

Melville United Church
Sunday, January 24, 2016
3rd Sunday of Epiphany



** 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: *(based on Psalm 19)*

The heavens are telling the glory of God!

Their beauty shows what God has done!

We come to worship our Creator God!

Each day tells the next

to the ends of the earth, of the goodness of God.

We come to praise the God of all goodness!

God's word is sweeter than the sweetest honey,
and worth more than all the gold in the world.

We come to hear and absorb God's wisdom!

With our voices and our hearts let us worship God.

***Hymn:** You Shine

Opening Prayer:

You, who are One, gather and send us all your gifts, that are many.

Work through each one of us.

Remind us, O God, of your care for us

and the care you seek us to exercise for one another.

For with you and one another,

we are better together.

As we worship together

strengthen us, enliven us, renew us. Amen.

A Prayer for Community:

When we are in community, Loving God,

make us aware of the joys and frustrations of those around us.

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.
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When we are in community, Loving God,
make us aware of the gifts and talents of others and let us encourage their use.

When we are in community, Loving God,
let us work and plan to bring Good News to our neighbourhood.

When we are in community, Loving God,
let us take the love of Christ to heart and be ready to share it with everyone.

When we are in community, Loving God,
let us be the face of Christ to the oppressed, the bewildered, and the sick.

When we are in community, Loving God,
**let us forget ourselves, put others first
 and hold you at the centre of everything. Amen.**

Words of Affirmation:

This is our belief,
**in our growing sense of oneness in Christ,
 in our willingness to know and root out our selfishness,
 we will find the answers we seek.
 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: A Place In the Choir

Chorus:
**All God's critters got a place in the choir.
 Some sing low. Some sing higher.
 Some sing out loud on the telephone wire.
 And some just clap their hands or paws
 or anything they got now.**

**Listen to the bass. It's the one on the bottom
 where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
 moans and groans with a big t'do,
 and the old cow just goes "Moo."**

Chorus:

**The dogs and the cats they take up the middle
 while the honey bee hums and the cricket fiddles.
 The donkey brays and pony neighs
 and the old coyote howls.**

Chorus:

**Listen to the top where the little birds sing
 on the melodies with the high notes ringing.
 The hoot owl hollers over ev'ry thing
 and the jay bird disagrees.**

Chorus:

**It's a simple song of living sung ev'ry where
 by the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear
 the grumpy alligator and the hawk above,
 the sly raccoon and the turtle dove.**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)
 (one body, many parts)

The body is one, even though it has many parts; all the parts - many though they are - comprise a single body. And so it is with Christ. It was by one Spirit that all of us, whether we are Jews or Greeks, slaves or citizens, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit. And that Body is not one part; it is many.

If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," does that make it any less a part of the body? If the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," would that make it any less a part of the body? If the body were all eye, what would happen to our hearing? If it were all ear, what would happen to our sense of smell? Instead of that, God put all the different parts into

one body on purpose. If all the parts were alike, where would the body be?

They are, indeed, many different members but one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," any more than the head can say to the feet, "I do not need you." And even those members of the body which seem less important are in fact indispensable. We honour the members we consider less honourable by clothing them with greater care, thus bestowing on the less presentable a propriety which the more presentable do not need. God has so constructed the body as to give greater honour to the lowly members, that there may be no dissension in the body, but that all the members may be concerned for one another. If one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honoured, all the members share its joy.

You, then, are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it. Furthermore, God has set up in the church, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then miracle workers, healers, assistants, administrators and those who speak in tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles or have the gift of healing? Do all speak in tongues, or do all have the gift of interpretation of tongues?

Set your hearts on the greater gifts.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 19 (Refrain 2) **VU 740-741** (The heavens declare the glory of God)

Reader: Susan Barth

Scripture: Luke 4:14-21 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition) (Jesus reads from Isaiah, "The Spirit of God is upon me.")

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and his reputation spread throughout the region. He was teaching in the Galilean synagogues, and all were loud in their praise.

Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. Entering the synagogue on the Sabbath, as was his habit, Jesus stood up to do the reading. When the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed him, he unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

"The Spirit of our God is upon me:
because the Most High has anointed me
to bring Good News to those who are poor.

God has sent me to proclaim liberty to those held captive,
recovery of sight to those who are blind,
and release to those in prison -
to proclaim the year of our God's favour."

Rolling up the scroll, Jesus gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he said to them, "Today, in your hearing, this scripture passage is fulfilled."

Message: The Spirit of God is Upon Me

***Hymn: Deep In Our Hearts MV 154**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Beethoven - The Heavens Are Telling

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:**

We give thanks, O God, for the diversity that we share and for your love that binds us together. Take these gifts, given in love, that they may serve in drawing together all creation in praise of you. 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: (responsive)

Loving God,
in a world of violence and conflict, may we be the sign
that your kingdom of peace and reconciliation is at hand.

Loving God,

in a world of greed and self-interest, may we be the sign

that your kingdom of sharing and self-giving is at hand.

Loving God,

in a world of prejudice and discrimination, may we be the sign

that your kingdom of acceptance, openness, and welcome is at hand.

Loving God,

in a world of oppression and exploitation, may we be the sign

that your kingdom of justice and liberation is at hand.

Loving God,

in a world of brokenness and hurt, may we be the sign

that your kingdom of healing and wholeness is at hand.

Loving God,

in a world of need and darkness, may we be the sign

that your kingdom of light and liberation is at hand.

Our prayers continue...

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn: We Are Pilgrims** (Servant Song)- vs 1, 2, 4, 6 VU 595

***Blessing:**

Friends, the Spirit of God is upon us,

God has anointed us to bring good news to the poor.

God sends us out to proclaim release to the captives

recovery of sight to the blind and freedom for the oppressed.

As we go from this place, let us go with joy and boldness ready to live into this call.

We go to do God's work and to be God's hands and feet in the world.

Go, knowing God is with you 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: H. Peter - Prelude in E flat

Prayer of the Week:

We long for news that is good, O God - good for Earth, good for our hearts, good for communities. May we listen for your good news about those ways you have set before us, exemplified for us, and called forth from us, in Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Laidlaw Memorial, Hamilton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Eleanor Johnston, Mary Lloyd,
Joan and John Cuming

Counters:

Gary and Jane O'Leary