

Melville United Church  
Sunday, October 30, 2016  
All Saints Sunday

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*\* 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:**

Each of us lives life.

**Sometimes that life is short in years.**

Sometimes that life spans many decades.

**But, short or long, every life is filled with moments.**

Moments of wonder.

**Moments of hope.**

Moments of laughter.

**Moments of peace.**

Moments of love.

**Moments of God.**

We gather today to remember the moments,

**and the people who lived them.**

Our ancestors, our selves -

**that great cloud of witnesses,**

**all God's saints.**

Come, people of God, let us remember

and let us worship together.

**\*Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide**

**MV 145**

**Opening Prayer:**

God of life, and death, and life beyond death,

**listen to your children praying.**

In the stories and songs,

the tears and the laughter

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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In the deep, calm breaths,  
in the rapid beats of a fearful heart,

**listen to your children praying.**

In the silence of loneliness,  
in the cries of grief,

In each moment,  
in every moment,

**listen to your children praying.**

And let us know that you are present,

**all ways and always. Amen.**

#### **Prayer for Inner Healing:**

Holy Presence, you are compassion, truth and beauty  
and have created us in your image.

**Forgive us when we trade your image  
for one more honoured by the world.**

Source of Life, we are blessed with the example of so many  
who have struggled in faith before us to do what is right.

**Forgive us when we do not value their contributions  
or dismiss their wisdom in the name of progress.**

Holy Oneness, there are so many living saints who are willing  
to stand up for justice and fairness.

**Forgive us when we do not stand with them.**

Open us to the wisdom of all the saints past and present.

**May we honour and learn from all who would teach us by their living  
that your love is a very real presence in our world. Amen.**

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

God heard our ancestors and was with them in their struggles.

**God hears us and is with us in our struggles, too.**

God meets us where we are and offers whatever it is we need.

**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)**

**Theme Conversation:** What/who is a saint?

**Hymn:** Like a Rock (sing twice)

**MV 92**

**Scripture:** Ephesians 1:11-23 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*) (*The hope to which you are called*)

In Christ we were willed an inheritance; for in the decree of God - and everything is administered according to the divine will and counsel - we were predestined to praise the glory of the Most High by being the first to hope in Christ. In Christ you too were chosen. When you heard the Good News of salvation, the word of truth, and believed in it, you were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the pledge of our inheritance, the deposit paid against the full redemption of a people who are God's own - to the praise of God's glory.

From the time I first heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of the holy ones, I have never stopped thanking God for you and remembering you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Saviour Jesus Christ, the God of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation, to bring you to a rich knowledge of the Creator.

I pray that God will enlighten the eyes of your mind so that you can see the hope this call holds for you - the promised glories that God's holy ones will inherit, and the infinitely great power that is exercised for us who believe. You can tell this from the strength of God's power at work in Jesus, the power used to raise Christ from the dead and to seat Christ in heaven at God's right hand, far above every sovereignty, authority, power or dominion, and above any other name that can be named - not only in this age, but also in the age to come. God has put all things under Christ's feet and made Christ, as the ruler of everything, the head of the church, and the church is Christ's body; it's the fullness of the One who fills all of creation.

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 149 (*paraphrase by James Taylor, Everyday Psalms*) (*The communion of saints*)

Familiar words aren't enough.

**New times call for new ways to praise God.**

So dance. Sing. Do something!

**Show you love God with your bodies as well as your words.**

Use every means you have - your music, your work, your social systems -

to demonstrate your love for God.

**God will not shun you because you show your emotions.**

Love is not limited to important positions or advantageous accents.

So join together with others.

**Link your hands and link your lives.**

Clap your hands and sing;

**raise the roof in praise of God.**

Let the vigor of your voices overflow into your living.

**Seize each challenge as an opportunity**

**to promote justice among all the people,**

to bring to judgment those who cause pain and suffering.

**Even ruthless dictators cannot resist**

**the surge of popular pressure.**

The longer they try to withstand the tide,  
the deeper they drown.

**That is how to give God praise.**

Let us praise God!

**Scripture:** Luke 6:20-31 (*The Inclusive Bible*) (*Blessings and woes*)

Looking at the disciples, Jesus said:

“You who are poor are blessed, for the reign of God is yours.

You who hunger now are blessed, for you’ll be filled.

You who weep now are blessed, for you’ll laugh.

You are blessed when people hate you, when they scorn and insult you  
and spurn your name as evil because of the Chosen One.

On that day they do so, rejoice and be glad: your reward will be great in  
heaven, for their ancestors treated the prophets the same way.

But woe to you rich, for you are now receiving your comfort in full.

Woe to you who are full, for you’ll go hungry.

Woe to you who laugh now, for you’ll weep in your grief.

Woe to you when all speak well of you, for their ancestors treated the  
false prophets in the same way.

“To you who hear me, I say: love your enemies. Do good to those who  
hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who mistreat  
you. When they slap you on one cheek, turn and give them the other;  
when they take your coat, let them have your shirt as well. Give to all  
who beg from you. When someone takes what is yours, don’t demand  
it back.

“Do to others what you would have them do to you.”

**Message:** Remembering the Saints

**\*Hymn:** For the Faithful Who Have Answered **VU 707** (tune 115)

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** L. Larson (163) Do Not be Afraid

**\*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:**

**Gracious God, in abundant love, you have poured out on us all things  
that we need for life. All we have is yours. We return this portion of  
what we have received, that it might be used to further your work in  
this 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:** For all the Saints **VU 705** (alternate words by G. Vosper)

**For all the saints, who from their labours rest,**

**who lived the faith that burned within their breast,**

**that held them true unto life’s purest quest.**

**Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**Hope was their rock, their fortress, and their might;  
it held them fast e'en in the deepest night;  
hope, in the darkness drear, their one true light.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
their courage strengthens all we call divine.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest shore,  
from wounded hearts, the light of love shows forth;  
and still their vision shines forevermore.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**

**\*Blessing:**

Who are God's saints?

**Those through whom God's light shines.**

Who are God's saints?

**Those through whom God's love lives.**

Who are God's saints?

**Those through whom God's peace flows.**

Who are God's saints?

**You are God's saint.**

**We are God's saints.**

**All who live in God's love are God's saints!**

Go now and live into your calling knowing God is with you.

**Amen!**

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

**Postlude:** J. S. Bach - Prelude in G

**Prayer of the Week:**

Loving Presence, as we remember the saints in our lives - those living and dead - help us to remember that it is through and with your presence that they are and were enabled to do good in the world. Let us remember also that it is now our turn to step up and do our part. Fill us with inspiration and strength that we may carry on the good work of those who have gone before us. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** St. John's Anglican Church, Elora

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Delta, Hamilton

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**

Karen Smillie, Mary Lloyd,  
Lynne Lamb, Graeme Chalmers

**Counters:**

Ruth Sproule