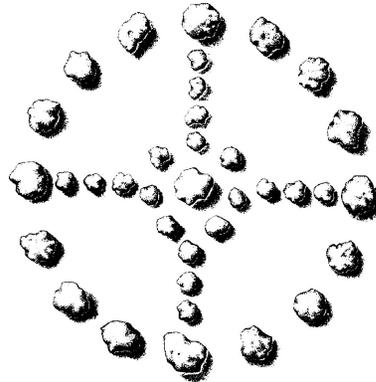


Melville United Church
Sunday, June 19, 2016
Aboriginal Sunday



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude: Come All You People

MV 2

Welcome & Announcements

From the Direction of the East - Spirit/Wholeness

Lighting the Sacred Fire

Song: Come Now, O God of Peace

VU 34

Come now, O God of peace,

we are your people;

pour out your spirit

that we be one body. (Repeat 3 times more)

Opening Prayer:

God, our Creator, Maker of all that is,

we come from all directions to this gathering of your people.

We come now with praises before you, grateful for your many gifts.

facing east

From the East, the direction of the rising sun,

we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

Give us sharp eyes, like brother Eagle who soars close to you,

that we might see truth and hope as we walk this path of life.

We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

facing south

From the South comes warmth, guidance, and vision.

Let us walk with the light of Brother Sun in joy and love for ourselves,

for others, for the four legged, the winged ones, the plants and all

creation that lives upon Mother Earth.

We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

Melville United Church

St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781

Team Ministry

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach
Minister of Music:
Church Secretary:
Custodian:
Chair of Church Council:
Pastoral Care
Chair of Pastoral Care
& Prayer Chain Captain
Secretary's Office hours:
E-Mail:
Web Site:
Pastoral Care Numbers

Rev. Marion Loree
Jen Auger
Matthias Schmidt
Gerri McCullough
Robert Mitchell
Allan Hons
Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree

Alison Rainford
8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. T., T. & F.
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facing west

From the West comes the rain, purifying waters, to sustain all living things. Healing waters bring balance to our physical, mental and spiritual selves, allowing us to know our place in creation. Like Brown Bear, let us walk sure and steady upon this earth, offering a calm and steadfast presence to all.

We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

facing north

From the North comes the cold and mighty wind, the white snows, giving us strength and endurance. As our hair grows white like White Buffalo, let us surrender with grace the things of our youth. Teach us to listen in the silence that we may make wise decisions in all things.

We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

facing upward

From the heavens we receive darkness and light, the air of your breath, and messages from your winged creatures. Open us to the voice of your Spirit.

We are grateful for these gifts, O God.

facing downward

From the earth we come and to the earth we will return.

We are grateful for Mother Earth - your creation.

May we walk good paths, O God,
living on this earth as brothers and sisters;

**rejoicing in one another's blessings,
sharing in one another's sorrows,
and together with you, renewing the face of the earth.**

We open ourselves to listen as you call us to your ways. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:**Words of Assurance:**

God, who hears our every prayer, moves with us in every dance step, and knows our every thought, says to us: See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs forth! (*Isaiah 43:19*). Know that you are forgiven and walk from here healed and free.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

From the Direction of the South - Creation/Emotion

Song: Creation Calls -Brian Doerksen

**I have felt the wind blow
Whispering, your name
I have seen your tears fall
When, I watch the rain.**

Refrain:

**How could I say there is no God
When all around creation calls
A singing bird a, mighty tree
The, vast expanse of open sea**

**Gazing at a bird in flight
Soaring, through the air
Lying down beneath the stars
I feel your presence there
I love to stand at ocean shore
And feel the thundering breakers roar
To, walk through golden fields of grain
'Neath endless blue horizon's frame
Listening to a river run
Watering the Earth
Fragrance of a rose in bloom
A, newborns cry at birth**

Refrain:

**I love to stand at ocean shore
And feel the thundering breakers roar
To, walk through golden fields of grain
'Neath endless blue horizons' frame**

I believe

I believe

I believe

Responsive Reading: Psalm 95 (a paraphrase by James Taylor,
Everyday Psalms, pg 113) (Unity with creation)

Come and climb up to the top of the rock;

stand on top, and stretch your arms out to the sky.

Reach out to the holiness that wraps its breath around you.

In grateful silence, soak up the shining light of life.

God is the rock upon which we live;

all the earth is God's.

From ocean abyss to mountain pinnacle,

from polar ice field to tropical rain forest,

God lives in every subtle link of life.

Bow your head before the wonder of it all;

feel the strength of the rock rise through your feet.

We are not alone;

we are one in God.

Lichens and trees, ants and people -

all are held in the palm of God's hand.

Do not isolate yourself from God's creation.

Do not consider your concerns first.

You will cut yourself off from God who created you;

you will think of yourself as god.

Your struggles will lead you further astray;

you will sink farther into a morass of your own making.

In your loneliness, you will begin to believe that there is no God;

you will never know the peace that passes understanding.

Reading:

Hymn: All Creatures of the Earth and Sky

(tune VU 217 - words attributed to Francis of Assisi)

All creatures of the earth and sky,

come, kindred, lift your voices high,

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Bright burning sun with golden beam,

soft shining moon with silver gleam:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Swift rushing wind so wild and strong,

white clouds that sail in heav'n along,

Alleluia, Alleluia!

Fair rising morn in praise rejoice,

high stars of evening find a voice:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Cool flowing water, pure and clear,

make music for all life to hear,

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Dance, flame of fire, so strong and bright,

and bless us with your warmth and light:

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Embracing earth, you, day by day,

Bring forth your blessings on our way,

Alleluia, Alleluia!

All herbs and fruits that richly grow,

let them the glory also show;

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

From the Direction of the West - Physical/Healing

Reading:

-Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Scripture: 1Corinthians 6:19

You must know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit,
 who is within you - the Spirit you have received from God.

The Four Sacred Medicines

Tobacco:

Cedar:

Sage:

Sweetgrass:

Song: Each Blade of Grass **MV 37**

Each blade of grass,
every wing that soars,
the waves that seep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.

Each laughing child,
every gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon bright sky,
make full the circle of God.

Each silent paw,
every rounded stone
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.

Each fire-brimmed star,
every outstretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.

Each icy peak,
every patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.

Each cosmic hue,
every creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.

From the Direction of the North - Community/Wisdom

Scripture: 1Corinthians 12:12-14, 27

The body is one, even though it has many parts; all the parts - many though they are - comprise a single body. And so it is with Christ. It was by one Spirit that all of us, whether we are Jews or Greeks, slaves or citizens, were baptized into one body. All of us have been given to drink of the one Spirit. And that Body is not one part; it is many.

You, then, are the body of Christ, and each of you is a member of it.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayers of the People:

Earth Dance: based on the Lord's Prayer (*Minnesota Women's Press, Dec 1999*)

Our mother, which art the earth,
Nurturing are thy ways.
Thy web of life be woven
Thy way be found within,
As it is all around.
Thank you this day for our daily bread and sweat
and forgive us our misuse of you,
as we forgive others their misuse of us.
And lead us not into exploitation,
But deliver us from lording it over you,
And over each other,
And over all our other fellow creatures.
For thine are the waters of life,
The hills, valleys and plains of home,
The breeding, seeding, feeding ground,
For now, and for as close to forever
As we will ever come. Amen.

Offering:

***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:**

Creating Spirit, God of grace and compassion, your gifts to us are so many - we receive sustenance from the earth in many forms - air, food, clothing, shelter, warmth, medicine - and we give thanks. In gratitude for your goodness we offer our gifts of money, time and talent. May these gifts reflect your compassion and love to a hurting world. Amen.

***Hymn:** We Are Pilgrims (vs 1,2,3,6) VU 595

1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

***Blessing:** Sioux Prayer

O our Father, the Sky, hear us

and make us strong.

O our Mother the Earth, hear us

and give us support.

O Spirit of the East,

send us your Wisdom.

O Spirit of the South,

may we tread your path of life.

O Spirit of the West,

may we always be ready for the long journey.

O Spirit of the North, purify us

with your cleansing winds. Amen!

Postlude:**Prayer of the Week:**

Creator, we thank you for the spiritual teachings that guide us. Mould us and shape us to be guardians of Mother Earth. May we envision harmony and peaceful coexistence with all people. It is through you, Great Spirit, that respect, mutuality, and equity will be achieved. Show us the path that will unite our hearts and minds in the wholeness of life. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Bethel Baptist Church, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: St. Paul's, Hamilton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Joan & John Cuming

Counters:

Ken McManus

Thirty years ago this coming August, at the 31st General Council held at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Moderator Bob Smith extended an apology on behalf of the United Church of Canada to Indigenous people in Canada. The apology reads:

"Long before our people journeyed to this land, your people were here, and you received from your elders an understanding of creation, and of the mystery that surrounds us all that was deep, and rich and to be treasured. We did not hear you when you shared your vision. In our zeal to tell you of the good news of Jesus Christ we were closed to the value of your spirituality. We confused western ways and culture with the depth and breadth and length and height of the gospel of Christ. We imposed our civilization as a condition of accepting the Gospel. We tried to make you like us and in so doing we helped to destroy the vision that made you what you were. As a result you, and we, are poorer and the image of the Creator in us is twisted, blurred and we are not what we are meant by God to be. We ask you to forgive us and to walk together with us in the spirit of Christ so that our peoples may be blessed and God's creation healed."