

Melville United Church
Sunday, September 11, 2016
Season of Creation 2 - Flora and Fauna

* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*
Bold print invites congregational response.
Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree, Jen Auger



Prelude: Improvisation
Welcome & Announcements
Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:
Let us worship God!
We open our hearts to God.
It is good to worship and praise God together!
Let us open our hearts to one another
We are God's community under construction.
Let us prepare ourselves for new life.
Let us join together to build God's realm on Earth!

***Hymn:** Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Prayer of Approach and Confession:
Loving God, we know what you expect of us:
to accept your love,
to be loving toward others,
to include everyone,
to recognize our mistakes and mend broken friendships,
to build a community of caring and giving.
Yet how easily we forget.
How easily we get caught up in busy-ness or worries
or our individual problems and needs.
Forgive us, renew us, strengthen us, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance:
Our God is loving and forgiving.
We can be assured that God's loving arms
will tenderly hold us in forgiveness
and send us forth to new life.
Thanks be to God!

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
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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.**

Theme Conversation: Blessing of the Backpacks

For the Children:

Caring God...

**we offer these backpacks
as a sign of our thanks
for all you will do
with children and for children
this year at school.**

We bless these backpacks
as companions to us
as we learn and grow
May they carry
food for our bodies
and food for thought

**Let them be a reminder
that you are as close to children
as the backpack on their backs
always and forever... Amen!...**

For the Teachers:

For those who notice each child's special gift.

Thank you, God, for teachers.

For those who serve as much by listening as by telling.

Thank you, God, for teachers.

For those who make learning fun and meaningful.

Thank you, God, for teachers.

For those who truly live out the scripture "Love is patient, love is kind."

Thank you, God, for teachers.

For those who are here before the first child arrives and after the last child leaves.

Thank you, God, for teachers.

For those who dream of a next Great Generation, and seek to make it so.

Thank you, God, for teachers.

For those who work tirelessly and selflessly to help all children on their journey of faith.

Thank you, God, for teachers.

Song: Roll Over the Ocean

**It's me, it's me, it's me who builds community,
It's me, it's me, it's me who builds community,
It's me, it's me, it's me who builds community,
It's me who builds community. (clap, clap, clap) Hey!
Roll over the ocean, roll over the sea,
roll over the ocean in the deep blue sea. (Hey!)
Roll over the ocean, roll over the sea.
Go and do your part and build community.**

**It's you, it's you, it's you who builds community,
It's you.....**

**It's us, it's us, it's us who build community,
It's us.....**

**It's God, it's God, it's God who builds community,
It's God....**

**It's love, it's love, it's love that builds community,
It's love....**

Scripture: Job 39:1-8, 26-30 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

(Is it your wisdom that directs nature?)

Do you know in what season the mountain goats give birth? Have you ever watched a red deer in labour? Do you know their gestation periods and their time of birth, when they crouch down to bring forth their

young and get rid of their labour pains? Do you know how their young grow strong, how they thrive in the open, grow to maturity, then leave and never return?

Who freed the wild donkey, and removed the bridle from its head? I gave it the desert to roam in, and the salt flats to dwell in. It rejects the noisy city; it has no driver to give it orders. It ranges over mountains for a pasture, and seeks out green places.

Are you and your wisdom why the soaring hawk spreads its wings and heads south? Does the eagle fly aloft at your word to make its nest so high? It spends its nights amid rocks and cliffs, with the pinnacle of a peak as its stronghold. From this view it searches for its prey, with eyes that see from afar. It feeds its young on blood; where carrion is found, there it is.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 104:14-23 (*From Songs for the Holy One*)

You make grass grow for cattle
and plants for people to tend,
 to produce food from the ground,
 wine to gladden human hearts,
oil to make faces glow,
and food to satisfy all hearts.

The water nourishes your trees,
the cedars of Lebanon which you planted,
 where birds build their nests
 and storks make their home in the firs.

The high mountains are home for the wild goats
and the rocky crags for the badgers.

The moon marks its seasons;
 the sun knows its times to rise and set.

Young lions roaring after their prey
seek their meat from God.

At sunrise they steal away
 and stretch out in their dens.

People go out to their work
and labour until evening.

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10, 12:4-31 (*The Family Story Bible - Ralph Milton*)
(Paul Writes a Letter)

Dear friends in Corinth,

We all like to have things our own way. Each of us would like to be boss over everybody else. But we are a Christian church. We must work together if we want to live in God's way.

Think of your church as if it is a person's body. The whole church body should live in God's way. Not just some parts of it.

Would your foot say, "Because I am not a hand, I don't belong to the body"? That's silly.

Would your ear say, "Because I am not an eye, I don't belong to the body"? That's silly.

If your whole body were an eye, how would you hear things? If your whole body were an ear, how would you smell things?

Your eye can't say to your hand, "I don't need you." That's silly.

Your head can't say to your feet, "I don't need you." That's silly.

God has put all the parts of our body together so that they help each other. Everything is part of one body.

If part of your body is hurting, then you feel bad all over.

If part of your body is happy, you feel good all over.

The church is like the body of Christ. Each one of us is like the hands, or feet, or eyes, or ears of that body.

Each one of us can do different things. Some people can sing. Others can listen. A few can run fast. Some people can work hard. Others can draw nice pictures. Some people can think about important things.

Each one of us is important. We are Christ's body and we are all needed. Living in God's way means working together as the church. Your friend,
 Paul.

Message: Community Under Construction

***Hymn:** Let us Build a House

MV 1

Invitation to Offering:

Offering:

Ministry of Music: D. Besig (217) United In Christ!

***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, when you created the world you dedicated us to be part of the balance of all good things. Today, we dedicate ourselves anew to this purpose, and ask your blessing upon our renewed commitment and upon the gifts we offer. Help us to continue to delight in the glory of the plants and animals you have given us to share life with. Lead us to work as a renewed community of faith that lives in communion with all of creation. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Deep in Our Hearts - vs 1 MV 154

**Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.**

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn: We Are the Church**

Chorus:

I am the church! You are the church!
We are the church together!
All who follow Jesus, All around the world!
Yes, we're the church together!

The church is not a building,
The church is not a steeple,
the church is not a resting place,
the church is a people!

Chorus:
We're many kinds of people

with many kinds of faces,
all colours and all ages, too,
from all times and places.

Chorus:

And when the people gather,
There's singing and there's praying,
There's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying:

Chorus:

I count if I am ninety,
Or nine or just a baby;
There's one thing I am sure about
And I don't mean maybe:

Chorus:

***Blessing:** *(Everyone is invited to move to the edges of the sanctuary and join hands to symbolize our community, joined as one in Christ Jesus.)*

Let us go now,
re-connected as a community of faith,
filled with love,
living out our promise
to be faithful followers of Jesus. 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: J. M. Michel - Grand Choeur - from Suite Jazzique

Partners in Prayer: St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Elora

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Binkley, Hamilton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Lorna Ziegler, Bob Zirk,
Elizabeth Stinson, Karen Smillie