

Melville United Church
Sunday, March 6, 2016
4th Sunday of Lent



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Lillian Gohn

Guest Speaker: Janice Ferri

Prelude: Improvisation

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

From dying day to living dawn -

our God can be everything to every one!

From hungering bodies to thirsting minds -

our God can be everything to every one!

Come and rest in the presence of the Spirit that feeds you.

We come to be filled with God's goodness.

Come, let us worship our God together.

***Hymn:** As the Sun with Longer Journey

VU 111

Opening Prayer:

God, we come with eager minds and ready hearts.

Help us to feel your presence in the words and music we celebrate today.

Open our hearts to your love and our minds to the possibilities you offer us.

Join us as a community of your people in thanksgiving, praise, and worship. Amen.

Lenten Rock Liturgy

In Jesus, we find light for the world, but sometimes we prefer to live in the shadows.

Sometimes, we prefer not to see what happens in our own emotional and spiritual life.

Sometimes, we prefer not to know what happens in the world 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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And in the shadows, we stumble on the rocks.

When we choose not to see or know, we choose to turn away from God.

(The fourth rock is placed). The rock that causes us to stumble.

May God's spirit journey with us.

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: Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands MV 173

Minute for Mission: John Cuming

Scripture: Matthew 14:13b-21 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Feeding more than 5000)

He left Nazareth by boat and went to a deserted place to be alone.

The crowds heard of this and followed him from their towns on foot.

When Jesus disembarked and saw the vast throng, his heart was moved with pity, and he healed their sick.

As evening drew on, the disciples approached Jesus and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late. Dismiss the crowds so they can go to the villages and buy some food for themselves."

Jesus said to them: "There is no need for them to disperse. Give them something to eat yourselves."

"We have nothing here," they replied, "but five loaves and a couple of fish."

"Bring them here," Jesus said. Then he ordered the crowds to sit on the grass. Taking the five loaves and two fish, Jesus looked up to heaven, blessed the food, broke it, and gave it to the disciples, who in turn gave it to the people. All those present ate their fill. The fragments remaining, when gathered up, filled twelve baskets. About five thousand families were fed.

Scripture: Matthew 25:34-40 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(When you helped the least of these, you helped me)

"The ruler will say to those on the right, 'Come, you blessed of my Abba God! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world! For I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me; in prison and you came to visit me.' then these just will ask, 'When did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you as a stranger and invite you in, or clothe you in your nakedness? When did we see you ill or in prison and come to visit you?' The ruler will answer them, 'The truth is, every time you did this for the least of my sisters or brothers, you did it for me.'

Reader: Mary Lloyd

Message: Janice Ferri

Hymn: Lord, Speak to Me VU 589

Offering:

Ministry of Music: A. L. Page - The Mystery

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:**

Loving and forgiving God, you provided food for your people in the desert. You quench our spiritual thirst and comfort our weary souls when we turn toward you. No matter how far away we journey, we only need to take one step toward you, and we are embraced by your love and compassion. We bring these gifts with a spirit of humility. May they be transformed into expressions of love, justice and peace and may we be transformed in the giving. 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:** For the Crowd of Thousands **VU 355**

***Blessing:**

We go now, transformed by God's love and forgiveness.

May we have that same spirit of forgiveness in our own lives.

And when we feel as though we have turned away from God,

may we remember that God welcomes us back again and again.

Go now, 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 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. S. Bach - Prelude in D-minor

Prayer of the Week:

Loving God, just as it can be our habit to break, to unbind, to distance ourselves from those we love and from those who need us, so it is your habit and your way to draw us back together and to you, and to enfold us in your everlasting arms. Thank you. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Elora Road Christian Fellowship

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Old Windham, Simcoe

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Dorothy Collin, Graeme Chalmers,

David Gohn, Elizabeth Stintson