

Melville United Church
Sunday, March 13, 2016
5th 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:

God loves us extravagantly.

We give thanks for God's love.

God awakens our hearts with Spirit.

We give thanks for the Spirit.

God inspires us through Jesus to love as we have been loved.

We give thanks for Jesus' example of love.

Come people of God, let us worship the God of love together.

***Hymn:** Here I Am to Worship

Opening Prayer:

O God, you love us with an extravagant love. Help us to spend ourselves in extravagant devotion to you, and to know the joy of your presence. Form us as your people. Form us to learn from the past, but not live in it, as we move into your future. Form us to listen to your voice - springing forth in creation, breaking out in Spirit, and calling all to something new. Amen.

Lenten Rock Liturgy

Following Jesus requires strength for the journey. If we follow faithfully, we will find ourselves taken into places of shadows and death. It is easy to falter and want to return home. Have courage to step forward. (*The fifth rock is paced*) The rock of strength.

May God's spirit journey with us.

Melville United Church
St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781
Team Ministry

| | |
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| 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 |

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: Said Judas to Mary

VU 129

Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-21 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Look, I am doing something new)

Thus says YHWH, who made a road through the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who led chariots and warriors to their doom, a mighty army fallen, never to rise again, snuffed out and extinguished like a wick: "Forget the events of the past, ignore the things of long ago! Look, I am doing something new! Now it springs forth - can't you see it? I'm making a road in the desert and setting rivers to flow in the wasteland. Wild beasts will honour me - the jackals and the ostriches - for I will put water in the desert and rivers in the wasteland for my chosen people to drink, these people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 126 (paraphrase by James Taylor, Everyday Psalms)

(New horizons)

The truth dawns on us -

we are appalled at what we have been.

For too long we have been captives of our self-image;

for too long we have let ourselves live a lie.

At last we are free!

Instead of narrow roles, we can see new horizons!

Our chains have fallen off - we can move freely once more.

Behind their bars, some still shake their heads,

but those who preceded us into freedom weep tears of joy.

This change could not come through our individual insights;

God must have had a hand in it.

But now we are unsure, God.

The uncharted wilderness of our new world stretches before us;

we no longer know which way to turn.

Fearful of falling, we take tentative steps.

We would love to run effortlessly.

We have thrown away so many opportunities;
there is so little time left.

For this chance to start again, God, we thank you.

Reader: Neil Dunsmore

Scripture: Philippians 3:4b-14 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Push on to what is ahead)

If they think they have the right to put their trust in external evidence, I have even more right! I was circumcised on the eighth day, being of the stock of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; in legal observance I was a Pharisee, and so zealous that I persecuted the church. I was above reproach when it came to justice based on the Law.

About those things I used to consider gain, I now count as loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss in light of the surpassing knowledge of Jesus Christ, for whose sake I have forfeited everything. I count everything else as garbage, so that Christ may be my wealth - indeed, that I may be found in Christ, not having any justice of my own based on observance of the Law. The justice I possess is that which comes through faith in Christ. It has its origin in God and is based on faith. All I want is to know Christ, and the power of the resurrection, and how to share in Christ's sufferings by being formed into the pattern of Jesus' death - perhaps even to arrive at the resurrection from the dead. It's not that I have reached it yet, or have already finished my course; but I'm running the race in order to grab hold of the prize if possible, since Christ Jesus has grabbed hold of me. Sisters and brothers, I don't think of myself as having reached the finish line., I give no thought to what lies behind, but I push on to what is ahead. My entire attention is on the finish line as I run toward the prize - the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Message: Starting Over

Hymn: I See a New Heaven

VU 713

Offering:

Ministry of Music: J. J. Williams - Call to Lent

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:**

**As Mary poured out her gift on Jesus' feet, so may our gifts offer
comfort and peace to those who need them most. We offer our
resources, our time, and our very selves, for the building of your kin-
dom. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns:

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:

The Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Be Thou My Vision (vs 1,2,4,5) **VU 642**

***Blessing:**

Go now, into your week to continue the journey of Lent.

We go knowing we are blessed with the spirit of Christ within us.

Go now, looking to a future of possibility.

**We go knowing we are blessed
with the sturdy companionship of Spirit with us.**

Go now, knowing that with God all things are possible.

**We go, blessed with integrity of purpose
to meet the challenges that are ours.**

Go now, knowing you are never alone. God is with us - always!

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. Brahms - Choral prelude on O Welt ich muss dich lassen

Prayer of the Week:

God of surprising grace, embolden us in ministries that convey care and connection, whether such ministry engages us in actions of long-standing tradition or risk-taking newness, for in gracious ministry to and with those around us we minister to you. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Olivet, Hamilton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Joan and John Cuming,
Diane Maloney, David Gohn

Counters: Mary Lloyd