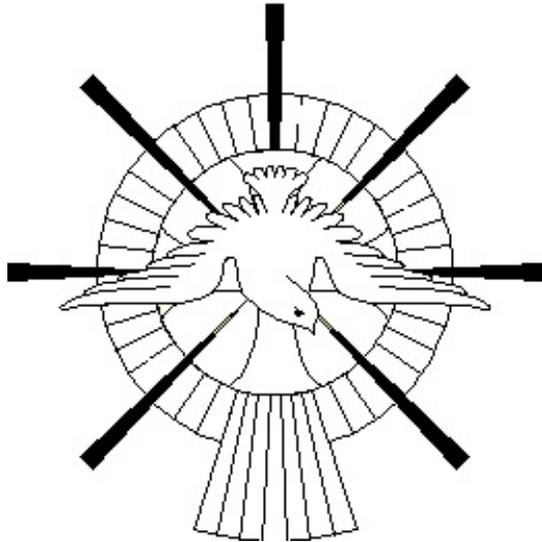


**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday, October 16, 2016**  
**22nd Sunday after Pentecost**



*\* 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 and celebrate God's wise presence:

**God is our teacher.**

Come and know the truths that God shares with us.

**God's commandments are with us all the time.**

God's rules are not rigid laws,

but are wonderful guidelines to help us live in love.

**God's rules are sweeter than honey!**

Come, let us worship our sweet God together.

**\*Hymn:** Worship the Lord (vs 1,2,3,5) **VU 401**

**Opening Prayer:**

Holy Presence, too many voices try to convince us  
that you are a destructive, vengeful god,

**who wants to punish us when we break the rules.**

Yet over and over again scripture tells us that your teachings,

**your rules, your laws, your commandments,**

are given in love,

**not to judge us, but to guide us.**

Open us to hear your word and to take it deep within ourselves

**that we might learn and follow all the days of our lives. Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

Sometimes, God, we forget that you love us.

**Forgive us and write your law on our hearts.**

**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:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
<a href="http://www.melvilleunited.com">Web Site:</a>	<a href="http://www.melvilleunited.com">www.melvilleunited.com</a>
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-826-9385, 519-835-8605 519-843-3841

**October 16, 2016**

Sometimes we forget to love others.

**Forgive us and write your law on our hearts.**

Sometimes we forget how to walk in your way.

**Forgive us and write your law on our hearts.**

Sometimes we forget that we are your people.

**Forgive us and write your law on our hearts. Amen.**

#### **Words of Affirmation:**

God has promised to forget any wrongs we have done and any mistakes we have made. The wonderful news in Christ is that we can begin again and again and again.

**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

**Chorus:** Jesus, You Fill Our Hearts MV 101

**Jesus, you fill our hearts with your love,  
our minds with your peace,  
and our lives with your joy. (Repeat)**

#### **Sacrament of Baptism**

Being accepted into the Christian family of faith today are Isabella Pauline Grills, Carter James Grills and Lloyd Ernest Ward.

#### **Statement of Purpose:**

#### **Presentation of the Those to be Baptized**

**Scripture:** Galatians 3:27-29 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*)

Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus. Furthermore, if you belong to Christ, you are the offspring of Abraham, which means you inherit all that was promised.

**Profession of Faith and Promises:** (*by Lloyd on his own behalf and by parents on behalf of their children*)

In baptism we are joined to the Christian family through the sign and seal of God's eternal love.

Do you believe in God and God's love?

**Yes, I do so believe.**

Do you believe that God is revealed to us in Jesus the Christ who lived and died, and who lives on in the Christian church?

**Yes, I do so believe.**

Do you believe that God, through the Holy Spirit, is active in the world to direct and strengthen you?

**Yes, I do so believe.**

#### **By Parents of the children.**

Will you do your best to provide a Christian home for your children, encouraging them to grow in their own faith and to seek confirmation?

**Yes I will, God being my helper.**

#### **Commitment of Godparents:**

Recognizing that many persons nurture and influence the life of a child, will you support these children and their parents as they grow in faith?

**I will, God being my helper.**

#### **Commitment by Congregation** (*congregation stands*)

As Melville United Church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture these persons within a community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

**We do, God being our helper.**

**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.**

**Blessing of the Water** (*children bring water and people call out blessings*)

**Prayer**

**The Baptism**

**Sign of the Cross and Blessing**

**Laying on of Hands/Blessing**

**Lighting of the Baptismal Candle**

**Sung Blessing: I Have Called You by Your Name MV 161**

**Prayer**

**Presentation of Certificates**

**Scripture: Jeremiah 31:27-34** (*The Inclusive Bible*)  
(*God's new covenant will be written on our heart's*)

"The day is surely coming, says YHWH, when I will sow Israel and Judah with the seed of people and the seed of livestock. And just as I watched over them to uproot, to tear down, and to overthrow, to destroy and to

bring disaster, so I will watch over them to build up and to plant, says YHWH. In those days people will no longer say, 'The parents ate sour grapes, but it is the children's teeth that are set on edge.' Rather, all will die for their own sins. And only the teeth of those who eat sour grapes will be set on edge.'

"Behold, the days are coming, says YHWH, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them up out of the land of Egypt - a covenant they broke, though I was their spouse, says YHWH. But this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says YHWH: I will put my Law in their minds and on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.

"No longer will they need to teach one another or remind one another to listen to YHWH. All of them, high and low alike, will listen to me, says YHWH, for I will forgive their misdeeds and will remember their sins no more."

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 119:97-104 (*paraphrase by James Taylor, Everyday Psalms*) (*The maze*)

In the maze of modern life, it helps to have clear directions.

**A clear vision of how things ought to be  
gives me a great advantage.**

I don't have to balance this against that.

**I don't have to constantly choose the lesser of two evils.**

You give me a goal.

**The world is changing so fast,  
the wisdom of old age isn't always applicable;**

but your wisdom is.

**Our ways are not always your ways,  
nor is our wisdom always your wisdom.**

You have taught me how to discern the difference.

**And what a difference that makes!**

**You help me see more clearly;**

with your guidance, I can grope my way through.

**Scripture: Luke 18:1-8** (*The Inclusive Bible*)

(*The parable of the widow and the unjust judge*)

Jesus told the disciples a parable on the necessity of praying always and not losing heart: "Once there was a judge in a certain city who feared

no one - not even God. A woman in that city who had been widowed kept coming to the judge and saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' For a time the judge refused, but finally the judge thought, 'I care little for God or people, but this woman won't leave me alone. I'd better give her the protection she seeks, or she'll keep coming and wear me out!'"

Jesus said, "Listen to what this corrupt judge is saying. Won't God then do justice to the chosen who call out day and night? Will God delay long over them? I tell you, God will give them swift justice.

"But when the Promised One comes, will faith be found anywhere on earth?"

**Message:** Perseverance Pays Off

**\*Hymn:** How Firm a Foundation            **VU 660** vs 1,2,4,5

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** D. Foster (211) The Prayer

**\*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:**

**Take what we offer, Holy Oneness, and use it to help others.  
Take who we are, Source of Life, and use that to change the world.  
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:** What A Friend We Have in Jesus

**VU 664**

**\*Blessing:**

Go now to celebrate God's love,

**we will let it guide us each day.**

Go to be just and fair as God is,

**we promise to treat others well.**

Go, and know that God our teacher, is with you always.

**Amen.**

**\*Parting Song:** May the God of Hope Go with Us (vs 1 + chorus) **VU 424**

**Postlude:** J. Stanley - Voluntary in D

**Prayer of the Week:**

God of justice, strengthen us in hope and our faithful pursuit of justice on Earth. Keep chaos from filling us with fear, confusion, or despair. May we never forget to let your Spirit guide us in all we do, say and are. Let us be persistent workers for justice, never giving up until the whole world comes to know your love. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** The Door Youth Centre

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Christ Church, Mississauga

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**

Diane Maloney, Bob Zirk,  
Linda and Norm Porritt

**Counters:**

Chris Hopewell, Lynn Lamb