

Melville United Church
Sunday, June 26, 2016
6th Sunday after Pentecost



* *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:

God's way is holy.

God works wonders.

God has led the people in the past,
and calls us into the future.

As we listen for the voice of change
may we be guided by the Spirit.

Through the Spirit let us hear God's call among us.

God is with us, guiding us in this time and place.

Come, people of God, let us worship together.

*Hymn: Let Us Build a House

MV 1

Opening Prayer:

God of all creation, be our strength and hope. Give us courage to take up the mantle of discipleship. Embolden us to speak our truth, confront evil, and work to bring about your justice. Grant us grace to encourage others and accept and be influenced by other points of view. Amen.

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
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June 26, 2016

Prayer for Inner Healing:

When the flame goes out, and we imagine ourselves not good enough,
when the way is too difficult, and we can find no one else to lead,
when the gifts seem thin, and we feel we cannot find the way,

whisper your presence, O God.

When the questions are too deep and there is no way to seek an
answer,

when the mantle is unworn and we are the only ones to pick it up,
when the world is tough and your calling even tougher,

whisper your presence, O God.

May we find a new vision to dream,

may we find a new language to speak,

may we find a new daring within our soul,

whisper your presence, O God. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Hear a word of grace: God whispers in the silence of our hearts. You are
set free, my friends, set free to love your neighbour as yourself. Accept
the love of God that is within you and share it freely.

**Thanks be to God for the Spirit of freedom and grace
that leads and guides us into life. Amen.**

Chorus: Dance with the Spirit MV 156

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.**

**Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way. (repeat)**

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

VU 575

Scripture: Galatians 5:1, 13-25 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian
Edition)

(Called to freedom; the fruit of the Spirit)

When Christ freed us, we were meant to remain free. Stand firm,
therefore, and don't submit to the yoke of slavery a second time!

My sisters and brothers, you were called to freedom; but be careful,
or this freedom will provide an opening for self-indulgence. Rather,
serve one another in works of love, since the whole of the Law is
summarized in a single command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." If
you go on snapping at one another and tearing each other to pieces, be
careful, or you may end up destroying the whole community.

Let me put it this way: if you are guided by the Spirit, you will be in no
danger of yielding to self-indulgence. Since our flesh is at odds with the
Spirit - and the Spirit with our flesh - the two are so opposed that you
cannot do whatever you feel like doing. If you are guided by the Spirit,
you are not under the Law.

It's obvious what proceeds from the flesh: lewd conduct, impurity,
licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, hostility, arguments, jealousy,
outbursts of anger, selfish rivalries, dissensions, factions, envy,
drunkenness, orgies and so forth. I warn you as I have warned you
before: those who do these sorts of things won't inherit the kingdom of
God!

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patient
endurance, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-
control. Against these sorts of things there is no law! Those who belong
to Christ Jesus have crucified their ego, with its passions and desires. So
since we live by the Spirit, let us follow her lead. We must stop being
conceited, contentious and envious.

Reflection: Freedom

Responsive Reading: Psalm 77:1-2, 10-20 (from *Songs for the Holy One*, by T. Barnett and D. Patriquin) (Comfort from the Past)

I kept crying to God.

I cried aloud, hoping to be heard.

**In my day of distress I sought the Holy One,
stretching out my hands all night long -
yet I was not comforted.**

I said, "This is my sorrow:

the hand of the Most High has lost its power."

**Then I remember your works,
the wonderful things you did of old.**

I meditate on all you have done

and ponder your activities.

Your ways are holy and dedicated.

What god is as great as you, O Holy One?

**You are the God who works wonders;
you make known your power to the nations.**

**With your arm you rescued your people,
the descendants of Jacob and Joseph.**

The waters saw you, holy One;

the waters saw you with agitation,
even the ocean depths trembled.

The clouds poured out floods;

**the sky thundered;
your arrows flew everywhere.**

The sound of your thunder was in the whirlwind;

lightning lit up the world;

the earth shook and trembled.

**Your path is through the sea,
your course through deep waters,**

but your footprints are unknown.

**You led your people like sheep,
by the hand of Moses and Aaron.**

Reflection: Remember

Hymn: O Canada

VU 524

Scripture: 2 King 2:1-2,6-14 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Elisha sees Elijah ascend to heaven)

When YHWH was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. YHWH is sending me to Bethel."

"As YHWH lives, and you live," said Elisha, "I will not leave you"

So they departed together for Bethel.

Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here. YHWH is sending me to the Jordan."

"As YHWH lives and as you live," said Elisha, "I will not leave you."

So the two of them walked on. Fifty disciples of prophets stood off at a distance, facing the place where Elijah and Elisha stopped at the Jordan. Elijah took his cloak, rolled it up and struck the water with it. The water divided to the right and to the left, and the two of them crossed over on dry land.

Once across, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?"

Elisha replied, "Let me inherit two-thirds of your spirit," he said.

"You ask a difficult thing," Elijah said. "If you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours - otherwise not."

As they were walking along and chatting with each other, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and cavalry of Israel!" And Elisha saw nothing more. Then he took hold of his clothes and tore them apart.

Elisha picked up the cloak that fell from Elijah and went back and stood there on the bank of the Jordan. Then he struck the water with Elijah's cloak and said, "Where is YHWH, the God of Elijah?" As he

struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over the river.

Reflection: Picking up the Mantle

***Hymn:** Seek Ye First the Kingdom **VU 356**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Irish Blessing - P Stopford

***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:**

**Through these gifts that we share, may we be like Elisha,
taking up the mantle in the spirit of Jesus, trusting that God
will be with us as we live, love and serve. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Spirit of the Living God -vs 1 **VU 376**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Prayers of the People:

The Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Go to the World

VU420

***Blessing:**

God ordains every generation to be prophets

May we take up our mantle of ministry.

Christ sets us free to live our love in the world.

May we take up our mantle of ministry.

Spirit makes a way of ministry before us.

May we take up our mantle of ministry.

Go in the Spirit of God to be prophets of love by your words and actions.

Amen!

***Parting Song:** Melville Benediction

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

Ah, God. Silence is indeed golden when it enables us to hear the deepest concerns, those things that matter most to you to create the world in your ways. Grant us the courage to seek the wisdom in the voice of silence. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Grand River Community Church

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

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Elizabeth Stintson, Ruth Sproule
Vivian and Havey Andrews

Counters:

Ruth Sproule