

Melville United Church
Sunday, June 5, 2016
3rd Sunday after Pentecost



* Congregation please stand as you are able.

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Welcome & Life & Work of the Church

Sharing the Light

Prelude: Improvisation

Call to Worship

Today we come to worship.

From different places we gather together.

From different background we come to hear God's story again.

As we come, may we feel assured...

Of the presence of God.

Of the renewal within God's presence.

May we feel assured of the surprising directions we are called to explore.

Come...

Let us worship God.

Opening Hymn: Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Opening Prayer

Amazing God, we come to you today with many differences, yet we know that you are constant across time and people. By whatever name we call you, we come knowing that you are a God who listens. You are a God who renews us, you are a God who gives us life, you are a God who shows us new directions, you are a God who calls us to act in compassion. Be with us as we continue our journey together this day. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing

For all that you have given us,

We thank you.

For all the times that we have not done as you wish,

We are sorry.

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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When we feel empty,

Refill our buckets of joy and thankfulness.

When we haven't lived into your hope for us,

Help us straighten our path again.

When we have not spoken out against injustice,

Make us the voice for all who have been silenced. Amen.

Words of Affirmation

For all of our stumblings and struggles, God is constant. A strong mooring to tie onto in the storms of life. A spirit of compassion that embraces us as we are.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Chorus: Dance with the Spirit **MV 156**

Hymn: **MV 51** Yahweh Be Praised

Theme conversation: **Surprise endings**

Readings:

1 Kings 17:10-24 (The Message)

10-11 So Elijah got up and went to Zarephath. As he came to the entrance of the village he met a woman, a widow, gathering firewood. He asked her, "Please, would you bring me a little water in a jug? I need a drink." As she went to get it, he called out, "And while you're at it, would you bring me something to eat?"

12 She said, "I swear, as surely as your God lives, I don't have so much as a biscuit. I have a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a bottle; you found me scratching together just enough firewood to make a last meal for my son and me. After we eat it, we'll die."

13-14 Elijah said to her, "Don't worry about a thing. Go ahead and do what you've said. But first make a small biscuit for me and bring it back here. Then go ahead and make a meal from what's left for you and your son. This is the word of the God of Israel: 'The jar of flour will not run out and the bottle of oil will not become empty before God sends rain on the land and ends this drought.'"

15-16 And she went right off and did it, did just as Elijah asked. And it turned out as he said—daily food for her and her family. The jar of meal didn't run out and the bottle of oil didn't become empty: God's promise fulfilled to the letter, exactly as Elijah had delivered it!

17 But later on the woman's son became sick. The sickness took a turn for the worse—and then he stopped breathing.

18 The woman said to Elijah, "Why did you ever show up here in the first place—a holy man barging in, exposing my sins, and killing my son?"

19-20 Elijah said, "Hand me your son."

He then took him from her bosom, carried him up to the loft where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. Then he prayed, "O God, my God, why have you brought this terrible thing on this widow who has opened her home to me? Why have you killed her son?"

21-23 Three times he stretched himself out full-length on the boy, praying with all his might, "God, my God, put breath back into this boy's body!" God listened to Elijah's prayer and put breath back into his body—he was alive! Elijah picked the boy up, carried him downstairs from the loft, and gave him to his mother. "Here's your son," said Elijah, "alive!"

24 The woman said to Elijah, "I see it all now—you are a holy man. When you speak, God speaks—a true word!"

Psalm 146

Reader: **Barb Gregory**

Luke 7:11-17

11 Soon afterwards he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went with him. 12 As he approached the gate of the town, a man who had died was being carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow; and with her was a large crowd from the town. 13 When the Lord saw her, he had compassion for her and said to her, 'Do not weep.' 14 Then he came forward and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, 'Young man, I say to you, rise!' 15 The

dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother.
 16 Fear seized all of them; and they glorified God, saying, 'A great prophet
 has risen among us!' and 'God has looked favourably on his people!'
 17 This word about him spread throughout Judea and all the surrounding
 country.

Reflection: Voices of the Silenced

Hymn: **MV 138** My Love Colours Outside the Lines

Invitation to the Offering

Ministry of Music: Seek Ye First - arr. D. Wagner

***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

In our offering, O God, we gather our talents and resources to bring those
 from the edge to the centre. With these gifts, we bring our faith in your
 spirit to move us to action.

Joys & Concerns

Prayer Prelude: Spirit of the Living God (vs 1) VU 376

Prayers of the People, Prayer of Jesus

Creator God, we were created by you to live life to the fullest.

Make us aware of situations where this is a struggle everyday.

For all who live where there is conflict and violence,

For all who are marginalized by social policies and expectations,

For all who are on the fringes of our communities and can't find a place to
 belong,

May we be instruments of restoration.

For all who are facing physical illness and hardship,

For all whose mental and emotional pain are silenced ,

For all who are criticized, belittled, alone,

May we be instruments of restoration.

We pray for your beloved who have grown weary in mind or spirit,

We pray for your beloved whose health is failing and who feel they are
 running out of options,

We pray for your beloved who have been disconnected from people or
 land that are so much a part of them.

**Encouraging Spirit, you are with us so that we should not be alone but
 have your presence with us always. Arouse us so that we might be
 your presence, be your voice for those who cannot find their own, be
 the friend to the ignored.**

May we share graciously in your life-giving hospitality.

Loving God, we lift these our spoken prayers, and those prayers that are
 deep still within us, reciting the prayer that Jesus taught his friends so long
 ago...

Our Father...

Closing Hymn: **VU 288** Great is Thy Faithfulness

Postlude: Mauret - Trumpet Tune

Partners in Prayer: St. John's Anglican Church, Elora

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: St. John's, Oakville

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Eleanor Johnston, David Gohn,
 Elizabeth Stintson

Counters: Eleanor Johnston