

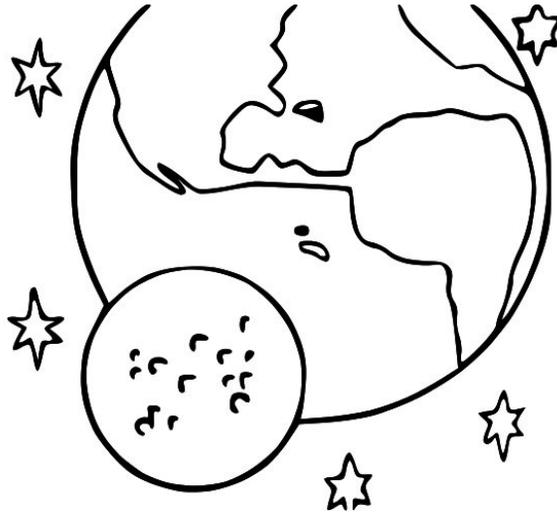


Melville United Church  
 Sunday, September 25, 2016  
 Season of Creation 4 - Cosmos Sunday  
 Day of Celebration

\* Congregation please stand as you are able.

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree



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:	<a href="mailto:secretary@melvilleunited.com">secretary@melvilleunited.com</a>
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**Prelude:** Improvisation

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Call to Worship:**

Wisdom calls us to join the chorus  
 and sing our praises to the God of all creation.

**She was there from before time began,  
 God's first blessing to the unfolding of God's creative love.**

Wisdom invites us to join our voices with the moon and the stars,  
 the mountain and the hills, the oceans and the rivers,  
 animals of the earth, and all flying creatures.

**We are part of a universal chorus,  
 offering praise to the One who gives us life.**

Wisdom's song is heard in the heartbeat of all life.

**Men and women, young and old,  
 from the skies above to the foundations of the deep  
 we are united in praise  
 to the God in whom wisdom continues to dwell.**

Come, people of God. Let us worship the Creator together.

**\*Hymn:** Come, Let Us Sing

**VU 222**

**Prayer:**

Creative Love, you have blessed us with the voice of Wisdom  
 that we may recognize our oneness with all of life.

**Yet, we too often walk upon the ground, breathe the air,  
 and drink the water as if they were ours alone.**

When we listen to the voice of Wisdom,  
 she teaches us what it means to do justice,  
 love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

**Her voice beckons us everywhere**

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**but we too often turn away from the ancient knowledge she imparts.**

She is the creative force of your love

that calls us out of the chaos to become co-creators.

**Help us to recognize Wisdom's presence in the Christ**

**who brings us into communion with the grandeur of the Cosmos**

**and in whose life the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. Amen.**

#### **Words of Assurance:**

God's first words to each of us and all creation is,

"You are my delight; I rejoice in you and what you can become."

**Wisdom feeds us with the bread of life**

**that we might live forever in the union of God's love.**

**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/Birthday Celebration:**

- Story "On the Day You Were Born" - by Debra Frasier

**Song:** Happy Birthday

#### **Welcoming of New Members**

#### **Congregational Commitment** (*congregation please stand*)

Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to June and Dick our support and care.

**As your brothers and sisters in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.**

Let us remain standing as we repeat together "A New Creed".

**Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed** VU 918

**We are not alone,**

**we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus,**

**the Word made flesh,**

**to reconcile and make new,**

**who works in us and others**

**by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence,**

**to live with respect in Creation,**

**to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,**

**our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,**

**God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Showing Our Welcome:**

**Hymn:** Come In, Come In and Sit Down (vs 1 & 4)

**VU 395**

#### **Presentation of 50-year Membership Certificates**

The United Church of Canada recently celebrated its 91<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Melville United Church came into being out of that founding in 1925 although this had been a place of worship for many years before that.

Although we have a very large and lovely building here that is not what makes it a church. The church is not a building. The church is people. It is in and through people that God's work gets done whether we come together in a building or not. And we are very blessed here at Melville to have many folks who have been serving and worshiping here for a long time - serving and working to make it the welcoming and busy place it has been and still is. Dedicated and faithful people are the strength of any church and Melville is fortunate

to have many, including our two newest members June and Dick.

Today we would like to recognize and honour some of those who have been faithful members here for at least 50 years. Making this list was a difficult task and the worry has been that we would overlook someone. The church roll books were scrutinized and researched and we honour today those found listed there as 'Members' and we apologize if we have over-looked anyone. We also know that there are many who have been attending Melville for a long time but whose name has not appeared, for whatever reason, on the roll.

We thank you for your faithful service, support and dedication to Melville United Church and are pleased to present you with a certificate marking 50 years of membership.

**Hymn:** Faith of Our Fathers **VU 580**

**Scripture:** Proverbs 8:22-31 (The Inclusive Bible)  
(Wisdom has been from the beginning)

YHWH gave birth to me at the beginning, before the first acts of creation. I have been from everlasting, in the beginning, before the world began. Before the deep seas, I was brought forth, before there were fountains or springs of water; before the mountains erupted up into place, before the hills, I was born - before God created the earth or its fields, or even the first clods of dirt.

I was there when the Almighty created the heavens, and set the horizon just above the ocean, set the clouds in the sky, and established the springs of the deep, gave the seas their boundaries and set their limits at the shoreline.

When the foundation of the earth was laid out, I was the skilled artisan standing next to the Almighty. I was God's delight day after day, rejoicing at being in God's presence continually, rejoicing in the whole world and delighting in humankind.

**Scripture:** Colossians 1:15-20 (The Inclusive Bible)  
(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.

**Reader:** Lynne Lamb

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 148 **VU 871**  
(The whole cosmos praises God)

**Message:** Cause to Celebrate

**\*Hymn:** Make a Joyful Noise (Psalm 100) **VU 820**

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** Be Aware of Wonder - D. E. Wagner

**\*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 infinite wisdom, we sing the song of all creation as we offer you our praise, not only in song, not only in word, but with our very lives. May the gifts we return to you this day be a strong measure of our longing to share in that chaos-creating, justice-making love revealed in Jesus. 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:** *(beginning with Walking with Wisdom - Bruce Sanguin, If Darwin Prayed)*

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**\*Hymn:** Sing Praise to God (alternate words-Scott Kearns) **VU 221**

**Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!  
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!  
Gladsome rejoice - organ and trumpet and voice -  
joining God's great congregation.**

**Sing praise to all that has offered us life and sustains us -  
all that has opened our hearts to the love borne within us:  
family and friends, beauty we see without end -  
gifts that our lives lay before us.**

**Sing praise to all that has opened our minds to new vistas -  
all that has called us to seek out new truths through the ages:  
vision and word, music that sought to be heard  
These are the gifts that will mould us.**

**Sing praise to minds that will fashion our bold new tomorrows -  
yesterday's wisdom released from its dogma and credos.  
Evermore free to live out what we believe  
walking the path that life hallows.**

**\*Blessing:**

May our living be God inspired.

**May our words be heaven filled.**

May our hope be Spirit crammed.

**May our choices be justice shaped.**

May our faith be truth inspired.

**May our journey be love breathed.**

And may God be in your every step.

**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:** W. Mathias - Fanfare

**Prayer of the Week:**

In the beauty of creation, in the glow of each other's faces, we see your beauty, your wonder, Holy Presence. You become visible to us. In Jesus, the Christ, you have given us the bread of sustaining life. Embolden us to give ourselves as bread to one another. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Alma United Church

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Cape Croker

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Lynne Lamb, Eleanor Johnston,  
Elizabeth Stinson, Ruth Sproule

**Counter:** Ruth Sproule