

Melville United Church  
Sunday, November 13, 2016  
26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



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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:**

God has promised a new creation.

**But we live amidst the old and - everywhere - scenes of destruction  
fill our eyes.**

God called to our ancestors to set out confidently into the unknown.

**God's challenge was heard by many.**

God calls us today to be aware of Spirit's presence working in our midst.

**We respond to God's call when we care for others.**

God calls us to work together as a community of faith.

**And so we come to worship together.**

**\*Hymn:** And on This Path

**MV 8**

**Opening Prayer:**

**We give thanks Holy One, for your steady love for creation, and all that is done this day to heal, build, and sustain it in goodness and beauty. May the vision of what you want for us become clear as we continue to worship and act together in a community of love and caring. In our prayer and in our work we connect to you and to each other in profound ways. Let our hearts be one as we sing and pray together. Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

What is it that keeps us from moving freely and easily into the new world God is in the process of creating?

**Is it lack of trust in Spirit's power to do it?**

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.
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Is it discouragement at so many experiences and signs of oppression, violence, and injustice?

**Is it fear of losing some present privilege or benefit we enjoy from the way things are?**

Is it laziness or dread of what we might need to do and be to participate in that new world?

**Is it simply comfort with our place in the world as it is?**

What is this refusal to dance and sing at the new way God is creating?

**Open our hearts, minds and spirits, O God, and lead us forward. Amen.**

**Words of Affirmation:**

God says: "I will make a new heaven and new earth, and I shall begin with you.

Even now, I forgive.

Even now, I re-create.

Even now, I call you into something new.

I will make a new heaven and new earth, and I am beginning with you, today.

**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:**

**Hymn:** Every Move I Make

**Scripture:** Luke 21:5-19 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)*  
*(Trust God, even during tough times)*

Some disciples were speaking of how the Temple was adorned with precious stones and votive offerings. Jesus said, "You see all these things? The day will come when one stone won't be left on top of another - everything will be torn down."

They asked, "When will this happen, Rabbi? And what will be the sign that it's about to happen?"

Jesus said, "Take care not to be misled. Many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the One' and 'The time is at hand.' Don't follow them. And don't be perturbed when you hear of wars and insurrections. These things must happen first, but the end doesn't follow immediately."

Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and empire against empire. There will be great earthquakes, plagues and famines in various places - and in the sky there will be frightening omens and great signs. But before any of this, they'll arrest you and persecute you, bringing you before synagogues and sending you to prison, bringing you to trial before rulers and governors. And it will all be because of my name - this will be your opportunity to give your testimony.

So make up your minds not to worry about your defense beforehand, for I'll give you the words, and a wisdom that none of your adversaries can take exception to or contradict. You'll be betrayed even by your parents, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends, and some of you will be put to death. Everyone will hate you because of me, yet not a hair of your head will be harmed. By patient endurance, you'll save your lives.

**Responsive Reading:** Isaiah 12

**VU 880**

*(Make God's deeds known to the nations)*

**Reader:** Alison Rainford

**Scripture:** Isaiah 65:17-25 *(The Inclusive Bible)*

*(God is doing a new thing)*

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth! The things of the past will not be remembered or come to mind! Be glad and rejoice forever and ever in what I create, because I now create Jerusalem to be a joy and its people to be a delight!

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress. No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or old people who do not live out their days. They die as mere youths who reach but a hundred years, and those who fall short of a hundred will be thought accursed.

At last they will live in the houses they build, and eat the fruit of the vineyard they plant. They will not build for another to inhabit; they will not plant for another to eat. For the days of my people will be like the days of a tree, and my chosen ones will enjoy the fruit of their labours.

They will not labour in vain or bear children doomed to die; for they and their descendants are a people blessed by God. Even before they call upon me, I will answer; and while they speak, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb will feed side by side; the lion will eat straw like an ox. Serpents will be content to crawl on the ground; they will not injure or destroy in all my holy mountain. “ says YHWH.

**Message:** Why Is the Church Declining?

**\*Hymn:** I See a New Heaven **VU 713**

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** Never Give Up - M. Hurley

**\*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:**

**Receive our gifts, Loving God, and with them receive our firm  
intention to praise joyfully, to encourage fresh starts, to nurture  
faithfulness and to live in the way of 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:**

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**\*Hymn:** O Day of Peace **VU 682**

**\*Blessing:**

We are the world,

**we are God's children.**

We are the ones who can change the world, it is time to begin.

**Let our choice be to announce hope, to demand justice, to spread  
peace.**

Let us live by the grace of God, the words and wisdom of Jesus the  
Christ, and the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit.

**Amen!**

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

**Postlude:** H. Purcell - Rondeau from Abdelazer

**Prayer of the Week:**

Creator of heaven and earth, you enable us to rejoice even in times of  
sadness, loss, and discouragement. Through your creative presence,  
transforming old ways into new possibility, you fill our hearts with joy,  
calling us to share in the promise of your unfolding love. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Bethel Baptist Church, Fergus

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Crawford

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Diane Maloney, Isabel Weaver,  
Vivian and Havey Andrews

**Counters:** Kaillie Rawn