

**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday, February 12, 2017**  
**6th 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:**

As we gather let us feel God's love in our midst -

**a love that forgives and renews us.**

A love that enables us to reach out in love to others.

**Let us give thanks for God's amazing love**

**poured out on each one of us.**

Come, let us worship God together!

**\*Hymn:** Come Touch our Hearts

**MV 12**

**Opening Prayer:**

**Some of your teachings are difficult to understand, O God. There are those, too, who take them out of context and use them to hurt others - sometimes unwittingly, yet sometimes with pain and purpose in mind.**

**Help us to hear the true message Jesus brings to us - a message of hope and new life and transformation for all people. Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

With every choice we make,

we show how faithful we are to God's hopes for us.

**When we make the wrong choices, forgive us, O God.**

There are times when we look at others through the prism of prejudice.

**When we let our anger make us bitter, forgive us, O God.**

Open us to your loving presence that we might put our squabbles aside,

**and so be united in common worship,**

**common service, and common purpose. Amen.**

<p>Melville United Church St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781 Team Ministry</p>	
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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**Words of Affirmation:**

God's forgiveness dwells in our hearts;

**Christ's love fills us;**

Spirit's peace guides our steps.

**God's gift of pardon and peace is ours.**

**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)

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*The elements of communion today will be served by intinction. When the time comes you will be invited to come to the front, take a piece of bread from the communal tray then move to one of the cups on either side to dip and then consume your bread. Please take the time you need before returning to your seat. If you cannot come forward for whatever reason to receive the elements please indicate to an usher and you will be served in your seat.*

As we make our way toward the season of Lent, we gather here for communion. This table will be familiar to some; to others, it may be a new experience. To some, the ritual will be comforting and familiar - an ongoing source of strength; to others, it may seem strange. But know that you are welcome here. Know *that* above all else. There is nothing you have to believe to come here, nothing you have to do. You see, it is Christ's table, not ours. He is the one who invites us and hosts us and welcomes us. He is the one whose joy it is for us to join him. It is a table for all. So come and share this time. And let us prepare ourselves as we sing together.

**Hymn:** Let Us Break Bread Together **VU 480**

May God be with us.

**God is here among us.**

Let us open our hearts to God

**We open them to God and to one another.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Friends, again we gather around Christ's table of mercy and sure abundance; a table gladly bearing signs of life and goodness for all. In this moment, in this sacred space, God comes to us and satisfies our yearnings. Yet not in supernatural or interventionist ways that only tear at the delicate fabrics of human hope and trust. No, God has come - and continues to come - as that resilient life-force alive within every given reality, every molecule and cell, calling us to life and courage, toward renewed vision and practice, and toward greater care for the earth, its creatures, and each other. And so we sing of God's love...

**O Holy, holy, holy God,** (MV 203)

**O God of time and space.**

**All earth and sea and sky above**

**bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n,**

**creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed is the One who comes**

**and bears your name always!**

And so as Jesus broke bread and shared wine, revealing before his friends the powerful, shy reality of God, we do likewise, so as to be astonished anew, and be transformed yet again.

We remember your boundless love for us and that each of us is born with a purpose to fulfil - a unique purpose that is different from anyone else. We remember Jesus and how he lived his life completely dedicated to the purpose for which he came into this world. We remember your goodness to him and to all the ancestors who went before and from whose stories we learn how to live into our full humanity by following the ways of Spirit. We remember and are amazed at the mystery of your presence. We remember and join our voices with the angels to sing of the mystery of our faith...

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,** (MV 204)

**Christ will come again!**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,**

**Christ will come again!**

**Words of Institution**

On the night before he died Jesus ate with his friends. He took a loaf of bread and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this remember me."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he passed it to his friends saying: "Take, drink. This cup that is poured out for you is the promise of God. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

**Prayer**

Spirit of Christ, Spirit of Life, come and bless what we do here. May our eating and drinking in the love of God, broaden the way we think, deepen the way we feel, and send us out with renewed confidence into the world of your continued weaving. The Spirit of heaven is everywhere.

**Amen, amen, O Holy One!** (MV 205)  
**Hosanna and Amen!**  
**Amen, amen, O Holy One!**  
**Hosanna and Amen!**

**Breaking of the Bread and Pouring of the Cup**

The body of Christ - the bread of life.  
 The blood of Christ - the cup of blessing.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life,  
**whoever comes to me will never be hungry:**  
**whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are now ready.

**Sharing the Elements****Post Communion Prayer**

**Life-giving God, may we, who share Christ's body, live his risen life;**  
**we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others;**  
**we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.**  
**Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,**  
**so that we and all your children shall live in peace,**

**and all creation will live to praise your name. Amen.**

**Hymn:** Bread of Life, Feed My Soul **MV 194**

**Scripture:** Deuteronomy 30:14-19 (*The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition*)  
*(I set before you life and death: choose life)*

The word of God is very near to you; it is in your mouth, and in your heart, so that you can keep it.

Today I have set before you life and success, or death and disaster. For today I command you to love YHWH, your God, to follow God's ways and keep the commandments, the laws and the customs. If you do, you will live and increase and YHWH, your God, will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your hearts stray and you do not listen to me, if you let yourself be drawn into the worship of other gods, and serve them, I tell you today, you will not survive. You will not live long in the land which you are now crossing the Jordan to enter and occupy.

I call heaven and earth to witness against you today: I set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants may live.

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 119:1-8 **VU 838** (Part One)  
*(Happy are those who walk in God's ways)*

Happy are those who live a blameless life,  
 who follow your law, O God.

**Happy are those who keep your decrees,**  
**who seek you with their whole heart.**

They also do no wrong, but walk in your ways.

**You have given your precepts for us to keep diligently. R**

O that my ways might be steadfast  
 in the keeping of your statutes.

**Then I will not be put to shame,**  
**when I hear all your commandments.**

I will truly thank you from the heart,  
 when I learn your righteous decrees.

**I will keep your statutes. O do not utterly forsake me. R**

**Scripture:** Micah 6:6-8 (*The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Edition*)  
*(What God requires)*

“What shall I bring when I come before YHWH, and bow down before God on high?” You ask. “Am I to come before God with burnt offerings? With year-old calves? Will YHWH be placated by thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of oil? Should I offer my firstborn for my wrongdoings - the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

Listen here, mortal: God has already made abundantly clear what “good” is, and what YHWH needs from you: simply do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God.

Reader: Don Grant

**Message:** Belief: Predestination

**\*Hymn:** Deep in Our Hearts

**MV 154**

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** R. Klusmeier - Bread of the World

**\*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:**

**Too often, we say “no” to those around us, so may our gifts be the “yes” others need to hear. We recognize that our purpose is to fulfil your purpose of love and care in whatever ways we can. And so let these, our offerings, be symbols of the trust we have that your grace, hope and peace will be shared through us. This we pray. 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:** Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

**VU 481**

**\*Blessing:**

As we leave this place,

let us go remembering we do not go alone.

**God is with us wherever we go, whatever we do.**

Let us go knowing we have a purpose to fulfil.

**Our purpose is to live in wholeness.**

Let us go with the assurance that when we rely on Spirit’s prompting

**we will be guided to do what we are meant to do.**

Never forget that you are a beloved child of God.

**We go, choosing life in all its fullness.**

**Thanks be to God. 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:** D. Buxtehude - Prelude in F

**Prayer of the Week:**

God of our deepest yearnings, grant us devoted hearts that seek to listen, think, and feel anew. As we seek to follow and walk in your ways may our

light so shine that others will be drawn to your light of love. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer** Alma United Church

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Milgrove

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Elizabeth Stintson, Bob Zirk,  
Karen Smillie, Ralph Rainford

**Counters:** Phil Brown, John Cuming