

Melville United Church
Sunday, September 4, 2016
16th Sunday after Pentecost



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Jen Auger

Welcome & Life & Work of the Church;
Sharing the Light, Prelude

Call to Worship *(from Seasons of the Spirit)*

From the beginning of time, and out of the depths, voices are calling us today;

God calls us to notice, to hear, and to respond.

The one who created the oceans and mountains, the streams and the stars, invites us to worship in wonder and in praise.

Oceans and mountains, streams and stars themselves also call to us – they call us to worship in the knowledge of our Creator, and with the awareness of how Creation struggles today.

Come, in our worship, let us listen both to the Creator, and to Creation's call;

Let us open our minds, hearts, and spirits to the yearnings of Creation, and recognize our own yearnings in these voices. For we are one. In great wisdom we have been created in deep communion with each other.

Opening Hymn: MV 3 River

Opening Prayer *(from Seasons of the Spirit)*

May the sun rise, so our faces and flowers look up. May the wind blow, so the grasses dance and the seeds scatter. Let the dew soak the earth, so the soil nourishes new life. May the river flow and the ocean flourish, so that fish and algae thrive. May animals roam free, so that new generations are born. May we feel your presence, O God, as you gather all creation through and towards divine wisdom. Amen

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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Prayer for Inner Healing *(from Seasons of the Spirit)*

Loving Creator of all life, who out of chaos formed the land and the seas, your oceans are aching with the impact of our greed.

The seas are salted with tears.

Holy One, we confess our participation in these changes, and grieve the losses already happening in our created world.

Forgive us, and help us to be in right relationship with all of creation and to hear the pain of your oceans. Grant us the wisdom to know how to swim with the needs of your boundless waters, and to flow in harmony with your tides and waves. Amen.

Assurance *(from Seasons of the Spirit)*

It is God who “laid the foundation of the earth, and who determined its measurements.” It is God who “set the cornerstone when the morning stars sang together.” It is God who “walked the recesses of the deep and entered the springs of the sea.” It is that same God who can heal our broken hearts and broken relationship to the seas, and can help us to change our ways. It is God who forgives and offers us new life. It is God who will show us the balance that is needed for all life to thrive. It is God.

Thanks be to God. 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)**

Hymn: MV 30 It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

Scripture Readings:

Job 38:1–18

¹Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

²'Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴'Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk,
or who laid its cornerstone

⁷when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸'Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb?—

⁹when I made the clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,

¹¹and said, “Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped”?

¹²'Have you commanded the morning since your days began,
and caused the dawn to know its place,

¹³so that it might take hold of the skirts of the earth,
and the wicked be shaken out of it?

¹⁴It is changed like clay under the seal,
and it is dyed like a garment.

¹⁵Light is withheld from the wicked,
and their uplifted arm is broken.

¹⁶'Have you entered into the springs of the sea,
or walked in the recesses of the deep?

¹⁷Have the gates of death been revealed to you,
or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?

¹⁸Have you comprehended the expanse of the earth?
Declare, if you know all this.

Psalms 104:1–9, 24–26

¹ Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O Lord my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honour and majesty,

² wrapped in light as with a garment.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,

³ you set the beams of your chambers on the waters,
you make the clouds your chariot,

you ride on the wings of the wind,

⁴ you make the winds your messengers,
fire and flame your ministers.

⁵ You set the earth on its foundations,
so that it shall never be shaken.

⁶ You cover it with the deep as with a garment;
the waters stood above the mountains.

⁷ At your rebuke they flee;
at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.

⁸ They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys
to the place that you appointed for them.

⁹ You set a boundary that they may not pass,
so that they might not again cover the earth.

²⁴ O Lord, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

²⁵ Yonder is the sea, great and wide,
creeping things innumerable are there,
living things both small and great.

²⁶ There go the ships,
and Leviathan that you formed to sport in it.
There lies the great and mighty Sea,
teeming with living things both great and small.
Upon it sail the ships, and there is Leviathan,
the monster you made to play in it.

Ephesians 1:3–10

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Reflection: **Out of Chaos**

Jen Auger

Hymn

Invitation to the Offering

Ministry of Music:

Offering Response: 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: *(from Seasons of the Spirit)*

We dedicate ourselves anew, loving God, to the privilege of caring for creation. As we bring our gifts of money and time to our worship life, help us also to bring new understanding of Creation's pain to our everyday lives. Help us to affirm, in all we do, that it was and is you who have created all life, and that we are called today to try again to be good stewards of it all. Amen.

Joys & 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, Prayer of Jesus (*from Seasons of the Spirit*)

Our Father...

Prayer of Jesus:

***Closing Hymn:** VU 296 This is God's Wondrous World

***Blessing/Sending Forth** (*Ephesians 3:20-21, The Message*)

God can do anything, you know-far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! God does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, as Spirit deeply and gently within us.

Glory to God in the church!

Glory to God in the Messiah, in Jesus!

Glory down all the generations!

Glory through all millennia! **Oh, yes! Amen!**

***Parting Song:** Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith steadfast strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there around, within, above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Postlude:

Partners in Prayer: St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Belwood-Metz

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Joan and John Cuming

Lynn Lamb