.

**We are one with all who seek to be a community of compassion.**

Grounded in the bread we break and the cup we share, we give thanks for what we receive at this table: wholeness and unifying peace, courage to break boundaries and strength to self-give.

**We are one with love itself in the path that we follow and the life we are called to lead.**

And so we gather with those of every time and every place to give our praise and glory as we raise our voices together to sing;

**O holy, holy, holy God,** (MV 203)

**O God of time and space.**

**All earth and sea and sky above**

**bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n**

**creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed is the One who comes**

**and bears your name always!**

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, as we break bread and share the cup, giving thanks for your love in Jesus, the Christ. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labour. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. Remembering your boundless love for us as shown in Jesus, we sing of the mystery of faith:

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,** (MV 204)

**Christ will come again!**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again!**

At this time we also remember.....

...as we sing together the prayer that he taught us...

**The Lord's Prayer:**

**VU 959**

**Words of Institution**

On the night...

We pray you, God of Love, send your Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we, and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other, and to all the world.

**Amen, amen, O Holy One!** (MV 205)

**Hosanna and Amen!**

**Amen, amen, O Holy One,**

**Hosanna and Amen!**

**Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup**

The body of Christ - the bread of life.

The blood of Christ - the cup of blessing.

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life,

**whoever comes to me will never be hungry:**

**whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all things are now ready.

**Sharing of the Elements:**

**Post Communion Prayer:**

**Holy Presence, we give thanks that you have called your people from east and west, and north and south, to feast at your table. May your presence among us kindle such a longing for justice that we will never be satisfied until the whole earth knows justice, peace and love. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** Sent Forth by God's Blessing                      **VU 481**

**\*Blessing:**

Go into the world in peace, sharing God's overwhelming message of love and grace with all people.

**We go to share God's love with those who have been cut down by words and actions that tell them they are not complete.**

Go, knowing that God - Creator, Christ, and Spirit - is with you, and will support you, each and every day.

**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:** Prelude in G - F. Mendelssohn

**Prayer of the Week:**

God, sometimes we are confused and troubled. We know you are present in our lives, but sometimes that presence can seem elusive or even troublesome. May we be reminded that you are here no matter what, and that you love us no matter what. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Belwood/Metz Pastoral Charge (United)

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Calvary Memorial, Kitchener

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**

Lynne Lamb, Eleanor Johnston,  
Joyce Keizerwaard, Karen Smillie

**Counters:**

Gary O'Leary, Jane O'Leary