



Melville United Church St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781	
Team Ministry	
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Pastoral Care	Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree
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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:

We gather as the faithful of God.

We come to listen to what God has to say to us.

**God has invited us to this place;
may our faces reflect our hopes and our hearts.**

We gather as the faithful of God.

People of the new covenant of hope and promise.

**We boldly enter into the presence of God,
hoping to be transformed into new people.**

We gather as the faithful of God,
our fears melting away in the heart of God.

We come to share in the freedom of the Spirit.

We come to worship together.

***Hymn: And on this Path**

MV 8

Opening Prayer:

We may not be able to climb a hill for you, O God,
but we gather to worship you in this place.

We may never see you transfigured in glory in our presence,
but we witness to your transforming power in our living.

We may not have the words to explain all that you are,
but we have hearts that want to feel your love in us.

Enable us to see you and meet you all around us,
that we may know and worship you in truth and love.
Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

You call us, Great Mystery, not to judge or condemn,
but to forgive those who hurt us.

**But we have trouble hearing your voice
above the seductive words of our culture.**

You call us, Ground of Being, to go on an inward journey
to clear the clutter that blocks our Holy connections.

Forgive us. Open us.

Let us hear your whispers of hope and healing. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

God's Spirit affirms: you are my Beloved,
with you I am well pleased.

Love never forgets and is quick to forgive.

We can trust the Spirit's affirmation
and live with confidence
that we are the Beloved of God, forgiven and free.

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)

Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Edition)

(Jesus transfigured on the mountain)

Six days later, Jesus took Peter, James and John up on a high mountain to be alone with them. And before their eyes, Jesus was transfigured - his face becoming as dazzling as the sun and his clothes as radiant as light.

Suddenly Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with Jesus. Then Peter said, "Rabbi, how good that we are here! With your permission I will erect three shelters here - one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah!"

Peter was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them. Out of the cloud came a voice which said, "This is my Own, my Beloved, on whom my favour rests. Listen to him!"

When they heard this, the disciples fell forward on the ground, overcome with fear. Jesus came toward them and touched them, saying, "Get up! Don't be afraid." When they looked up, they did not see anyone but Jesus.

As they were coming down the mountainside, Jesus commanded them, "Don't tell anyone about this until the Chosen One has risen from the dead."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 2 (paraphrase by James Taylor, Everyday Psalms)
(The mighty will fall)

What causes powerful people to plot together for their own profit?

They manipulate events to preserve their privileges.

They try to take matters into their own hands;
they think they are greater than God.

But God laughs at their vanity.

They will see how fast their success fades.

Their foundations will crack and their walls will crumble.

Their empires will not last.

The world they tried to weave will fall apart like rotted fabric.

But the reign of God rolls on forever.

When the greedy have gone, who will inherit their wealth?

Only the poor and brokenhearted will be left.

Take heed, you who pursue power at any price!

Serve God, not your own ambitions.

Come to God in fear and trembling.

Learn God's ways, before God puts you out with the garbage.

The orphans adopted into God's family will inherit the household.

Reader: Alison Rainford

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16-21 (The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Edition)
(Prophecy comes through the power of the Holy Spirit)

We did not cleverly devise fables when we taught you of the power and coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ; we ourselves saw the majesty of our Saviour. For Jesus was honoured and glorified by our Creator God when the voice of the Majestic Glory spoke out, "This is my Own, whom I love,

and with whom I am well pleased." We heard this ourselves - this voice from heaven - when we were with Jesus on the holy mountain. Moreover, we have the prophetic word, which is even more certain. Depend on it for your own good as a light shining in the dark, until first light breaks and the morning star rises in your hearts.

At the same time, you need to know that no prophecy of scripture ever occurred by one's own interpretation. Prophecy never comes through an act of human will, but comes as people have spoken for God under the power of the Holy spirit.

Message: Belief: Sin. The Second Coming

***Hymn:** To Show by Touch and Word

VU 427

Offering:

Ministry of Music: M. McDonald - Let Your Light Shine

***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:**

There is so much we could do with our abundance, Mountaintop God. We could buy bigger homes or faster cars or more beautiful clothing. But remind us, as we offer our gifts this morning, of those who need a simple home, who long to hear the songs of hope, who need help with paying for food or medicine or clothes. Transfigure not only our gifts, but our hearts as well, this is our prayer. 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:** We Have come at Christ's Own Bidding

VU 104

***Blessing:**

Tempted to stay here, let us go out,

to carry God's peace to a broken world.

Having heard the call to follow,

we will journey into life's valleys,

carrying the hope of Jesus.

Our job is to walk with the Spirit

who leads us on a journey of healing and forgiveness.

We will seek the wisdom of God which lives in us.

Go now, knowing you never go alone for 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: M. Charpentier - Prelude to Te Deum

Prayer of the Week:

Holy God, you encounter us in places where we seek you, and in places where we flee from you. Ease our fears. Open our ears and eyes to you, wherever and in whomever you reveal yourself to us. Prepare us to journey as you call. Amen.

Partners in Prayer St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Mountainview, St. Catharines

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Isobel Glennie, Ralph Rainford

Doreen and Larry Broome

Counters: Liam Ogilvie, Karen Smillie