

Melville United Church
Sunday, November 15, 2015
25th Sunday after Pentecost



** 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:

Let us come in joy to worship God.

We remember times of celebration.

Let us come in our sorrow to worship God.

We remember times of grief and loss.

Let us come in our time of need to worship God.

We remember times of poverty and hardship.

Let us come in our abundance and prosperity.

We come, as we are in all times, to worship God.

***Hymn:** River

MV 3

Opening Prayer:

Thank you, maker of us all,

for your faithfulness to us.

Thank you, Friend of all,

that your presence never leaves us.

Thank you, Mysterious Guide,

for standing forever with us.

Open our hearts in this time of wonder and praise,

and journey with us when we leave. Amen.

Prayer of Longing: (Confession)

We long for security amid a changing world:

the terrorists strike, the towers fall,

the civilized order is threatened.

We long for security, in a changing family situation:

the ties of marriage are strained,

Melville United Church

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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:	Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
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**addictions are acquired early,
debt is easy to come by.**

We long for security in a changing church:
**the old tunes and traditions are replaced,
patterns of worship are new,
there is a different level of commitment.**

We long for security, in a changing faith:
**questioning and doubt are front and centre,
the person of Jesus is debated,
the scriptures are probed.**

Be with us in our longing, O God,
and remind us of your presence. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Does God change?

God is the wonderful constant in a changing world.

Does the message of Jesus change?

**“Love God, and love your neighbour as you love yourself,”
is as valid now as it was 2000 years ago.**

Is the Spirit still at work?

**Friends still encourage, the downhearted are still lifted up,
and the wicked and the powerful are still opposed.**

You have your security!

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: May the Words of My Mouth

Scripture: 1 Samuel 1:4-20 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Samuel is born to Hannah & Eli)

When the time came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions to Peninnah and her children, and a double portion to Hannah, for he loved Hannah, even though YHWH made her childless. And because YHWH closed her womb, her rival constantly taunted her. As a result, she grew gravely depressed. This went on for years. Every year they made the pilgrimage to YHWH’s Tent of Meeting her rival taunted her to tears and she refused to eat.

Elkanah, her husband would ask, “Hannah, why do you cry, and why do you refuse to eat? To grieve? Am I not more to you than ten sons?”

Hannah rose after one such meal at Shiloh, and presented herself to God. At the time, the priest Eli was sitting on a chair by the door of YHWH’S Tent of Meeting.

Hannah, deeply distressed, wept greatly, vowing, “YHWH Omnipotent, look with pity on your handmaid. Don’t forsake me. Remember me. If you will give me a child, a male, I will dedicate him to you. For all the days of his life, he will neither drink wine nor liquor, and no razor will ever touch his head.”

As she kept praying to YHWH, Eli noticed her lips. Hannah was praying silently - her lips moved but they made no sound. Seeing this, Eli decided she was drunk, and said to her, “How long will you continue to remain in this drunken state? Sober up!”

Hannah replied, “Oh, no! It isn’t that! I am a woman with a broken heart! I have drunk neither wine nor liquor. But I have been pouring out my heart before YHWH. Don’t judge me as a terrible person. I am simply pouring out my feelings of grief and misery.”

Eli said “Go in peace. And may the God of Israel grant you your wish.”

Hannah replied, “You are most kind.” Then she left.

Early the next morning they arose early and worshiped before YHWH and then returned to Ramah, their home.

When Elkanah made love to Hannah, YHWH remembered her. She conceived, and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, for she had asked for him.

Scripture: A New Day - based on Mark 13:1-8 (Seasons of the Spirit worship resource)

The temple in Jerusalem was a very sacred site. It was built with enormous limestone boulders that were put into place by means of ramps and pulleys. Hundreds of wagons pulled by oxen had carried those huge stones from the quarries to the building site. Thousands of skilled workers then cut, carved, chiselled and manoeuvred the stones

into place. It was a huge enterprise, which took many years of labour. It's no wonder that people got so excited about the grandeur of this construction.

Each morning during Passover week, Jesus and his disciples would go to the temple. Jesus would stand in the square courtyard until nearly dusk, preaching his message of hope and God's love to the people, challenging them to do what they knew was right, and laying his hands on whoever was in need. They were very long days.

One evening when Jesus left the temple, he led his disciples toward the Mount of Olives. And as they walked, the disciples discussed the temple building itself - what amazing craftsmanship it was; how massive the stones were; how the strength of those stones would make the temple endure forever. The disciples were in awe. "The temple is absolutely breathtaking," someone said. And they all agreed.

Jesus listened and shook his head in warning. "Yes, the temple is magnificent. But buildings don't last forever. I tell you that not one single stone will be left in place. Someday those huge stones will be scattered and everything will be completely destroyed."

This thought puzzled the disciples so that when they had seated themselves on the Mount of Olives Peter, James, Andrew, and John drew Jesus to one side and spoke with him in private. They asked, "Jesus, what did you mean when you said the temple will be destroyed?"

Jesus sat quietly for a while, his eyes gazing far off into the distance. Then he looked at his friends and sighed. "We are entering a time when it will be hard to keep our faith. Some people will try and lead you away from the truth. You will hear of wars and rumours of war; you will hear of famines and earthquakes, but try not to be frightened. Through all these times, God will be with you. And this will not be the end."

Jesus paused, and then continued as his friends listened carefully to every word. "A new day is coming," said Jesus, "when the whole world will be what God wants it to be. It will be a time when no one will be hungry or thirsty. No one will be sad or hurting. No one will feel lonely or afraid. When these things happen, you will know that a new time is born."

"But when will this happen?" Peter asked.

Again, Jesus paused, "You don't know, and I don't know. But trust in me. And trust in God."

Reader: Susan Barth

Scripture Song: Song of Hannah

VU 828

Message: Will Your Anchor Hold?

***Hymn:** Will Your Anchor Hold?

VU 675

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Soon and Very Soon - Jack Schrader

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:**

God, we do not meet the persons our gifts reach; we cannot know their pain or enter their struggle. But with generous hearts, we give in faith, for we know that you, O God, will bless them. You will bless the compassion, the freedom, and the community these gifts make possible. 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:** May the God of Hope

VU 424

***Blessing:**

You have seen the signs;

you have heard the rumblings. Are you afraid?

**We have our anchor and we have our faith foundation;
we will not fear!**

So go to be God's church in the world,
encouraging others in their faith.

**We will not be consumed by buildings,
but by a living faith.**

Go, trusting in the God who 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: Magnificat - J. Mauersberger

Prayer of the Week:

God of life, impatiently we stamp our feet, yelling "now!" Yet empty,
we are filled with your life; desperate, we are gifted with your hope;
unable to see your future, you open our eyes to faith. May it be in the
waiting that we find you. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Grand River Community Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Eramosa (Barrie Hill, Speedside)

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Isobel Glennie, Elizabeth Stintson,
Peggie Dickie, Joyce Keizerwaard

Counters:

Ken McManus