

**Melville United Church
 Sunday, October 2, 2016
 Season of Creation 5
 Worldwide Communion Sunday**

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude: Improvisation

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

Come before the God of steadfast love.

We come as a people called by grace.

Come with testimony and with song.

We come as a people called to faith.

Come to the joy of worship together.

We come as a people called by love.

Come, people of God, let us worship together.

***Hymn:** Come Touch Our Hearts (vs 1,2,3,5) **MV 12**

Opening Prayer:

Loving God, hold us

in all our longing.

Speak within us, whisper our names

unfold your grace in all our living.

Wait with us, attend to us

as we meet you with our lives fully open.

Lift us, restore us

as we find healing space in you.

Rekindle in us the gift of faith;

warm it in our open hands,

breathe it into our spirits,

light it in our hearts. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Holy Oneness, we come here as bearers of a faith

for which we are not always known.

Sometime we shrink from the gift entrusted to us,

as if it is the least part of ourselves,

as if passing trivialities matter more,

as if faith has no real weight in the scheme of things.

Forgive us our unfaithfulness.

Forgive us our turning from you.

Call us back to life in you.

Call us back today and every day. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

God is loving and forgiving.

Spirit greets us with tenderness when we refocus on God.

God says "Join me in the world, and re-balance it with right living."

God says "Join me in the world, and love it back into love's realm."

Let us be at peace with ourselves, with God, and with each other.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Chorus: Teach Me God to Wonder -vs 1 VU 299

Teach me God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;

let your world of beauty capture me.

Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,

life be celebrated, joy you give.

Scripture: Luke 17:5-10 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

(Faith as a mustard seed; we've done as we ought)

The apostles said to Jesus, "Increase our faith!"

Jesus answered, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Uproot yourself and plant yourself in the sea,' and it would obey you.

"If one of you had hired help plowing a field or herding sheep, and they came in from the fields, would you say to them, 'Come and sit at my table?' Wouldn't you say instead, 'Prepare my supper. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You can eat and drink afterward'? Would you be grateful to the workers who were just doing their job? It's the same with you who hear me. When you have done all

you have been commanded to do, say, 'We are simple workers. We have done no more than our duty.'"

Responsive Reading: Psalm 137

VU 858

(By the rivers of Babylon, we wept)

Reader: Mary Lloyd

Scripture: Lamentations 3:19-26 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

(Great is God's faithfulness)

I remember my woes and wanderings - the wormwood and the gall. Those memories are so clear to me, and they fill me with despair. Yet it is because I remember all this that I have hope.

YHWH's favour is not exhausted, nor has God's compassion failed. They rise up anew each morning, so great is God's faithfulness. "YHWH is all I have," I cry. "So I will wait in patience."

The Most High is good to those who hope in God, to all who seek God's presence. It is good to wait patiently for YHWH to set us free.

Message: Just Doing Our Job

***Hymn:** To Show by Touch and Word

VU 427

Offering:

Ministry of Music: A. Pote - Do This in Remembrance

***Offering Hymn:** For the Gift of Creation

VU 538

For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,

and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,

we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands.

May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give.

***Offertory Prayer:**

God of love, accept these offerings.

Bless them and increase them.

May they find their way in the world

to bring your just and loving vision into being. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Communion Hymn: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ **VU 468**

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The elements of communion today will be served by intinction. At the appropriate time you will be invited to come forward to the communal tray, take a piece of bread, move to one of the cups on either side, dip your bread in the juice and consume it and then return to your seat. Take the time you need. If you cannot or choose not to come forward you will be served in your seat.

Invitation:

As we come to this table we are reminded that this is not the table of Melville United Church; nor is it the table of the United Church of Canada or any particular denomination. It is the table of Jesus the Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith and long to live justly and in peace with their neighbour, are welcome here.

May God be with us.

God is here among us.

Let us open our hearts to God

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

We gather together at this time to celebrate worldwide communion.

We gather, seeking to be aware of our sisters, brothers, and siblings all around the world who join us this morning around Christ's table, for we are all formed in the Creator's image.

Some who gather will sing and pray, like us, in the English language - many other tongues will also be heard.

French, Spanish, Italian, Hebrew, Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, Syrian, Portuguese, Chinese, Cree, Ojibwe, Mohawk - all these and many more. We are all one family as we gather.

May God's Spirit who encounters us here empower us to live in harmony with all people of Earth, and to love the world.

We are one with all who seek to be a community of compassion.

Grounded in the bread we break and the cup we share, we give thanks for what we receive at this table: wholeness and unifying peace, courage to break boundaries and strength to self-give.

We are one with love itself in the path that we follow and the life we are called to lead.

And so we gather with those of every time and every place to give our praise and glory as we raise our voices together to sing;

O holy, holy, holy God, (MV 203)

O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above

bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n

creation sings your praise.

And blessed in the One who comes

and bears your name always!

Eternal God, we unite in this covenant of faith, as we break bread and share the cup, giving thanks for your love in Jesus, the Christ. We spread your table with these gifts of the earth and of our labour. We present to you our very lives, committed to your service on behalf of all people. Remembering your boundless love for us as shown in Jesus, we sing of the mystery of faith:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, (MV 204)

Christ will come again!

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,

Christ will come again!

At this time we also remember....

....as we sing together the prayer that he taught us...

The Lord's Prayer: (Sung) **VU 959**

On the night before he died....

....as we experience your Spirit working amongst and through us.

Amen, amen, O Holy One! (MV 205)

Hosanna and Amen!

Amen, amen, O Holy One,

Hosanna and Amen!

Breaking of the Bread & Pouring of the Cup

Jesus said: "I am the bread of life,

whoever comes to me will never be hungry:

whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Sharing of the Elements:

Post Communion Prayer:

Holy Presence, we give thanks that you have called your people from east and west, and north and south, to feast at your table. Once again we have been refreshed in Spirit. As we have shared together, we pray that we might be joined together as one people, united in sharing love and kindness throughout the world. Amen.

***Hymn:** Sent Forth by God's Blessing

VU 481

***Blessing:**

in every raw emotion,

God journeys with us.

In every painful memory,

God offers us healing grace.

In every broken story,

God holds the pieces in love.

This is our God,

who accompanies and journeys with us,

who lives in the goodness of our hearts.

And who holds us in love - always.

Go in peace knowing God goes with you. Amen.

***Parting Song:** Touch the Earth Lightly - vs 1 VU 307

Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,

nourish the life of the world in our care:

gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,

trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

Postlude: L. Boellman - Menuette Gotique

Prayer of the Week:

Holy Spirit, who kindled faith in our ancestors even in the most trying circumstances, rekindle that same sincere and powerful faith in us. Inspire us to carry our testimonies, gladly and fearlessly, to a new generation, relying on your gift of grace. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Belwood/Metz Patoral Charge

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Cayuga, Mt. Olivet

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Karen Smillie, Joyce Keizerwaard,
Peggie Dickie, Isobel Glennie