

**United Church Anniversary Service****Melville United Church****June 12, 2016 11:00 am**

*(Today's service is based on one written by Glenda Thornton,  
in Gathering, Pent 1, 2014, pg 48. Used with permission)*

**Gathering for Worship****Played by the Band**

Power of Your Love,  
Like a Rock MV 92  
Shout to the Lord  
Be Still

**Prelude:****Welcome & Announcements:****Call to Worship:** (VU 396)

Jesus, stand among us in your risen power;

**let this time of worship be a hallowed hour,**

Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart;

**bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.**

Lead our hearts to wisdom till our doubting cease,

**and to all assembled speak your word of peace.**

Come, people of God, let us worship together.

**Opening Prayer:****The United Church of Canada Crest (Part 1): "Introduction"**

*(Rev. Greg Smith-Young)*

**\*Hymn:** Come, O Holy Spirit

**MV 23**

**The United Church of Canada Crest (Part 2): "It's All Greek to Me."**

*(Rev. Marion Loree)*

**Scripture:** John 20:19-29 (the Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)  
*(Thomas needs proof that Christ is risen)*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were locked in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Temple authorities.

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Having said this, the saviour showed them the marks of crucifixion.

The disciples were filled with joy when they saw Jesus, who said to them again, "Peace be with you., as Abba God sent me, so I'm sending you."

After saying this, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you retain anyone's sins, they are retained."

It happened that one of the Twelve, Thomas - nicknamed Didymus, or "Twin" - was absent when Jesus came. The other disciples kept telling him, "We've seen Jesus!"

Thomas' answer was "I'll never believe it without putting my finger in the nail marks and my hand into the spear wound."

On the eighth day, the disciples were once more in the room, and this time Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors, Jesus came and stood before them, saying, "Peace be with you."

Then, to Thomas, Jesus said, "Take your finger and examine my hands. Put your hand into my side. Don't persist in your unbelief, but believe!"

Thomas said in response, "My Saviour and my God!"

Jesus then said, "You've become a believer because you saw me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

**Time with Children:** *(Jen Auger & Barb Smith-Young)*

**Hymn:** Roll Over the Ocean

### The Proclamation of the Word

**The United Church of Canada Crest (Part 3): "God's Truth"**

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 119 (VU 840-841, Part 5, Refrain 5)

*(God's word is a lamp)*

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:1,5, 13-17 (the Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)  
*(Jesus is baptized)*

At this time John the Baptizer appeared in the desert of Judea, proclaiming, "Change your hearts and minds, for the reign of heaven is about to break in upon you!"

At that time, Jerusalem, all Judea and the whole region around the Jordan were going out to him. Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, "I should be baptized by you, and yet you come to me!"

But Jesus replied, "Leave it this way for now. We must do this to completely fulfill God's justice." So John reluctantly agreed.

Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favour rests."

**The United Church of Canada Crest (Part 4): "A Dove Descending"**

**\*Hymn:** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

**VU 333**

**The United Church of Canada Crest (Part 5): "On Fire!"**

**Scripture:** Exodus 3:1-6 (the Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)  
*(God speaks to Moses through the burning bush)*

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock deep into the wilderness, Moses came to Horeb, the mountain of God.

The messenger of YHWH appeared to Moses in a blazing fire from the midst of a thornbush. Moses saw - "The bush is ablaze with fire, and yet it is not consumed!" Moses said, "Let me go over and look at this remarkable sight - and see why the bush doesn't burn up!"

When YHWH saw Moses coming to look more closely, God called out to him from the midst of the bush: "Moses! Moses!"

Moses answered, "I am here."

God said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground!

"I am the God of your ancestors," the voice continued, "the God of Sarah and Abraham, the God of Rebecca and Isaac, the God of Leah and Rachel and Jacob!"

Moses hid his face, afraid to look at the Holy One.

**We Respond****Invitation to Offering****Anthem** Old Time Religion Medley -arr. Mark Hayes**\*Offering Song** What Can I Do? MV 191**\*Offering Prayer** (*in unison*) VU 537

**Your work, O God, needs many hand to help you everywhere,  
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.  
Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:  
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

**The United Church of Canada Crest (Part 6):****“The Beginning and the End”****Scripture** Revelation 21:5-7 (the Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)*(God makes everything new)*

The One who sat on the throne said, “Look! I’m making everything new!” And added, “Write this, for what I am saying is trustworthy and true.”

And that One continued, “It is finished. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To those who are thirsty I will give drink freely from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

**Anthem:** Deep In Our Hearts -Oldham, Klusmeier**Prayers of the People:****The United Church of Canada Crest (Part 7):****“Fishing for a Different Catch”****Scripture:** Luke 5:1-11 (the Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)*(Jesus instructs the fishers to cast their nets on the other side of the boat)*

One day, Jesus was standing by Lake Gennesaret, and the crowd pressed in on him to hear the word of God. He saw two boats moored by the side of the lake; the fishers had disembarked and were washing their nets. Jesus stepped into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a short distance from the shore; then,

remaining seated, he continued to teach the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Pull out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”

Simon answered, “Rabbi, we’ve been working hard all night long and have caught nothing; but if you say so, I’ll lower the nets.”

Upon doing so, they caught such a great number of fish that their nets were at the breaking point. They signaled to their mates in the other boat to come and help them, and together they filled the two boats until they both nearly sank.

After Simon saw what happened, he was filled with awe and fell down before Jesus, saying, “Leave me, Rabbi, for I’m a sinner.” For Simon and his shipmates were astonished at the size of the catch they had made, as were James and John, Zebedee’s sons, who were Simon’s partners.

Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish among humankind.” And when they brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

**Hymn** Will You come and Follow Me **VU 567****The United Church of Canada Crest (Part 8): “Conclusion”****\*Hymn:** Sent Forth by God’s Blessing **VU 481****Commissioning and Benediction:****Choral Amen** **VU 974****Amen! Amen!****Hallelujah, Amen!****Partners in Prayer:** St. James’ Anglican, Fergus**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** St. Luke’s Cambridge**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford**Welcomers:**Ruth Sproule, Isobel Glennie,  
Mary Lloyd, Richard Wright**Counters:**

Art Russell, Mary Lloyd