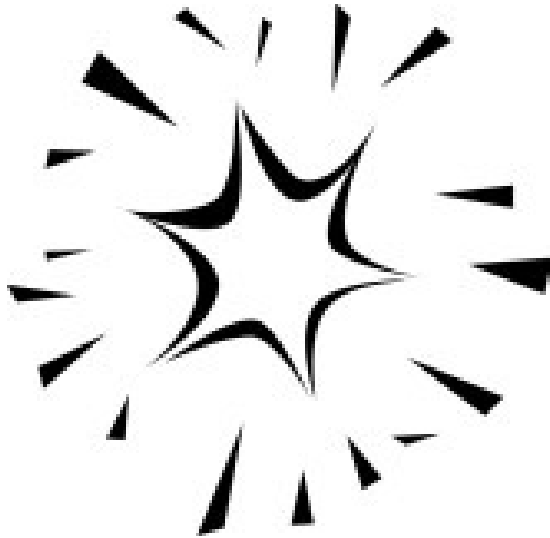


Melville United Church
Sunday, January 29, 2017
4th Sunday after Epiphany



** 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:

There is a pulling in our hearts,

calling us here.

There is anticipation and wondering,

calling us here.

There's thirst and hunger,

calling us here.

In gratitude, let us pray and worship together.

***Hymn:** God is Here

VU 389

Opening Prayer:

O God, you turn things upside down, calling the wise to embrace your folly. Help us to grow in acknowledging our need for you. Open us to the vision of your reign on earth, and strengthen us to do our part. Lead us, through the teachings of Jesus, to believe in love above all. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

God, we dishonour you

every time we treat another with disrespect.

Holy Presence, we shatter your heart

when we break our word or engage in gossip

or slander those around us.

But you are wise enough to forgive our foolishness,

strong enough to overcome our weakness,

loving enough to heal the hurt we cause.

Forgive us, and let us know the hope and new life you offer. Amen.

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.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
Web Site:	www.melvilleunited.com
Pastoral Care Numbers	519-826-9385, 519-835-8605 519-843-3841

Words of Affirmation:

When we express our remorse and turn back to God,
love is made real in us.

As we turn and follow the vision of God before us,
we experience the liberating 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)**

Theme Conversation: Is That Story True? -Laura Alary

Hymn: The Church is Wherever God's People **VU 579**

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 *(The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)*
(Love never fails)

Love never fails. Prophecies will cease; tongues will be silent; knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. But when I became an adult, I put childish ways aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we will see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I will know even as I am known.

There are, in the end, three things that last: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 15 (Paraphrase by James Taylor- *Everyday Psalms*)
 (Hospitality)

Your doors are always open, God;
you have no locks or fences.

Anyone can walk in -

**anyone who does no harm to others,
 who holds no grudges,
 who rejects pretense and sham.**

Your guests have no double standards.

They will not double-cross a friend for their own gain,
 nor sow dissension among their colleagues.

Yet they do not simply tolerate everything.

They steer clear of evil causes;

they keep their word - even at personal sacrifice.

They do not use money merely as a means of making more;

they will not try to profit from the poor and the powerless.

They are not fickle or changeable.

They would never do anything

to cut themselves off from your company.

Reader: Barb Gregory

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 3:16-18 *(The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Edition)*
(There is freedom in Spirit)

But whenever anyone turns to our God, the veil is removed. Now our God is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of our God is, there is freedom. And we, who with unveiled faces reflect our God's glory, grow brighter and brighter as we are being transformed into the image we reflect. This is the work of our God, who is Spirit.

Message: Church: Exploring our Beliefs

***Hymn:** All People that on Earth Do Dwell (Psalm 100) **VU 822**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: My Lord - Joyce Eilers

***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:**

Touch us with your Spirit, O God;

**touch us as we give,
that our giving may reflect faithful discipleship.**

Touch us as our gifts go to work, O God;

**touch us in the way of Christ,
that the struggling ones may find freedom.**

Touch us with the will to bring change,

**that the despairing ones may find hope,
and the lonely find community.**

Come Holy Spirit, bless our gifts,

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:** Who Is My Mother?

MV 178

***Blessing:**

Friends of God,

followers of Jesus

and people of Spirit,

go into this day and week alive to the vision

that is God's realm of peace, joy, and compassion.

We will hold true to our call.

**We will continually seek the grace and wisdom
of Jesus the Christ. 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: J. S. Bach - Prelude in d

Prayer of the Week:

Pull on our hearts this day, O God. Unbind our lives from the conventions of this world. As we abide in your presence, help us know your saving acts. Strengthen us to do what is good. Guide us as we walk humbly with you, and shape our lives to love kindness. Teach us and provoke us to acts of justice. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Unitarian Universalist Association

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Linden Park, Hamilton

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Vivian, Havey and Mark Andrews

Isobel Glennie

Counters:

Phil Brown and Les Frayne