

Melville United Church
Sunday, March 19, 2017
3rd Sunday of Lent



Third
SUNDAY
IN
LENT

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centering Time

Call to Worship:

Come, let us sing a song to our God!

Let us raise a joyful shout to the source of living water.

Let us come before God with thanks;

Let us shout songs of joy to our Creator.

For God is great and will quench our spiritual thirst.

Let us worship God together.

***Hymn:** New Every Morning

VU 405

Opening Prayer:

God of our journeying, God of dead-ends and u-turns and radical new beginnings, here we gather, confident of your attentive and fulfilling love. Holy One, commune with us. Create streams of love and kindness within us as we open ourselves to your fountain of living water during this time together. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

When we quarrel, hear us, O God.

When our faith is thin and we turn on each other,

**Forgive our words that hurt,
and may we drink again from the water of life.**

In our prejudice, hear us, O God.

When our insecurities bring on fear of others,

**forgive our narrowness of mind,
and may we drink again from the water of life.**

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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In our hurt of others, hear us, O God.
 When we judge people on hearsay,
forgive our want to gossip,
And may we drink again from the water of life.

And God says: I am listening to you,
 now hear my words.

I am the water of life, come to me all who are thirsty
 and you will drink of the living waters
 and never be thirsty again.

Thanks be to God! Amen.
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.

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

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:** Water Flowing from the Mountains **MV 87**

Scripture Reading: Exodus 17:1-7 (*The New Revised Standard Version*)
(Water from the rock)

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as God commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "give us water to drink." Moses said to them. "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test God?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to God, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." God said to Moses. "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested God, saying "Is God among us or not?"

Responsive Reading: Psalm 95 (*James Taylor - Everyday Psalms*)
(Unity with creation)

Come and climb up to the top of the rock;
stand on top, and stretch your arms out to the sky.
 Reach out to the holiness that wraps its breath around you.
In grateful silence, soak up the shining light of life.
 God is the rock upon which we live;
all the earth is God's.
 From ocean abyss to mountain pinnacle,
from polar ice-field to tropical rain forest,

God lives in every subtle link of life.

Bow your head before the wonder of it all;

feel the strength of the rock rise through your feet.

We are not alone;

we are one in God.

Lichens and trees, ants and people -

all are held in the palm of God's hand.

Do not isolate yourself from God's creation.

Do not consider your concerns first.

You will cut yourself off from God who created you;

you will think of yourself as god.

Your struggles will lead you farther astray;

you will sink farther into a morass of your own making.

In your loneliness, you will begin to believe that there is no God;

you will never know the peace that passes understanding.

Reader: Mary Lloyd

Message/Scripture: John 4:5-42 - The Woman at the Well

- a dramatic presentation written by Ann Corbet

***Hymn:** I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say **VU 626**

Offering:

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:**

Your love for us, gracious God, is overwhelming: in the midst of our complaining, you pour out abundant water for us. Now we respond in kind, giving you what we can for the work of your people. Take our gifts, and take us, that we might share your living water with others. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Be Still and Know

MV 77

Be still and know that I am God.

Prayers of the People:

Knowing that God is aware of all our needs let us boldly say:

We are listening. Journey with us into love.

Aware of global, human needs on scales often too vast to comprehend, let us boldly say:

We are listening. Journey with us into compassion.

Attuned to the heartache of the earth, used and rendered in so many violent ways, let us boldly say:

We are listening. Journey with us into peace.

Alarmed by growing divisions between rich and poor, yet clinging to our own resources, let us boldly say:

We are listening. Journey with us into righteousness.

Disturbed by anger and tensions that seem to grow unchecked between people of different races, communities, backgrounds, let us boldly say:

We are listening. Journey with us into justice.

Disillusioned by the energy needed to keep the church alive and relevant in an ever-changing world, let us boldly say:

We are listening. Journey with us into faith.

Our prayers continue...

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** In Christ There is No East or West **VU 606**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Reconciled and restored to God,

we go out into the world in peace,

Go and share the living water that God gives to us so freely.

In so doing, may we restore others to hope and life.

Go, knowing the love of God, the peace of Christ and the companionship of the Holy Spirit is with you - always!

Amen!

***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

Prayer of the Week:

Life-giving God, sometimes we complain; sometimes we come timidly and dare not ask; sometimes we forget the amazing ways you are with us. And yet, still you offer us grace upon grace, new life in abundant measure. Thank you. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: St. John's Anglican Church, Elora

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Oneida

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Graeme Chalmers, Lorna Zieglar,
Doreen and Larry Broome

Counters: Kaillie Rawn, Mary Lloyd