

Melville United Church
Sunday, February 5, 2017
5th Sunday after Epiphany



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centering Time: Improvisation

Call to Worship:

Jesus calls us

to praise and prayer, to song and silence;

Jesus calls us to worship.

Jesus calls us

to hearing and healing, to service and solidarity;

Jesus calls us to love.

Jesus calls us

to advocacy and action, to protest and provision;

Jesus calls us to justice.

Let us heed the call of Christ.

Let us worship together with joy.

(Written by Rev. Joanna Harader, Peace Mennonite Church, Lawrence, Kansas)

***Hymn: A Song Must Rise MV 142**

Opening Prayer:

We come this morning, God of Love and Light...

to gather and to sing and to pray.

We also come to listen to what you might whisper...

to what you might speak to each one of us...into our hearts...into our fears...into our inner turmoil...into our very essence.

We seek peace.

We seek understanding.

We seek clarity.

We search for hope.

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.
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We seek to be the salt of the earth and to follow the Light of the World, especially in this time that so often feels dark and confused.

And...as ever...you are with us.

Right with us.

And breathing in...and letting go...

We are right here with you.

Amen. *(Jennifer Swanson, 2017)*

Prayer of Confession:

We admit, Holy One, how in superstition, we will throw salt over our shoulders, but find it hard to flavour a world made bland by the ordinary. We dim our gifts to save our energy, instead of shining as long as we can in society's shadowed corners. We skip a meal once a week to show our faith, but are unable to see those who go through the dumpster to feed their children.

Forgive us, and have mercy.

By your grace, heal our brokenness, so we might fix the shattered dreams of our world. With hope, strengthen our hearts, so we might fill the emptiness of our society. This we ask in the wonderful name of Jesus the Christ.

(We contemplate in silence...)

Words of Assurance *(from Adapted from Psalm 72:1-2)*

The good news is that Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again and again.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Chorus: God Says MV 172, Verse 1

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."

Theme Conversation:

Song/Hymn: Be Still

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-9a *(Inclusive Version)*

Shout for all you are worth, raise your voice like a trumpet!

Proclaim to the people their faults,
tell the house of Leah and Rachel and Jacob their sins!

They seek me daily,

they long to know my ways,

like a nation that wants to act with integrity
and not ignore the Law of its God.

They ask me for laws that are just, they long for God to draw near.

Yet they say, "Why should we fast if you never see it?"

Why do penance if you never notice?"

Because when you fast, it's business as usual, and you oppress all your workers!

Because when you fast, you quarrel and fight and strike the poor with your fist!

Fasting like yours today will never make your voice heard on high!

Is that the sort of fast that pleases me -

a day when people humiliate themselves,

hanging their heads like a reed, lying down on sackcloth and ashes?

Is that what you call fasting, a day acceptable to YHWH?

On the contrary!

This is the sort of fast that pleases me:

Remove the chains of injustice!

Undo the ropes of the yoke!

Let those who are oppressed go free, and break every yoke you encounter!

Share your bread with those who are hungry, and shelter homeless poor people!

Clothe those who are naked, and don't hide from the needs of your own flesh and blood!

Do this, and your light will shine like the dawn-and your healing will break forth like lightning!

Your integrity will go before you, and the glory of YHWH will be your rearguard.

Cry, and YHWH will answer; call and God will say, "I am here."

Scripture: Psalm 14 & 53 VU 735

The foolish have spoken in their heart,
and said, "There is no god."

**They are corrupt, they do abominable things;
there is no one who does what is good.**

God looks down from heaven upon us all,
to see if any are wise and seek after God.

**But all have gone astray; all alike are corrupted;
there is no one who does good; no, not one. R**

Have they no knowledge, all those who do evil?

**They devour my people like so much bread,
and do not pray to God.**

But see, they will tremble with fear,
for God is on the side of the righteous.

**Do not mock the hope of the poor,
for God is their refuge.**

O that deliverance for God's people would come forth from Zion!

**When God restores the fortunes of the people,
then shall Jacob rejoice and Israel be glad. R**

Reader: Lillian Gohn

Scripture: Matthew 5:13 (Inclusive Version)

You are the salt of the earth. But what if salt were to lose its flavor?

How could you restore it? It would be fit for nothing but to be thrown
out and trampled underfoot.

Message: **"Does the Church Have a Place in Today's World? I: Salt"**

A New Creed VU 918

Hymn: There's a Voice in the Wilderness VU 96

Offering

Offering Hymn: What Can I Give Him? VU 55, Verse 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 one, I would do my part;

Yet what I can give him-give my heart.

Ministry of Music: T. Fettke - You Raise Me Up

***Offertory Prayer:**

**There are those who live in the shadows of life, Loving God,
and so we pray these gifts might illuminate a way to hope.**

**There are those whose lives have lost all flavour, because
of poverty, or illness, or despair, so we pray that what we
offer may bring life back to them. Use our gifts, as well as
us in your realm, which is all around us. In Jesus' name we
pray. Amen.**

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Bathe Me in Your Light MV 82, Verse 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.**

Moderator's Letter to Our Muslim Brothers & Sisters:**Prayers of the People:****Prayer of Jesus:**

***Hymn: Though Ancient Walls VU 691**

***Blessing/Sending Forth**

Jesus has told us to be like salt.

We will go forth and season the world with faith, hope, and love.

Jesus has told us to be like salt.

**We will go forth and speak out against injustice, oppression, and
violence.**

Jesus has told us to be like salt.

We will go forth, and be unashamed to own the name of Christ.

***Parting Song:** I Am the Light of the World VU 87, Chorus & Verse 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: H. Peter - Prelude in E flat

Prayer of the Week:

We have no words, God, to express our pain and sorrow over the events of this past week. Comfort the victims and families of the shooting, O God. But we also pray for the persecutors, that they might come to repent of their actions, and see your face in the face of every human being on this earth. Guard us from a spirit of revenge that would spawn only more hatred, and fill us with the courage to speak out against injustice. Help us to build "God Stuff" and dismantle walls, so that all on earth might know true peace, prosperity, and justice. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Elora/Bethany Pastoral Charge

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Bruce United Church Cooperative

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Eleanor Johnston, David Gohn
Joan and John Cuming

Counters: Larry Broom and David Gohn