

Melville United Church
Sunday, April 2, 2017
5th Sunday of Lent



Fifth
SUNDAY
IN
LENT

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centering Time

Call to Worship:

We are not alone.

We live in God's world, and God is with us, even in the desert.

We come this morning seeking the light.

We come this morning to be the light.

As we find light and be light, let us worship God together.

***Hymn:** New Every Morning

VU 405

Opening Prayer:

God of light and life, as gentle spring rains soak the earth, may your peace and love fall upon us. Quiet our fears; calm our anxious scurrying. Be with us in this time of worship and fill us with your light, so that when we go, we may have the courage to be the light to others that you have asked us to be. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

Compassionate God, we confess that there are times when we lose hope, when our bones dry up.

Fill us with the breath of your spirit, and help us live!

We confess that there are times when we are afraid of what others will say or do, and we hide our lights.

Give us the courage to act from our stated convictions.

We confess that we have left comforting words unspoken. We have left deeds of love undone. We have forgotten the gifts

Melville United Church

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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
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**hidden in the closet, and have left them unwrapped and ungiven.
Forgive us, and help us to make amends. Amen.**

Lenten Candles:

In place of the tradition of "giving something up for Lent" which reinforces the stereotype that darkness equals bad or negative things, this year we will celebrate the light that seems to grow as we observe God's activity in our world. Our candles will symbolize the growing and expanding of the light of newness and hope which originates with God's love.

The world is filled with valleys of dry bones. Ways of life are passing, old traditions fail. Sometimes even the church seems to be full of dry bones. Lord, can these bones live?

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out, not even in the Season of Lent.

(candles are lit)

Pharisees, men of power and status, come by night. They are afraid to be seen, afraid of what others will say, but they long for new life. Lord, can these bones live?

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out, not even in the Season of Lent.

(candles are lit)

Outcasts, afraid of meeting neighbours and hearing them mock, come to the well in the heat of the day to draw water, and find Jesus waiting. Lord, can these bones live?

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out, not even in the Season of Lent.

(candles are lit)

Everywhere there live people who are searching for hope. Homeless or abused, rich and unfulfilled, outcast and upstanding citizen alike. Lord, can these bones live?

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out, not even in the Season of Lent.

(The Christ Candle is Lit)

Chorus: Catch the Light!

- Bruce Harding

**Catch the light, catch the light:
God's love growing in you and me.
Catch the light, catch the light:
God's love growing in you and me.**

**Catch the light, catch the light:
God's love growing in you and me.
Catch the light, catch the light:
God's love growing in you and me.**

**God's love growing, God's love growing,
God's love growing: feel it growing in you and me!**

**Catch the light, catch the light:
God's love growing in you and me.
Catch the light, catch the light:
God's love growing in you and me.**

Theme Conversation:

***Hymn:** We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

MV 143

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NRSV)

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came

together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 130 VU 853

Out of the depths have I called to you.
O God, hear my cry!

Let your ears be attentive to my plea for mercy.
If you should keep account of what is done amiss,
O God, who could stand.

**But there is forgiveness with you,
therefore we will honour you. R**

I wait for you God,
my soul waits, and in your word is my hope.

**My soul waits for God more than the watchers long for
morning,
more than the watchers long for morning.**

O Israel, wait in hope,
for with God there is love unfailing.

**With God is great power to redeem,
to redeem you, Israel, from all your sins. R**

Scripture Reading: Matthew 5:14-16 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

You are the light of the world. You don't build a city on a hill, then try to hide it, do you? You don't light the lamp, then put it under a bushel basket, do you? No, you put it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, your light must shine before others so that they may see your good acts and give praise to your Abba God in heaven.

**Reflection: "Does the Church Have a Place in Today's World?"
III: Light"**

***Hymn:** A Light is Gleaming VU 82

Offering:

Ministry of Music: J. A. Schafferman - The Mystery

Offering Song: Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands (vs 1)VU 537
**Your work, O God, needs many hands
to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve
unless our gifts we share.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

**O God, bless us and our gifts as we work in our church, in our
community, and in the world to be the light you want us to be.
Amen.**

Prayer Prelude: Be Still and Know MV 77
**Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.**

**Be still and know that I am God.
Be still and know that I am God.**

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Go Forth for God

VU 418

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

As we go forth from this place,

Let our light shine for others.

Let us bring hope.

Let us share our understanding.

**Let us share always, the joy and comfort from knowing that we
are not alone.**

***Parting Song:** Sent Out in Jesus' Name

MV 212

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now

to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.

Sent out in Jesus' name, our hands are ready now

to make the world the place in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change a world of hurt and pain

into a world of love, of justice and of peace.

The task is ours to do, to set it really free.

O, help us to obey, and carry out your will.

Postlude: J. S. Bach - Prelude on Out of the Depth

Prayer of the Week:

God, we are grains of yeast, we are mustard seeds, we are light.

We have been sent by you to share what we have, even in the face

of adversity. Grant us courage and compassion and wisdom, that

we may gently share with others the joy that comes from your

presence through Jesus, your Son. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Bethel Baptist Church, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Pine River

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Lillian Gohn, Bob Zirk,

Karen Smillie, Diane Maloney

Counters:

David Gohn and Art Russell