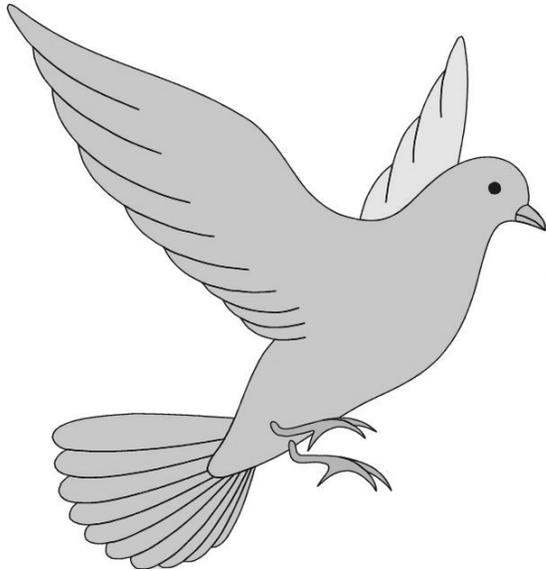


**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday, August 14, 2016**  
**13th Sunday after Pentecost**



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

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today: Jen Auger

**Prelude**

**Gathering:**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Call to Worship** (adapted from Deuteronomy 26:1-11)

Here, in the Presence of God, we sing of our ancient story:

“We were once strangers, wandering a strange land.

**Though lost, we found our home in God’s presence,  
and established a nation of people.**

Our conviction threatened those in power, and they tried to silence our song.

**Though oppressed, we sought guidance and wisdom from God,  
the God of our ancestors.**

God led us out of oppression, and showed us the way of freedom.”

**Today, we gather, blessed with the gifts of God’s freedom.**

And so, we rejoice!

**We celebrate all the good things that God has given us and our  
families;**

We celebrate these gifts with openness and inclusion towards our neighbours.

**Here, in the presence of God, we sing a new song.**

<b>Melville United Church</b>	
<b>St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781</b>	
<b>Team Ministry</b>	
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:	<a href="mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com">secretary@melvilleunited.com</a>
<b>Web Site:</b>	<a href="http://www.melvilleunited.com">www.melvilleunited.com</a>
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-826-9385, 519-835-8605 519-843-3841

**Opening Hymn:** VU 222 Come Let Us Sing

**Intro to A Song of Faith**

**Opening Prayer:**

(adapted from A Song of Faith)

Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery,

**of living things, diverse and interdependent,**

**of complex patterns of growth and evolution,**

of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls,

**we sing of God the Creator, the Maker and Source of all that is.**

In and with God,

**we can direct our lives toward right relationship**

**with each other and with God.**

We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life.

**We can grow in wisdom and compassion.**

We can recognize all people as kin.

**We can accept our mortality and finitude, not as a curse,**

**but as a challenge to make our lives and choices better.**

Therefore, we sing of each other, made in the image of God. **Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing & Assurance:**

(adapted from A Song of Faith)

Made in the image of God, we yearn for the fulfillment that is life in God.

Yet we choose to turn away from God.

We surrender ourselves to sin, a disposition revealed in selfishness, cowardice, or apathy.

Becoming bound and complacent in a web of false desires and wrong choices,

We bring harm to ourselves and others.

**We are all touched by this brokenness:**

**The rise of our selfish desires that erodes human solidarity;**

**The pursuit of wealth and power that erodes empathy;**

**The delusion of limitless growth that threatens our home, the earth;**

**The quiet despair that numbs us into inaction and voicelessness.**

**So we sing for inner healing...**

**Assurance:** (adapted from A Song of Faith)

Yet evil does not - cannot - undermine or overcome the love of God.

God transforms, and calls us to protect the vulnerable, to work with God for the healing of the world, that all might have abundant life.

Therefore, we sing of grace.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Chorus:** Dance with the Spirit

**Readings & Response**

Psalm 92 (from A Book of Psalms by S. Mitchell)

Response (adapted from A Song of Faith)

**We sing of trust...**

**Scripture is our song for the journey, the living word**

**passed on from generation to generation to guide and inspire,**

**that we might wrestle a holy revelation for our time and place**

**from the human experiences and cultural assumptions of another era.**

**The wholeness of scripture testifies to the oneness and faithfulness of God.**

**The multiplicity of scripture testifies to its depth:**

**Two testaments, four gospels, contrasting points of view held in tension -**

**all a faithful witness to the One and Triune God, the Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.**

Luke 4: 1-13

Response (adapted from A Song of Faith)

**We sing of God the Christ, the Holy One embodied....**

**We sing of Jesus, a Jew, born to a woman in poverty  
in a time of social upheaval and political oppression.**

**He knew human joy and sorrow.**

**So filled with the Holy Spirit was he**

**that in him people experienced the presence of God among them.**

**Jesus announced the coming of God's reign -**

**a commonwealth, not of domination**

**but of peace, justice, and reconciliation.**

Colossians 2:1-8 (from The Inclusive Bible)

Response (adapted from A Song of Faith)

**We sing of grace...**

**The fullness of life includes**

**moments of unexpected inspiration and courage lived out,**

**experiences of beauty, truth, and goodness,**

**blessings of seeds and harvest, friendship and family, intellect and**

**sexuality,**

**the reconciliation of persons through justice**

**and communities living in righteousness,**

**and the articulation of meaning.**

**And so we sing of God the Spirit,**

**who from the beginning swept over the face of creation,**

**animating all energy and matter**

**and moving in the human heart.**

**Hymn VU 359 He Came Singing Love**

**Invitation to the Offering**

## **Ministry of Music**

### **Offering Response MV 191 What Can I Do?**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

(adapted from A Song of Faith)

**We sing of God's good news lived out, a church with purpose:**

**Gifts shared for the good of all,**

**Members of a community held and inspired by God,**

**Instruments of the loving Spirit of Christ.**

**With these gifts, we sing of God's mission. Amen.**

#### **Joys & Concerns**

#### **Prayer Prelude: VU 376 Spirit of the Living God**

#### **Prayers of the People, Prayer of Jesus**

(adapted from A Song of Faith)

We sing of God the Spirit,

Faithful and untameable,

Who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.

To this Spirit, we give thanks for our many joys...

We sing of the Spirit,

Who speaks our prayers of deepest longing

And enfolds our concerns and confessions,

Transforming us and the world.

To this Spirit, we release our concerns...

We release these our prayers both named and unnamed, with the words that Jesus taught his friends to speak so long ago. **Our Father...**

**Closing Hymn: VU 217 (vs. 1,4,5) All Creatures of our God and King**

**Sending & Blessing**

(from A Song of Faith)

As children of the Timeless One,  
Our time-bound lives will find completion  
In the all-embracing Creator.  
In the meantime, we embrace the present,  
Embodying hope, loving our enemies,  
Caring for the earth,  
Choosing life. Amen.

**Parting Song:** Go Now in Peace

**Postlude**

**Partners in Prayer:** Elora Canadian Reformed Church

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Stamford Lane, Niagara  
Falls

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** David Gogh and Elizabeth Stintson

**Counters:**