

Melville United Church
Sunday, January 22, 2017
3rd Sunday after Epiphany

Baptism



** 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:

As he walked by a lake, Jesus called fishers to follow him.

And they left their work and went.

As Jesus journeys through our lives, he asks us to follow him.

In this moment we have the chance to leave the past behind.

Do we walk with Jesus into God's future?

As Jesus wanders in our world, he invites us to join in.

**Reaching out to our neighbours is more than being nice,
it is what Jesus calls us to do.**

Gathering as a community of faith encourages and strengthens us to follow and go where Christ leads.

So, let us worship together.

***Hymn:** You Shine

Opening Prayer:

Time reaper, you are our hope!

Your heart is the shelter for our weary souls.

You will not push us away,

but clasp us tight in your embrace.

You refuse to abandon us,

standing by our side all our lives.

Time shaker, you are our dawn.

When others try to tear us apart,

you pick up the pieces, making us whole, again.

When we wonder what the day might bring,

you whisper, "follow me, you will be my helpers."

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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Time keeper, you are our joy.

You appeal to us to set aside all that divides us,

so we might be one.

You send us to proclaim good news with simple words
that bring light to the shadows.

justice, hope, grace, love.

Let us feel your presence now.

Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

**Even though it causes us pain, O God, we confess that we are not
always the people we could be. We are too quick to judge. We are
too quick to magnify the faults of others, too quick to justify or
minimize our own. Help us to focus on being people of grace and
compassion; help us to be your love in the world. Amen.**

Words of Affirmation:

God is our help, so why be afraid?

God is with us, there is nothing to dread.

This is good news for all of us.

As we turn and follow the vision of God before us,

we find the joy of living in God's way.

Thanks be to God! 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)

Minute for Mission:

Mary Lloyd

Act of Confirmation and the Sacrament of Baptism

Being confirmed today - Megan Dawn Miner.

Being baptized today - Nancy Laura Miner.

Statement of Purpose:

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. By water and the Spirit, we are welcomed as children of God, we are claimed by Christ, we are united with the Christian community of every time and place and we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

Presentation of the One to be Baptized and the one to be Confirmed

On behalf of the congregation of Melville United Church I present Megan Dawn Miner who seeks to reaffirm publicly through the rite of confirmation the faith proclaimed in her baptism and Nancy Laura Miner for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

(family comes forward)

Scripture: Galatians 3:27-29 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)*

Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus. Furthermore, if you belong to Christ, you are the offspring of Abraham, which means you inherit all that was promised.

Profession of Faith and Promises

Megan Dawn Miner, I ask these questions that you may publicly profess the faith proclaimed in baptism.

Do you believe in God, Source of love; in Jesus Christ, love incarnate; and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

Yes, I do so believe.

Will you follow in the way of Christ, resisting oppression, seeking justice, and witnessing to God's love for all creation?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

I will, God being my helper.

Laying on of Hands

Megan, may the power of the Holy Spirit work within you, that being born of water and the Spirit, you may continue to be a faithful witness of God's love in the world. Go into the world to pursue justice, faith, love, patience, and humility, for to this you have been called. Amen.

Baptismal Promise

You have brought your child here for baptism. In baptism we are joined to the Christian family through the sign and seal of God's eternal love. Having already declared your faith...

Will you do your best to provide a Christian home for your child, encouraging her to grow in her own faith and to seek confirmation?

Yes I will, God being my helper.

Commitment by Congregation (*congregation stands*)

As Melville United Church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture Megan and Nancy within a community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

We do, God being our helper.

Let us remain standing as we affirm our faith together.

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed VU 918

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,**

**to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing of the Water (*children bring water and people call out blessings*)

Prayer

Loving God of grace, pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this water, that this font may become your womb of new birth, our fount of blessing and source of grace. May it be a sign and promise of new life, not only for the one who will be baptized this day, but also for all who pass through the waters of baptism. We pray in the spirit of Christ, who was himself baptized. Amen.

The Baptism

Nancy Laura Miner, you are baptized in the name of God, our loving parent whose arms are open wide;
in the name of Jesus, the Son, who teaches us how to love;
and in the name of the Holy spirit, whose presence will encourage and guide you.

Sign of the Cross and Blessing_

Nancy Laura - child of God, we bless you with water and the sign of the cross. Know that you are a precious child of God.

Laying on of Hands/Blessing

May the Holy Spirit, Love's power, guide you, inspire you, and work within you, all the days of your life. Amen.

Lighting of the Baptismal Candle

The flame of a candle reminds us of the light of Christ which shines in each one of us and reminds us that the light of God's presence is with us always.

Sung Blessing: Child of Blessing, Child of Promise (Verses 1,4) VU 444

Prayer

Gracious God, keep this child in your grace as she grows in mind and body. Keep her family in your love as they give guidance to their child. Keep Megan in peace and love as she seeks to live out her faith. Keep us all that we may be always faithful to you. Through Christ. Amen.

Presentation of Certificates & Gifts

Hymn: A Little Child the Saviour Came

VU 445

Scripture: Matthew 4:17-23 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)

(Jesus begins his ministry)

From that time on, Jesus began proclaiming the message, "Change your hearts and minds, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"

As Jesus was walking along the Sea of Galilee, he watched two brothers - Simon, who was called Peter, and Andrew - casting a net into the sea. They fished by trade. Jesus said to them, "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of humankind." They immediately abandoned their nets and began to follow Jesus.

Jesus walked along further and caught sight of a second pair of brothers - James and John, sons of Zebedee. They too were in their boat, mending their nets with their father. Jesus called them, and immediately they abandoned both boat and father to follow him.

Jesus traveled throughout Galilee, teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of heaven and healing all kinds of diseases and sicknesses among the people.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 27:1,4-9 (*from Everyday Psalms, James Taylor*)

(My only hope)

All I ever wanted was peace and harmony.

I would love to live serenely in God's presence.

Instead of protecting me from the tragedies of life

God gives me ways to cope with them.

When wild-eyed beasts glare at me out of the gloom,

God gives me fire;

its flames keep my fears at bay.

When rival demands clash like bloodied boxers,

God sends a breeze to blow away the swirling dust of strife.

When I can see clearly again, I know I don't want to fight anyone.

I would rather praise the one who gives me strength.

Don't stop now, God.

**When fearsome monsters lurk under the surface of my mind,
let me feel you with me.**

"Turn to me," you say. "Do things my way."

From the bottom of my heart, God, I have turned to you.

Don't turn away from me.

You are my only hope.

Reader: Neil Dunsmore

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (*The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Edition*)

(Overcome divisions and find unity)

I beg you, sisters and brothers, in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, to agree in our message. Let there be no factions; rather, be united in mind and judgment. I have been informed, my sisters and brothers, by certain members of Chloe's household, that you are quarreling among yourselves. What I mean is, one of you is saying, "I belong to Paul," another, "I belong to Apollos," still another, "I belong to Cephas," still another, "I belong to Christ." What - has Christ been divided into parts? Was it Paul who was crucified for you? Was it in Paul's name that you were baptized?.

Frankly, I'm thankful I didn't baptize any of you, except Crispus and Gaius, so that none of you can say you were baptized in my name! Oh yes, I did baptize the household of Stephanas, but no one else as far as I can remember.

The point is, Christ didn't send me to baptize but to preach the Gospel - not with human rhetoric, however, lest the cross of Christ be rendered void of its meaning! For the message of the cross is complete absurdity to those who are headed for ruin, but to us who are experiencing salvation, it is the power of God.

Message: Church: Exploring the Language We Use

***Hymn:** In the Quiet Curve of Evening

VU 278

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Day by Day - M.How

***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:**

God, you call us to follow, yet we are often slow to respond. We are blessed with more than we ever need or can ever use, yet we are often reluctant to part with even a portion of this abundance. As we offer our gifts today, remind us that learning generosity is part of your call to follow Jesus, one who models your loving nature in every word, every gesture, every day. 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:** When a Star Is Shining

VU 97

***Blessing:**

We have received the light of God in the words of scripture,
in remembering our baptism,
in the faithful witness of our sisters and brothers,
in the music of our voices.

**We go now to share this light in words of peace,
in witness of love,
in the sharing of wealth,
in the joy of good news.**

Go, knowing God 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: G. F. Handel - March

Prayer of the Week:

Inviting God, you call us to follow in so many ways: to witness with public deeds of justice; to the quiet work of companionship; to proclaim your truth by the way we speak and live; and to sing your love. Invite us to follow you by respecting the many different ways of knowing you, and rejoicing that we have so many chances to answer your call. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Elora

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: KTV, Erie Presbytery

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Richard Wright, Mary Hume,
Linda and Norm Porritt

Counters:

David Gohn and Richard Wright