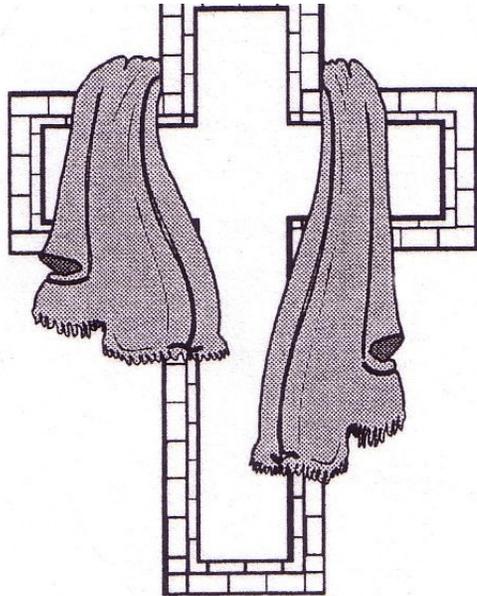


Melville United Church
Sunday, July 24, 2016
10th Sunday after Pentecost



** 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:

From our homes we are called to prayer.

We pray for all who make our homes good places to be.

To our faith community we are called in prayer.

We pray for all our friends who worship and serve.

With our needs and anxieties we are called to prayer.

We pray we will hear the voice of Spirit.

As disciples of the Christ we are called to prayer.

We pray that Jesus' faithful prayer life will be ours.

Come, people of God. Let us worship together.

***Hymn:** Lift Up Your Voice in Song **VU 213** (with alternate words
by Scott Kearns)

Lift up your voice in song.

**Your thankful praise express,
for those who figure in your life
your heart to bless.**

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.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-826-9385, 519-835-8605 519-843-3841

Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice:
Rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Lift up your voice in praise.
Your gratitude be sung,
for patient effort struggling on
and vict'ry won.

Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice:
Rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Lift up your voice in thanks,
your praise be loud and clear,
for every work of justice
whether far or near.

Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice:
Rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Lift up your voice in song.
Your full commitment give,
so all in fullest blessing
may forever live.

Lift up your heart,
Lift up your voice:
Rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, Holy Presence, no matter what we call you, you are still God. We know that any and all of our names for you are limited by our simple knowledge and understanding. But this we do know - you are always and everywhere. We cannot be separated from your

Spirit of love and life. May we experience and celebrate that presence ever anew in this time of worship. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Sometimes we come, O God, with a long list of requests, and expect you to do exactly as we ask.

Forgive us, O God, as we forgive those who hurt us.

Sometimes we get discouraged when you do not fulfill our wishes exactly as we want.

Forgive us, O God, as we forgive those who hurt us.

Sometimes we think that our way is the only way, and you, O God, must follow our lead.

Forgive us, O God, as we forgive those who hurt us.

Now, in this time, we humbly confess that we seldom - if ever - know exactly what's best, or exactly what's right.

Help us to pray as Jesus taught us, asking only for your will to be done.

Forgive us, O God,

as we forgive those who hurt us. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Jesus reminds us that God is greater and kinder than anything we can imagine. Know that, when you earnestly seek Spirit's presence, you will find that God is always near you.

Let us begin again. Let us give thanks for God's gracious, loving presence! 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: Colossians 2:6-15 (The Message)

(From shadow to substance)

My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now *live* him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you've been taught. School's out; quit studying the subject and start *living* it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.

Watch out for people who try to dazzle you with big words and intellectual double-talk. They want to drag you off into endless arguments that never amount to anything. They spread their ideas through the empty traditions of human beings and the empty superstitions of spirit beings. But that's not the way of Christ. Everything of God gets expressed in him, so you can see and hear him clearly. You don't need a telescope, a microscope, or a horoscope to realize the fullness of Christ, and the emptiness of the universe without him. When you come to him, that fullness comes together for you, too. His power extends over everything.

Entering into this fullness is not something you figure out or achieve. It's not a matter of being circumcised or keeping a long list of laws. No, you're already *in* - insiders - not through some secretive initiation rite but rather through what Christ has already gone through for you, destroying the power of sin. If it's in initiation ritual you're after, you've already been through it by submitting to baptism. Going under the water was a burial of your old life; coming up out of it was a resurrection, God raising you from the dead as Christ was raised.

When you were stuck in your old sin-dead life, you were incapable of responding to God. God brought you alive - right along with Christ! Think of it! All sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean, that old arrest warrant cancelled and nailed to the cross. All the spiritual tyrants in the universe were stripped of their sham authority at the cross and marched naked through the streets.

Responsive Reading: (from *Prayers to Share* by David Sparks)

Like a good friend you are there for us, O God,
making us laugh, celebrating the moment.

You encourage us to enjoy life to the fullest.

Like a good friend, you are there for us, O God,
knowing us so well, utterly to be trusted.

You encourage us to deepen friendship.

Like a good friend, you are there for us, O God,
listening so carefully, yet slow to judge.

You encourage us to listen with empathy.

Like a good friend, you are there for us, O God,
ready to point out our talents, before our shortcomings.

You encourage us to look for the best in others.

Like a good friend, you are there for us, O God,
challenging us to share our gifts with others.

You encourage us to participate in community.

Hymn: Come to My Heart Lord Jesus

VU 661

Scripture: Luke 11:1-13 (New Revised Standard Version)

(Jesus teaches the disciples to pray)

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread;

for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him. And he answers from within, Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

"So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will God in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask!"

Message: Teach Us How to Pray

Hymn: In the Quiet Curve of Evening **VU 278**

Invitation to Offering:

Offering:

Ministry of Music: My Love Colours Outside the Lines **MV 138**

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:**

As we offer these gifts, loving God, we pray once more that your way of love will become the way of all on earth. Through the things we offer, and through our daily living, may we help the healing of the world in some small way so that your love may come to be lived, known, and felt throughout every corner of the world. 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 Lord's Prayer: (sung) **VU 959**

***Hymn:** God be With You til We Meet Again **VU 422**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

The blessing of God is around us.

The blessing of God is among us.

The blessing of God binds us together.

The blessing of God strengthens us as one.

The blessing of God travels with us.

The blessing of God sticks by us.

We go in the persistent, generous, living love of God to bless the world in every deed.

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:**

Listening God, teach us to pray. Loving God, teach us to trust. Life-giving God, teach us to truly live in Spirit. 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