



Melville United Church
Sunday, October 23, 2016
23rd 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:

This is the day that God has made.

We come to rejoice and be glad.

We are called to God's house,

a dwelling place for all people.

Let us worship the one who is the source of light, laughter, and love.

We worship the God in whom our hope is anchored.

***Hymn:** All Creatures of Our God and King VU 217

Opening Prayer:

More than having great wealth,

We appreciate your wonderful creation, O God.

More than fame and popularity,

We value the pattern of Jesus Christ, Holy Presence.

More than belonging to an exclusive group,

We are glad to be beloved members of your family, Source of Life,

More than anything else in all the world,

We rejoice in your gracious love for us. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Loving God, when we see ourselves as a cut above others,

Bring us down to earth.

Loving God, when we insist on our own way,

Enable us to understand what that means, to those close to us.

Loving God, when we ignore the crying needs around us,

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
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-826-9385, 519-835-8605 519-843-3841

October 23, 2016

Wake us up to respond to them.

Loving God, when we are full of our own self-importance,

Put a child in our midst.

Loving God, when we trumpet our own greatness,

Show us the path that leads to humility. Amen.**Words of Affirmation:**

God's promise to every generation is that God is there for us. With the powerful, loving example of Jesus' simple life before us we are encouraged and enabled to follow in his way of humility and love. God's pardon and peace are yours.

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)**

Covenanting Ceremony:

The church recognizes the diverse gifts of its members, and celebrates the particular ministry of each person. In the words of 1 Corinthians -

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

A Spiritual Companion is one who practices deep listening in order to be with people as they attempt to deepen their relationship with the divine.

A Spiritual Companion accompanies individuals as they discern where and how Spirit may be working their lives. Heather Halls has been educated in this practice. I invite Heather to come forward at this time.

Heather, God has called you to the ministry of Spiritual Companionship, within and beyond this congregation. You have accepted this call, and have expressed your willingness to serve as the Spirit enables you.

Having prayerfully considered this calling and the responsibilities it

entails, are you willing to serve in this capacity on behalf of and supported by Melville United Church?

I am willing, God being my helper.

Do you promise to be open to the work of the Spirit in your own life and in the lives of those to whom you offer ministry, and to seek and acquire suitable supervision?

I do, by the grace of God.

Members of Melville United Church, you have heard Heather make these promises. Will you now promise to support her in her ministry with prayer and encouragement?

We will, God being our helper.

Let us offer Heather our blessing:

Heather, we celebrate the ministry of Spiritual Companionship that you offer within our congregation. Go forth with God's love and our blessing to offer Spirit's guidance. Amen.

Prayer:

Hymn: Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom MV 10

Scripture: Luke 18:9-14 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition) (parable of Pharisee and the tax collector)

Jesus spoke this parable addressed to those who believed in their own self-righteousness while holding everyone else in contempt: "Two people went up to the Temple to pray; one was a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed like this: 'I give you thanks, O God, that I'm not like others - greedy, crooked, adulterous - or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week. I pay tithes on everything I earn.'

"The other one, however, kept a distance, not even daring to look up to heaven. In real humility, all the tax collector said was, 'O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.' Believe me, the tax collector went home from the Temple right with God, while the Pharisee didn't. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, while those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 65 (*paraphrase by James Taylor, Everyday Psalms*) (*Thanksgiving*)

We can't put it off any longer, God.

**We come crawling to you,
because we have all fallen short of your expectations.**

We have all missed the mark.

But you have not held our failures against us.

We stumbled, and you picked us up;

we were sinking, and you helped us swim.

You treat us with honour and respect.

You make us welcome.

It is more than we dare ask, more than we could ever expect.

We have no right to such kindness.

You are the creator of the world.

You push mountains into ranges;

you calm the raging oceans;

you spin the earth on its axis.

Before you, we are as insignificant as ants,

parading our puny armies.

If you stamp your feet, we will be squashed.

We boast of our science and technology,

but by ourselves we cannot make a single seed sprout;

we cannot shape a single raindrop.

We destroy, but only you bring life.

**Through the cycle of the seasons, with reckless generosity,
you share the wealth of the earth.**

As tiny drops of dew gather into rushing streams,

so our small thoughts gather into a gush of gratitude.

The whole world celebrates your goodness.

Like dolphins dancing through the waves,

like antelope prancing through long grass,

the whole earth leaps in exuberant gratitude.

Reader: Allans Hons

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

(fight the good fight, finish the race)

As for me, my life is already being poured out like a libation. The time of my dissolution is near. I have fought the good fight; I have finished the

race; I have kept the faith. Now a laurel wreath awaits me; on that day our God, the just Judge, will award it to me - and not only to me, but to all who have longed for Christ's appearing.

I found myself alone and without a single witness at my first defense. Pray that they not be punished for it.

Christ stood by my side and gave me strength, so that through me the proclamation might be completed and all the nations might hear the Gospel. That's how I was saved from the lion's jaws. Christ will continue to rescue me from all attempts to do me harm, and will bring me safe to the higher realm. To Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever! Amen.

Message: Fight the Good Fight

***Hymn:** Fight the Good Fight

VU 674 (tune 158)

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Faith to Carry On - D. Besig

***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:**

As we give, raise us up. As we give, bring us to unity with others. In this offering, discover our humble desire to be in communion with one another. May the resources we share here be transformative in this world, and express our thanksgiving, rather than our pride; our strength, rather than our shame. Bless these gifts, we pray. 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:** God Be With You 'til We Meet Again **VU 422**

***Blessing:**

Go now, people of God, and stand tall in your humility;
be gracious in your pride; and know that God runs this race with you.

**God calls us again and again and showers us with love
that we might do the same for others.**

Go into the world to love and serve God.

**We go, knowing the love of God,
the peace of Christ and the companionship
of the Holy Spirit is with us always. Amen.**

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

Postlude: F. Mendelsohn - Prelude in G

Prayer of the Week:

Dance with us, Holy Partner, and show us how to step humbly into life with you. Lead us with arms of strength and steps of grace. Help us to be righteous: raise us when we are low, and gently bring us down when we have jumped too high. Love us into wholeness, we pray. Amen.

Directly following the service today we will proceed to the Parlour to participate in a dedication of the new kitchen.

Partners in Prayer: Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Christ the King, Kitchener

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Eleanor Johnston, Lynne Lamb,
Peggie Dickie, Ralph Rainford

Counters: Mary Lloyd, Les Frayne