

Melville United Church  
Sunday, March 26, 2017  
4th Sunday of 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:**

God, our shepherd, calls us to this place.

**God leads us beside quiet streams, and into lush meadows.**

Even in dark and difficult places, God never abandons us.

**God is with us to the ends of Earth, upholding us in love.**

Come, let us worship God together.

**\*Hymn:** Here I Am to Worship

**Opening Prayer:**

**Loving God, we have come here today to hear your word and let it change us. We have come to be refreshed by your presence and reminded that we are never away from you. Open our hearts to receive all that you offer, and to reach out to others in love. Amen.**

**Prayer for Inner Healing:**

For those times when we have been too blind to see what is going on around us,

**Forgive us.**

For those times when we have turned away, preferring not to see realities that we are uncertain about,

**Forgive us.**

For those times when we have wrung our hands, wishing things would change, without taking the steps we could have to help change happen,

**Forgive us.**

<b>Melville United Church</b>	
St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781	
<b>Team Ministry</b>	
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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For those times when we discounted others' stories rather than confront truths that made us uncomfortable,

**Forgive us.**

Open our eyes and our hearts, loving God, and enable us to see the realities you place before us.

**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.**

**Minute for Mission:**

**Hymn: Are You a Shepherd?**

**MV 126**

**Scripture Reading:** Psalm 23 (The New Revised Standard Version)  
(The Lord is my shepherd)

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil;  
for your rod and your staff - they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 119:105-112 (Part 5)  
(God's word lights our path)

**VU 841**

**Reader:** David Gohn

**Scripture Reading:** selected passages

*2 Timothy 3:16 -17* - All scripture is inspired of God, and is useful for teaching - for reprimanding, correcting, and training in justice - so that the people of God may be fully competent and equipped for every good work.

*Romans 15:4* - Everything written before our time was written for our instruction, that we might derive hope from the lessons of patience and the words of encouragement in the scriptures.

*Proverbs 1:1-7* - The proverbs of Solomon ben-David, ruler of Israel: for women and men to learn wisdom and self-discipline, and to understand words of enlightenment; to acquire the disciplines of being equitable - rightness, justice, and fairness; to instill competence in the uneducated, and knowledge and good sense to the young; to help wise women and

men increase their learning, and to give greater guidance to discerning hearts; and to open the meaning of proverbs and parables, the sayings of sages, and their riddles.

When you stand in awe of YHWH - that is when you begin to really understand. But to spurn wisdom and instruction is utter foolishness.

**Message:** Bible 101

**\*Hymn:** I Love to Tell the Story                    **VU 343**

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** J. Althouse - Lord I Stretch My Hands

**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:**

**Holy Presence, giver of all things, as people alive to your goodness  
we offer these gifts and the talents of this community to the service  
of all your children within our neighbourhood and beyond,  
throughout our nation and the world. Amen.**

**Joys and Concerns:**

**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:** Come to My Heart                    **VU 661**

**\*Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Go now, into the world and know that in all you do  
God is with you every step of the way.

**We go, guided by the wisdom of scripture,  
by the presence of Spirit in our lives and  
the counsel of the wise ones we encounter each day.  
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:** J. Brahms - O Welt ich muss dich lassen

**Prayer of the Week:**

It can be difficult, Source of Life, to accept your ways of seeing, which challenge us and call us to look in new and fresh ways at the world around us. Where we thought we knew what we were looking at, help us to see beyond - to the newness you always find within. Amen

**Partners in Prayer:** St. James' Anglican Church, Fergus

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Parkminster, Waterloo

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**                    Lillian and David Gohn,  
Joan and John Cuming

**Counters:**                    Les Frayne and David Gohn