

Melville United Church
Sunday, February 19, 2017
7th Sunday after Epiphany



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Jen Auger

Welcome & Life & Work of the Church;

Sharing the Light

Prelude: Improvisation

Call to Worship

We are called to turn the other cheek.

We will seek to be vulnerable in our lives of faith and service.

We are called to go the extra mile.

We will be with those around us in the journeys of hope as well as fear.

We are called to love those who make that so hard.

We will rely on the One who loves us to fill us with that special grace.

We are called to be present.

We stand firm and grounded in the mysterious and challenging love of God.

Opening Hymn: VU 412 This is the day

Opening Prayer

You are God, Master Builder, so holy, we cannot understand,
yet you turn the pages of your heart, so we might learn to love;
so creative, we stand open-mouthed in awe and wonder,
yet you teach us the words that can bring hope to those who need it most.

You are God, Wordsmith of new sayings, so gentle, some might think you weak,

yet you dare to love those who confront you;
so tolerant, some might think you naive,
yet you are wise enough to always let us make fools of ourselves.

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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You are God, Giver of wisdom, so exalted in glory, we lower our eyes,
yet you move into our hearts in order to renovate our lives;
 so perfect in wonder, we tiptoe away,
yet you stick with us until we are all grown-up in faith.

You are God,
and we gather in these moments to worship you. Amen

Prayer for Inner Healing

**A friend hurts us, we hurt them back; someone hits us, we strike back;
 a family member ridicules us, we gossip about him or her. That is how
 we have been taught to deal with those around us. But now, God of
 mercy, you call us to a different life the life of forgiving, not avenging;
 the life of peace, not anger; the life of love, not hate. As you forgive us
 of all we have done, and not done may we walk in your new ways of
 living, as we follow Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Assurance

It begins with God and ends with God – that love which can create,
 renew, restore. God loves you and forgives you – now and forever.
**As we listen to God's songs of mercy, we are cradled in grace – now
 and forever.**

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)**

Reading 1: 1 Corinthians 3:10–11, 16–23

10 According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master
 builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each
 builder must choose with care how to build on it. 11For no one can lay
 any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is
 Jesus Christ.

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit
 dwells in you? 17If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that

person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

18 Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age,
 you should become fools so that you may become wise. 19For the
 wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,
 'He catches the wise in their craftiness',

20and again,
 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
 that they are futile.'

21So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours,
 22whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the
 present or the future—all belong to you, 23and you belong to Christ,
 and Christ belongs to God.

Theme Conversation "God's Vessels"

Hymn: VU 701 What Does the Lord Require of You

Reading 2: Matthew 5:38–48

38 'You have heard that it was said, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a
 tooth." 39But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone
 strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; 40and if anyone
 wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; 41and if
 anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. 42Give to
 everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to
 borrow from you.

43 'You have heard that it was said, "You shall love your neighbour and
 hate your enemy." 44But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for
 those who persecute you, 45so that you may be children of your Father
 in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and
 sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. 46For if you love
 those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the
 tax-collectors do the same? 47And if you greet only your brothers and
 sisters,* what more are you doing than others? Do not even the
 Gentiles do the same? 48Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father
 is perfect.

Reflection "Turn the Other Cheek"

Hymn: MV 106 I am the Dream

Invitation to the Offering

Ministry of Music: M. Hayes - We are Called

Offering Response: VU 55 (vs4) What Can I Give Him?

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 (*from Seasons of the Spirit*)

We are called to share with everyone – our coats, our cloaks, our love, our forgiveness. May these gifts we offer be tangible hope to those walking in despair, real food for hungry children, safe shelter for the homeless, peace and reconciliation for the broken. Amen.

Joys & 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

When we see the sharing of your hope with the poor, the immigrant, the stranger; when we watch the building of a ramp for those in wheelchairs;

when we experience a willingness to help in spite of stubbornness;

when we hear your call to love over our yearnings to hate:

we know what holiness looks like, God of Creation.

When we refuse to speak harshly to those who judge us;

when we wipe away the tears of those who would hurt us;

when we choose to respond nonviolently to those who would crucify us:

we know what peace looks like, Light of the world.

When we hear you whisper of fair play and justice;

when you fill our hands with grace to be shared with others;

when you build our lives on the foundation of Christ's peace and love:

we know what power looks like, Spirit alive in us.

We pray as Jesus has taught us, even as we yearn to be your image here on Earth,

Our Father...

Hymn: VU 596 Come and Bless Us God

Sending & Blessing

Parting Song: VU 87 I am the Light of the World

"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. H. Schein - 2 Allemands

Partners in Prayer Belwood/Metz Pastoral Charge

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Mississauga, Chinese

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Richard Wright, Karen Smillie,
Joan and John Cuming

Counters: Karen Smillie and Chris Hopewell