

Melville United Church  
Sunday, January 15, 2017  
Baptism of Jesus



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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:**

When we are reluctant to dip our toes into faith's river,

**Jesus comes, to teach us how to swim.**

When we are hesitant to cup our hands to drink from the fountain of grace,

**Jesus comes, to reach in and splash our faces with God's joy.**

When we are unwilling to be the pipeline of hope,

**Jesus comes, to turn on the faucets God has installed in our hearts.**

Come, people of God, let us worship together.

**\*Hymn:** In the Darkness Shines the Splendour

**VU 92**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Ground of Our Being, your compassion and love are such incredible gifts. With thanksgiving, we gather, heralding songs of praise and attuning ourselves to your presence in our prayers, our music and in each other. Bless all that we are and all that we do as we share this worshipful time together. Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

You would have all people hear of your love, servant God,

**but we hinder your efforts by hoarding it for those close to us.**

You would have hope flow through our neighbourhoods,

**but we thwart your plans by damming up hope in our hearts.**

You would have us skip joyfully in your presence,

**but we frustrate your future by clinging so tightly to long-held grudges.**

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
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Unlock the shuttered doors of our hearts,

**and remind us that we are touched by the waters of life, too.**

Remind us that, just like Jesus,

**we are your beloved, too and teach us how to live it. Amen.**

**Words of Affirmation:**

You know the good news God has proclaimed to you:

**let go of the past and walk hand in hand with Spirit.**

Forgiveness is ours as we love and care for others.

**God forgives, accepts and sends us forth to do good.**

Thanks be to the God of new beginnings!

**Amen!**

**Chorus:** God Says (vs 1) MV 172

**God says, "Be still so you may hear the words**

**I whisper in your ear.**

**If you will listen, you will know**

**I'm with you always where you go."** (Repeat)

**Theme Conversation:**

**Hymn:** I have Called You by Your Name **MV 161**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 42:1-9 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)  
(*God's servant brings justice*)

"Here is my Servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one, in whom I delight! I have endowed you with my Spirit that you may bring true justice to the nations. You do not cry out or raise your voice, or make yourself heard in the street. So gentle that you do not break a bruised reed, or quench a wavering flame, faithfully you will bring forth true justice. You will neither waver nor be crushed until justice is established on earth, for the islands await your teaching!"

Thus says YHWH, who created the heavens and spread them out, who gave shape to the earth and what it produces, who gave life to its peoples and spirit to its inhabitants:

I, YHWH, have called you to serve the cause of right; I have taken you by the hand, and I watch over you. I have appointed you to be a covenant people, a light to the nations: to open the eyes of the blind, to free

captives from prison, and those who sit in darkness from the dungeon.

I am YHWH! This is my Name! I will not yield my glory to another god or my praise to idols! See how former predictions have come true. And now I declare new things! Before they spring forth, I tell them to you."

**Responsive Reading:**

Psalm 29 (from *Songs for the Holy One*, T. Barnett, D. Patriquin)  
(*Give all honour to God's name*)

Glory, glory, glory to our God.

Ascribe to the Holy One, all you gods; ascribe glory and power.

**Give all honour to God's name;**

**worship the Creator in the beauty of holiness.**

**And in the temple all shout: "Glory!"**

Glory, glory, glory to our God.

The Holy One's voice rolls over the oceans;

the God of glory thunders;

the voice of God is upon the mighty waters.

**The voice of God is full of power.**

**The voice of the Creator is full of splendour.**

The Holy One's voice breaks the cedar trees  
and smashes the cedars of Lebanon.

**It makes the mountains skip like a calf,**

**and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**

Lightning flashes at the sound of that voice,  
which shakes the endless wilderness.

**That voice brings the deer to labour,**

**and strips the forest bare.**

**And in the holy temple all shout, "Glory!"**

Glory, glory, glory to our God.

In the holy temple all shout, "Glory!"

The Holy One sits enthroned over the flood;

**the Creator sits enthroned forever.**

The Holy One gives strength to God's people,

**and blesses the people forevermore,**

**blessings of peace and well-being.**

**And in the holy temple all shout, "Glory!"**

Glory, glory, glory to our God.

Reader: Graeme Chalmers

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:13-17 (*The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Edition*)

*(Jesus is baptized)*

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. John tried to dissuade Jesus, saying, "I should be baptized by you, and yet you come to me!"

But Jesus replied, "Leave it this way for now. We must do this to completely fulfill God's justice." So John reluctantly agreed.

Immediately after Jesus had been baptized and was coming up out of the water, the sky suddenly opened up and Jesus saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and hovering over him. With that, a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favour rests."

**Message:** Church: Exploring our Rituals

**\*Hymn:** Faith of Our Fathers

**VU 580**

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** Down to the River to Pray arr. S. Curry

**\*Offering Hymn:** What Can I Give Him?

VU 55 vs 4

**What can I give him, poor as I am?**

**If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.**

**If I were a wise man, I would do my part;**

**yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

**\*Offertory Prayer:**

By your grace, God of the waters,

**we can open our eyes to see those in need around us.**

By your abundance in our lives,

**what we offer can bring hope and healing to more people than we can ever imagine.**

By your blessing,

**others are invited to the waters of life.**

Bless these, our offerings.

**And bless us. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns:**

**Prayer Prelude:** Bathe Me in Your Light MV 82 vs 1

**Bathe me in your light, O God of All, Creator;**

**let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.**

**Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,  
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace.**

**Prayers of the People:**

**Prayer of Jesus:**

**\*Hymn:** Songs of Thankfulness and Praise

**VU 101**

**\*Blessing:**

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan.

**Today we remember his baptism.**

We are a people of faith.

**Through our rituals, prayers and praise**

**let us remember what it means to know God.**

Go into the world, remembering that you, too, are a beloved child of God.

And know that the love of God, the peace of Christ and the companionship of the Holy Spirit is with you - always!

**Amen!**

**\*Parting Song:** I Am the Light of the World

VU 87 vs 1

**"I am the light of the world!**

**You people come and follow me!"**

**If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be."**

**When the song of the angels is stilled,**

**when the star in the sky is gone,**

**when the kings and the shepherds**

**have found their way home,**

**the work of Christmas is begun:**

**“I am the light of the world!  
You people come and follow me!”  
If you follow and love you’ll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be.”**

**Postlude:** Max Reger - Prelude on Jesus has Come

**Prayer of the Week:**

Loving God, you breathe your spirit into us to remind us that we are your beloved. Guide us to live as your beloved, Spirit-filled children, streaming into the world as witnesses to Christ’s power and love. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, Fergus

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Jordan Station

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Graeme Chalmers, Vivian and Havey  
Andrew, David Gohn

**Counters:** Phil Brown, David Gohn