

Melville United Church
Sunday, November 20, 2016
Last Sunday after Pentecost



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke

Prelude: Improvisation

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

Rejoice the Lord is King!

God is our hope and our salvation.

We will trust in God.

When trials and temptations threaten to overwhelm us, we will remember:

God is our hope and our salvation.

We will trust in God.

When things go well and we are tempted to take all the credit, we will remember:

God is our hope and our salvation.

We will trust in God.

We will set time apart to remember that we are not kings, but heralds of the King of Kings.

We are not rulers, but stewards.

We are not here to be worshipped, but to worship.

Rejoice the Lord is King!

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song.

***Hymn:** VU 315 "Holy, Holy, Holy"

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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Opening Prayer:

Creator and Ruler of the Earth, we lift up our voices, our eyes, our hearts, our lives to You in praise. Make us Your alleluia people. Uphold the weary, for whom praise may be very difficult. Humble the strong, for whom "alleluia" may be too easy. Creator and Ruler of the Earth, continue to form us into Your new creation, that we might welcome You to more fully become the ruler of our hearts and minds. Through Him who came as a servant, and who now reigns over all creation, Jesus, our Christ. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

In these moments, Remembering God, we bring to you all the ways we have not lived as your people:

- we stand by watching while those in need struggle to survive;**
- we cast our lots with those who worship power and success;**
- we offer insults rather than words of grace to those who care for us;**
- we scoff at your words which call us to a different lifestyle.**

Forgive us, God of Mercy, for not knowing what we do to you, to others, to ourselves. Speak to us through Jesus Christ, our King and our Savior, who bears words filled with your tender mercy and gracious hope.

Words of Affirmation:

This is the good news: God remembers! Not our sins, not our foolish lives, not our rebellion. God remembers us - and redeems us!

God prepares the way for us - the way to grace, to hope, to new life. Joyfully, we offer our thanks 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: VU 577 "I've Got Peace Like A River"

Scripture Readings:**Epistle: Colossians 1:11-20**

11May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully 12giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The Supremacy of Christ

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Responsive Reading: VU 900 Luke 1:68-79

68 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favourably on his people and redeemed them.

69 He has raised up a mighty saviour for us

in the house of his servant David,

70 as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

71 that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

72 Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,

and has remembered his holy covenant,

73 the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,

to grant us 74that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, 75in holiness and righteousness

before him all our days.

76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
 77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
 78 By the tender mercy of our God,
 the dawn from on high will break upon us,
 79 to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
 to guide our feet into the way of peace.'

Reader: Robert Foster

Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

33When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[34Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' 36The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' 38There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

39 One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' 40But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' 42Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' 43He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

Message: "Backwards Christianity"

Ruth Cooke

***Hymn:** VU 352 "I Danced in the Morning"

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Soon and Very Soon - arr J Schrader

***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:**

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:** VU 509 "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"

***Blessing:**

Go to the world, go into all the earth.
 Go tell it on the mountain!
**We will be bearers of the message:
 Christ lives, Christ loves, Christ saves.**
 Be blessed, be blessings, wherever you go.
Amen!

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

Postlude:

Partners in Prayer: Grand River Community Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Erin Mills, Mississauga

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Richard Wright, Bob Zirk,
Isobel Glennie, Karen Smillie

Counters:

Mary Lloyd