

Melville United Church
Sunday, April 10, 2016
3rd Sunday of Easter



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

Who knows what you might hear in worship today?

God knows.

It could be the beauty of a favourite hymn, or a passage of scripture.

It could be the sound of friends gathering for worship.

Or even the silence between all the sounds.

As we worship, let's listen for the movement of the Spirit

inviting us to hear, and see, and feel God's presence in our midst.

Let's worship!

***Hymn:** The Spring Has Come

VU 187

Opening Prayer:

God of transformation, Christ, who was crucified, is risen. We come today seeking to be transformed, too. May the Spirit move us to be a force for change in today's world. May your love renew us and help us to be part of your important work in our community and beyond. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Dear God, as we remember your unending love for us,

we know that there are times when we have not loved others as you taught us.

There are times when we get caught up in our own fears and think only of ourselves.

God, you draw us toward you, even when we turn away.

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	Jen Auger
Minister of Music:	Matthias Schmidt
Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Allan Hons
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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Guide us back to you.

Help us to stay alert to the presence of Christ in our everyday interactions.

Forgive us the times when we give in to fear.

Forgive us the times when we disconnect from others.

Forgive us the times when we let our own worries consume us.

Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Spirit heals us when we cry for help, and restores us to life when we falter. God's favour is for a lifetime. Our weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning. God is always with us, we are never alone.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Chorus: Halle, Halle, Halle **VU 958**
Halle, halle, halle-lujah!
Halle, halle, halle-lujah!
Halle, halle, halle-lujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: Every Morning is Easter Morning

Scripture Reading: John 21: 1-19

Later Jesus again was manifested to the disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how the appearance took place.

Assembled were Simon Peter, Thomas "the Twin," Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, Zebedee's children and two other disciples. Simon Peter said to them, "I'm going out to fish."

"We'll join you," they replied, and went off to get into their boat.

All through the night they caught nothing. Just after daybreak, Jesus was standing on the shore, though none of the disciples knew it was Jesus. He said to them, "Have you caught anything, friends?"

"Not a thing," they answered.

"Cast your net off to the starboard side," Jesus suggested, "and you'll find something."

So they made a cast and caught so many fish that they couldn't haul the net in. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved cried out to Peter, "It's the Teacher!"

Upon hearing this, Simon Peter threw n his cloak – he was naked – and jumped into the water. Meanwhile the other disciples brought the boat to shore, towing the net full of fish. They were not far from land – no more than a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw that a charcoal fire had been prepared, with fish and some bread already being grilled. "Bring some of the fish you just caught," Jesus told them.

None of the disciples dared to ask "Who are you?" –they knew it was the saviour.

Jesus came over, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This marked the third time that Jesus had appeared to the disciples after being raised from the dead.

When they had eaten their meal, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon ben-John, do you love me more than these?"

Peter said, "Yes, Rabbi, you know that I am your friend."

Jesus said, "Feed my lambs."

A second time Jesus put the question, "Simon ben-John, do you love me?"

Peter said, "Yes, Rabbi, you know that I am your friend."

Jesus said, "Tend my sheep."

A third time Jesus asked him, "Simon ben-John, do you love me as a friend would?"

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked, "Do you love me?" a third time. So he said, "You know everything, Rabbi. You know that I am your friend.

Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

The truth of the matter is,
 when you were young,
 you put on your own belt
 and walked where you liked;
 but when you get old,
 you will stretch out your hands
 and someone else will put a belt around you
 and take you where you don't want to go."

With these words, Jesus indicated the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God.

Then the saviour said, "Follow me."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 30 (*paraphrase by James Taylor, Everyday Psalms*) (*A second chance*)

My life has turned around.

God has shown me a better way to live.

I know how it feels to be down and out;

I know doubt and depression too well.

But these things are like clouds passing over the sun;

their shadow pales when the light breaks through.

Like an alcoholic freed from addiction,

like a prisoner pardoned,

I must tell my tale over and over.

When things went well, I took all the credit.

When things went wrong, I fell apart.

I blamed myself for my failure.

I blamed God for punishing me.

**I asked God, "Does it make you feel good
to make me feel bad?"**

Would you rather have me praise you or curse you?

Who else will people listen to - the dust or the wind?

Give me another chance!"

It worked!

I started feeling better.

I looked for the goodwill around me, instead of the ill;

I quit moping and started dancing.

Now I know I owe my good fortune to God,

and I thank God every chance I get.

Reader: Helen Lacroix

Scripture: Acts 9:1-20 (*the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(*Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus*)

Message: About face!

Hymn: Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

VU 368

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Let the Whole Creation Cry – D. R. Johnson

***Offering Hymn:** What Can I Do?

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share. (Repeat)

***Offertory Prayer:**

God, you have the power to transform the most unlikely people into influential witnesses. We dedicate ourselves to being open to the movement of the Spirit and moments when we might be agents of healing and change in today's world. Use our gifts to show people your presence in their everyday lives. Help us be a means for encountering the risen Christ in a broken world. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Nothing Can Trouble VU 290

Nothing can trouble. Nothing can frighten.

Those who love God will never go wanting.

Nothing can trouble. Nothing can frighten.

God alone fills us. (Repeat)

Prayers of the People:

The Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** This Joyful Eastertide

VU 177

***Blessing:**

People of God, you are called to be witnesses to the transformational power of God's love!

We are renewed in the society of one another and God's Spirit.

You are commissioned to go out into the world with a new vision.

We go to serve God and one another.

Go! Knowing God is with you - always!

Amen!

***Parting Song:** Melville Benediction

Let's go out from here and take our place,

Respect creation, sharing all God's grace.

Treasure the past and things we have done,

Open our minds to new things yet to come.

God will be with us within, around, above,

Bless all our doings. Let us go and love!

Bless all our doings. Let us go and love!

Postlude: March from Judas Maccabeus - G. F. Handel

Prayer of the Week:

May we meet Christ in the ebb and flow of our lives. May we hear the Christ in another's words. May we trust God in our need for healing. May we journey with Spirit in times of life's turning. May your Spirit, O God, help us to hear your voice, trust in your call and be with others in your way. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora/St. Andrew's, Alma

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Ripley-Bervie

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Ruth Sproule, Mary Hume,

Linda and Norm Porritt