

Melville United Church  
Sunday, July 17, 2016  
9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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*\* Congregation please stand as you are able.*

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree



**Prelude**

**Gathering:**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Call to Worship:**

We come to worship the invisible God, made visible in our world by Jesus.

**We come to worship God, present in our world and in our lives.**

We come to worship the God who made us and loves us, always.

**We come to worship God, present in our world and in our lives.**

We come to worship the God who calls us sometimes to do, and other times to sit and listen.

**We come to worship God, present in our world and in our lives.**

Come, friends, let us worship God together

**\*Hymn:** Come and Find the Quiet Centre **VU 374**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Make your presence known in our lives, Holy Oneness. Show us how to be faithful listeners and help us to be faithful servants, too. Teach us how to find balance in our doing and being that we might reflect your image of love always. 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
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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July 17, 2016

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

Sometimes we get flustered and overwhelmed.

We think we have far too much to do, and we don't know which way to turn.

**During those times we can lash out**

**or blame others for the consequence of our own actions.**

Sometimes we forget Jesus' example of finding balance in our lives.

**Forgive us, quiet us, and centre us in you, O God. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:**

The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again.

**Thanks be to God. 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)**

**Scripture:**

Amos 8:1-12 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(The prophet Amos speaks)

This is what the Sovereign YHWH showed me: a basket of ripe figs.

God said, "What do you see Amos?" "A basket of ripe figs," I replied.

Then YHWH said to me: "The time is ripe for my people, Israel. I will no longer tolerate their atrocities. The singers in the Temple will wail that day: 'So many corpses scattered everywhere. Hush!'" --It is the Sovereign YHWH who speaks.

Listen to this, you who live off the poor of the land, you who say, "If only the New Moon were over so we could sell our grain," and, "When Sabbath is over, we will sell our wheat charging higher prices for smaller portions, thus tilting the scales in our favour. That way, we can buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals - and even make a

profit on the chaff of the wheat!" YHWH swears by the pride of Jacob, I will never forget a single thing you have done."

Will not the land tremble because of this, and all who dwell in it mourn? Will the land not rise up like the Nile, rising and sinking like the river of Egypt?

"That day - it is the Sovereign YHWH who speaks - I will make the sun set at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into funerals and all your happy songs into dirges. I will have your loins all in sackcloth, your heads all shaved. I will make the land mourn as one would mourn for a dead child - all of this on that bitter day!

The time is come - it is the Sovereign YHWH who speaks - when I will send famine on the land: not a famine of bread or thirst for water, but a famine of not hearing the words of YHWH.

People will stagger from sea to sea and wander from north to east seeking revelation from YHWH, but will not find it.

**Responsive Reading: Psalm 52 (from *Everyday Psalms*, by James Taylor )**  
(Moral bankruptcy)

You boast about beating your competitors;

**you brag about evading taxes;**

you use other people's money for leveraged financing.

**You think you're worth millions.**

But everything you do exposes your moral bankruptcy.

**You'd rather lord it over your neighbours than love them;**  
you'd rather knife your employees than nurture them.

**You're a bundle of malevolent reflexes.**

Someday, you will get what you deserve.

**Your spouse will leave you,**

your children will despise you,

**your colleagues will avoid you.**

Your empires will come crashing down around your shattered ego.

**Even those you exploited will laugh at you.**

They'll say, "How the mighty are fallen!"

**They'll laugh, "The bigger you are, the harder you fall!"**

I'm not powerful or successful.

**I'm a child compared to you.**

But I ride my roller coasters in the park, not in the stock market.

**I'd rather hold a hand than a meeting.**

What I do, I do for God.

**If any credit is due, I give it to God.**

And God frees me to enjoy the goodness of living.

**Reflection:** Consequences

**Hymn:** If You Will Trust in God to Guide You (vs 1,3) **VU 286**

**Scripture:** Luke 10:38-42 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Jesus visits Mary and Martha)

As they travelled, Jesus entered a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him to her home. She had a sister named Mary, who seated herself at Jesus' feet and listened to his words.

Martha, who was busy with all the details of hospitality, came to Jesus and said, "Rabbi, don't you care that my sister has left me all alone to do the household tasks? Tell her to help me!"

Jesus replied, "Martha, Martha! You're anxious and upset about so many things, but only a few things are necessary - really only one. Mary has chosen the better part, and she won't be deprived of it."

**Reflection:** Balance

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

**Scripture:** Colossians 1:15-28 (the Inclusive Bible-The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Christ is the image of the unseen God)

Christ is the image of the unseen God and the firstborn of all creation, for in Christ were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers - all things were created through Christ and for Christ.

Before anything was created, Christ existed, and all things hold together in Christ. The church is the body; Christ is its head. Christ is the Beginning, the firstborn from the dead, and so Christ is first in every way. God wanted all perfection to be found in Christ, and all things to be reconciled to God through Christ - everything in heaven and everything on earth - when Christ made peace by dying on the cross.

At one time, you were alienated from God by the way you thought and the evil things you did. But now you are reconciled in Christ's mortal body through death, so that you can now stand before God holy, pure and blameless- provided you persevere and stand firm on the solid base of your faith. Never let yourselves drift away from the hope promised by the Good News that you have heard, which even now is being preached to the whole human race, and for which I, Paul was made a minister.

Even now I find my joy in the suffering I endure for you. In my own body I fill up what is lacking in the sufferings of Jesus, for the sake of Christ's body, the church. I became a minister of this church through the commission God gave me, to preach among you the word in its fullness - that mystery hidden from ages and generations past, but now revealed to God's holy ones. God's will was to make known to them the priceless glory which this mystery brings to the nations - the mystery of Christ in you, the hope of glory. This is the Christ we proclaim while we admonish everyone and teach them in the full measure of wisdom, hoping to make everyone complete in our saviour.

**Reflection:** In the Image of God

**Hymn:** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (vs 1,3) **VU 264**

**Offering:****Ministry of Music:** One Day at a Time**Offering Hymn:** What Can I Do? MV 191**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:**

**What we have, we offer now, O God: gifts from our earnings and savings; talents freely and gratefully received from you; time that too often could be used in better ways. We return to you what we hope is a faithful portion of the abundance of all of these that you share with us. As we have been blessed so richly may we likewise be a blessing to others. 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:****Prayer of Jesus:****\*Hymn:** Go to the World VU 420**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Go in peace to find the places to which God has called you.

**We will take responsibility for our actions  
seeking reconciliation as we live with the consequences of our actions.**

Look for balance in your life by taking time out for Spirit.

And remember always -

**we are created in the image of a loving God. 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 mind 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:****Prayer of the Week:**

Living God, may we make time and space in our busy lives to be with you. May we find your presence in each day, each place, each person. May we open ourselves to listening for your voice, feeling your love holding us, and knowing your presence surrounds each moment, fills each breath and is with us always. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Elora Canadian Reformed Church**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Stamford Lane, Niagara Falls**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford**Welcomers:** Karen Smillie, Ralph Rainford

**Counters:**

Jane O'Leary, Gary O'Leary