

Melville United Church
Sunday, January 10, 2016
Baptism of Jesus



** 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 all God's people, and listen to the voice of God.

God's voice is in the murmur of the waters.

The water is cleansing and refreshing.

Water reminds us of our vows to follow Christ.

Baptism clears a way for new life.

**Our baptism reminds us that we are God's people,
and that we join together in love and service.**

***Hymn:** Shine, Jesus, Shine

Opening Prayer:

We gather at the river, Earth-maker,

to taste that which gives life.

We come with our friends, Life-giver,

to hear a word that is true.

We open our hearts, Pain-bearer,

to feel the comfort of your love.

As the One we call Living Water

emerges from the river of your love,

we hear your voice calling to him and to us -

"I have called you by name; you are mine."

Be in us and in our worship. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

We are beloved, but it is so hard to be love itself!

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	Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree
Chair of Pastoral Care & Prayer Chain Captain	Alison Rainford
Secretary's Office hours:	8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-826-9385, 519-835-8605 519-843-3841

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We try and try, but we sometimes fail.

We repent, and ask for forgiveness.

You remind us that we can begin anew.

Even if we have strayed,

we know that you can set us again on the path to you.

God, you know us and love us,

help us to live like your beloved. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

God's voice publically claims Jesus as a chosen one, the beloved.

We, too, are called by God: God knows us, loves us, claims and names us.

We are beloved and that love empowers us to be all we were created to be.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Chorus: I Am the Light of the World (refrain) **VU 87**

"I am the light of the world!

You people come and follow me!"

If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery

of what you were meant to do and be. (Repeat)

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: I Have Called You by Your Name

MV 161

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Jesus is baptized by John)

The people were full of anticipation, wondering in their hearts whether John might be the Messiah. John answered them all by saying. "I am baptizing you in water, but someone is coming who is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not fit to untie! This One will baptize you in the Holy spirit and in fire. A winnowing fork is in his hand to clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into the granary, but the chaff will be burnt in unquenchable fire."

When all the people were baptized, Jesus also came to be baptized. And while Jesus was praying, the skies opened and the Holy Spirit descended on the Anointed One in visible form, like a dove. A voice from heaven said, "You are my Own, my Beloved. On you my favour rests."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 29 (a paraphrase by James Taylor, *Everyday Psalms*)

(When the storm strikes)

Trust God--don't pin your faith to human capabilities.

**Science and technology, wealth and popularity-
these will all pass away.**

Only the Holy One is worthy of lasting worship.

Fame and fortune will not save you when the tempest strikes.

The winds whirl in; waves crash upon your shore.

**Houses collapse like cards; corporations crumble;
assets become worthless.**

Branches break off; mighty empires are uprooted.

In a storm, you are as naked and helpless as the day you were born.

Your possessions, your wealth, your status are useless to you.

There is just you and the power of God.

Before God's power, you tremble like a twig in a tempest.

**All that you depended upon is stripped away,
like the last leaves from autumn trees.**

Before God's power, you face your own frailty.

Nothing can save you--except God.

Only God is greater than any human crisis.

**Only God can sustain you through the storm,
and carry you to the calm on the other side.**

Reader: Allan Hons

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(I have called you by name, you are mine)

But now, Leah and Rachel and Jacob, hear the word of YHWH - the One who created you, the One who fashioned you, Israel: Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the seas, I will be with you; when you pass over the rivers, you will not drown. Walk through fire, and you will not be singed; walk through flames and you will not be burned.

I am YHWH, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your deliverer. I give Egypt as ransom for you, Nubia and Seba in exchange for you. You are more precious to me than Assyria; you are honoured, and I love you. I will give people in exchange for you, whole nations in exchange for your life.

Have no fear, for I am with you; I will bring your descendants from the east and gather them from the west. To the north I will say, 'Give them up!' and to the south, 'Do not hold them back! Bring my daughters and sons from afar, return them from the ends of the earth - everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made!

Message: Named and Claimed

***Hymn:** I Am a Child of God **MV 157**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: J. Ferguson: By Gracious Powers

Offering Hymn: As With Gladness Men of Old (vs 3) **VU 81**

As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our new born king.

***Offertory Prayer:**

God, no matter what we call you - El Shaddai, Yahweh, Jehovah, Adonai, Allah: your name is music and meaning. You have named us as well, and our names not only identify us, but hold the key to our true identities. Help us to be worthy of the name you have given us: beloved, be love, Christ followers, God's children. May our small gifts do your work of love throughout our community. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: And When You Call for Me **MV 96**

And when you call for me, I have already answered.
And when you call for me, I am already there. (Repeat)

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Will You Come and See the Light **VU 96**

***Blessing:**

Let us depart, beloved of God, showered in abundant blessings.

We will seek the reflection of Christ in all we meet.

Let us always remember to whom we belong.

We will be a reflection of Christ to all we greet.

Go, knowing the love of God, the peace of Christ
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit
is with you now and always.

Amen!

***Parting Song:** Go, Tell It on the Mountain - refrain **VU 43**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born. (Repeat)**

Postlude: D. Buxtehude: How Brightly Beams the Morningstar

Prayer of the Week:

Speak our names again this day, O God, and send us forth as refreshing and living waters. Guide us to shower others in the hope of your promise. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Central Pentecostal Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Japanese, Hamilton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Isabel Weaver, Graeme Chalmers,
Doreen and Larry Broome

Counters: Ken McManus, Eleanor Johnston