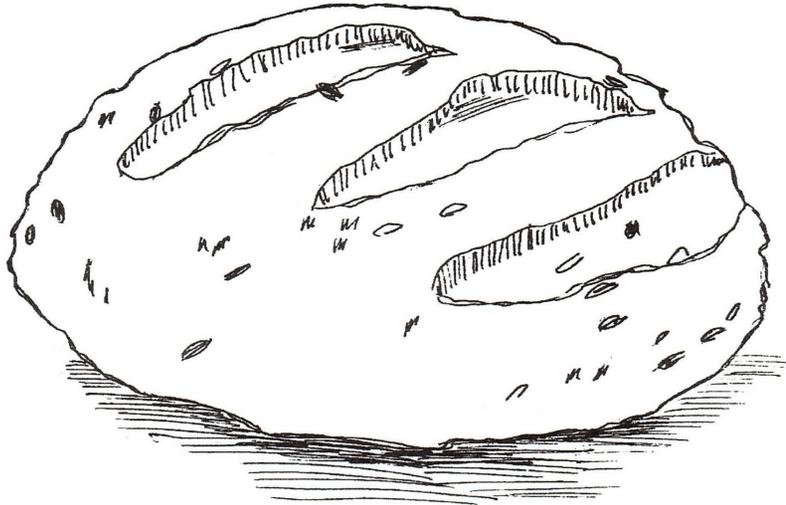


Melville United Church  
Sunday, February 28, 2016  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent



*\* Congregation please stand as you are able.*

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

**Prelude:** Improvisation

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Call to Worship:**

Come in to this place of sanctuary.

**We come to connect with God and each other.**

Come and find Spirit, water to the thirsty.

**We come to find Spirit,**

**bread to those who have a spiritual hunger.**

Spirit calls us to sort out our life's priorities.

**God's wisdom puts us straight.**

Come, let us immerse ourselves in Spirit.

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

**MV 12**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Remind us of your presence, O God, in the way that one who thirsts constantly thinks of water's taste and gift. But do more than remind us, be present to us in our need, in our weakness, in our fear, in our love. Wash away the dryness and weariness in our lives and revive us with Spirit's presence. Amen.**

**Lenten Rock Liturgy**

Jesus entered the temple and saw how it was being used to oppress the people. Rock is used to build so many structures - physical and organizational - that separate people and keep life from touching us. We place our trust in structures rather than in God and in our relationships (*the third rock is placed*). The rock of trust.

**May God's spirit journey with 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.
E-Mail:	<a href="mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com">secretary@melvilleunited.com</a>
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Pastoral Care Numbers	519-826-9385, 519-835-8605 519-843-3841

**Chorus:** Don't Be Afraid MV 90

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
my love is stronger than your fear.**

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger  
and I have promised, promised to be always near. (Repeat)**

**Theme Conversation:**

**Hymn:** As the Deer Pants for the Water VU 766

**As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you;  
you alone are my heart's desire and I long to worship you.  
You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield,  
you alone are my heart' desire, and I long to worship you!**

**I want you more than gold or silver, only you can satisfy;  
you alone are the real joy-giver and the apple of my eye.  
You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield,  
you alone are my heart' desire, and I long to worship you!**

**You're my friend and you are my brother, even though you are a king;  
I love you more than any other, so much more than anything!  
You alone are my strength, my shield, to you alone may my spirit yield,  
you alone are my heart' desire, and I long to worship you!**

**Minute for Mission:**

Phil Brown

**Scripture: Luke 13:1-9** (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(The parable of the barren fig tree)

On the same occasion, there were people present who told Jesus about some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their own sacrifices.

Jesus replied, "Do you think these Galileans were the greatest sinners in Galilee just because they suffered this? Not at all! I tell you, you'll all come to the same end unless you change your ways. Or take those eighteen who were killed by a falling tower in Siloam. Do you think they were more guilty than anyone else who has lived in Jerusalem?

Certainly not! I tell you, you'll all come to the same end unless you change your ways."

Jesus told this parable: "There was a fig tree growing in a vineyard. The owner came out looking for fruit on it, but didn't find any. The

owner said to the vine dresser, 'Look here! For three years now I've come out in search of fruit on this fig tree and have found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground?'

"In reply, the vine dresser said, 'Please leave it one more year while I hoe around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, fine; if not, then let it be cut down.'"

**Reader:** Lillian Gohn

**Reflection:** What in your life needs nourishment?

**Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-9** (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(All who are thirsty, come to the water)

"All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, buy food and eat! Come, buy wine and milk, without money, without price! Why spend your money for what is not bread, your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you will eat well, you will delight in rich fare; bend your ear and come to me, listen, that you may have life: I will make an everlasting Covenant with you - in fulfillment of the blessings promised to David.

See, I have made of you to be a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the nations. See, you will summon nations you never knew, and nations that never knew you will come hurrying to you - for the sake of YHWH, the Holy One of Israel, who will glorify you.

Seek me, YHWH, while I may still be found, call upon me while I am near! Let the corrupt abandon their ways, the evil their thoughts. Let them return to YHWH, and I will have mercy on them; return to God, for I will freely pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways, my ways," says YHWH. "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts.

**Reflection:** What gives you spiritual nourishment?

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 63:1-8 (Ref 2)

(I long for you, O God)

VU 781

**Hymn:** Water Flowing from the Mountains (Living Water)

MV 87

**Offering:** *please place your 'bread' offerings in the baskets as they are passed.*

**Ministry of Music:** K. Medema - Come Away

**Offering Hymn:** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow **VU 541**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

**Generous God, we dedicate these gifts and our whole lives to you.  
You provide for our needs and deepest longing. Take these gifts and  
help them be the water that quenches others' thirst, and the food  
that makes a rich feast of justice and peace in today's world. Amen.**

**Prayer Prelude:** Take, O Take Me as I Am **MV 85**

**Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me. (repeat)**

**Prayers of the People:**

Holy Presence, we look to you for spiritual nourishment.

We look to you to be filled and satisfied in ways  
that other things can never fill and satisfy us.

**God, quench our thirst and nourish our hunger,  
so that we might love and care for others.**

There is a great hunger in today's world.

It begins with spiritual hunger and longings  
that leave us empty, unsatisfied, and unfulfilled.

We start to seek fulfillment in the things of this world -  
wealth, power, possessions - and ignore what you can offer us.

**God, quench our thirst and nourish our hunger,  
so that we might love and care for others.**

Open our eyes to the needs around us.

We turn to those outside our walls  
and see the devastating effects of poverty,

hunger, war, disease, prejudice, hate,  
and a million other evils that exist in today's world.

**God, quench our thirst and nourish our hunger,  
so that we might love and care for others.**

The disturbing images we see in the media every day are of your  
children,

our sisters and brothers.

Where do we see you in these images, God?

**Where do we see our role in caring for others?**

Help us to see the needs of this congregation and the world around us.

**Help us to respond in ways that lift up your love.**

Help us be bread and water for a hungry and thirsty world.

**God, quench our thirst and nourish our hunger,  
so that we might love and care for others.**

Our prayers continue...

**The Prayer of Jesus: VU 916**

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!**

**Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!**

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom  
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.**

**In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.**

**In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.**

**From trials too great to endure, spare us.**

**From the grip of all that is evil, free us.**

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection

**VU 586**

**\*Blessing:**

Go now, fed by the rich feast of God's love.

**We will use our whole selves to love others.**

Listen for the promise of God this week;

**We will seek to draw closer to God.**

Go to show others God's love and compassion.

**We go knowing Spirit is ever with us.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**\*Parting Song:** Go Now in Peace

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.**

**God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.**

**Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.**

**Know God will guide you in all you do.**

**Go now in love, and show you believe.**

**Reach out to others so all the world can see.**

**God will be there within, around, above.**

**Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

**Amen, Amen, Amen**

**Postlude:** J. H. Schein - Allemande

**Prayer of the Week:**

May we be reminded of your presence, O God. May we know your presence in our needs, in our weaknesses, in our fear, and in our love.

We pray in Christ's name. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Belwood/Metz Pastoral Charge

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Nanticoke -Balmoral, Cheapside

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**

Richard Wright, Isobel Glennie,  
Bob Zirk, Lorna Zieglar

**Counters:**

Kaillie Rawn