

Melville United Church
Sunday, March 5, 2017
1st Sunday of Lent

First
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: *(From Hosea 6:3)*

Let us strive to know God,

Whose coming is sure as the sunrise.

God will come to us like the rain,

Like spring rains that water the earth.

*Hymn: As the Sun with Longer Journey

VU 111

Opening Prayer:

Creating God, still Centre of the world you have made, we come to you in this season of turning and returning. We do not know how to seek you with our whole hearts, but we know you are our source and our destiny. In the midst of life, we return to you, we turn toward you. We thank you that you receive even the broken heart, the troubled conscience, the conflicted spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Confession:

O God, we confess that we often come to you reluctantly, afraid of what we might have to give up or change when we enter your presence. In our reluctance, we often miss opportunities for your grace to touch us, and through us to touch others. Touch us that we might be healed; forgive us that we might be born again. 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

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Team Ministry

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Jen Auger
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Church Secretary:	Gerri McCullough
Custodian:	Robert Mitchell
Chair of Church Council:	Allan Hons
Pastoral Care	Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree
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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:** How Deep the Peace **MV 95**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (NRSV)

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the

LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Responsive Reading: Matthew 4:1-11 (NRSV)

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

**'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'**

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

**Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'"**

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Reader: Allan Hons

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:31-33 (NRSV)

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

Reflection: "Does the Church Have a Place in Today's World? II: Yeast"

***Hymn:** Come Touch Our Hearts **MV 12**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Be Still - L. Larsson

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:**

**Gracious God, bless and transform all that we offer: our faltering steps,
our brokenness, our hope, our risking, our hearts, that your covenant
may be written on our hearts and we may be a blessed and
transformed covenant people. In Jesus' name. 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:** Forty Days and Forty Nights **VU 114**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

**May the blessing of God give us strength for the journey;
May the Spirit of wisdom give us vision for the road;
May the love of Christ make us caring companions;
As together we go forth in the Lenten time.**

***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: Fuge in B Minor - J. S. Bach

Prayer of the Week: God of all seasons, in your pattern of things there is a time for keeping and a time for losing; a time for building up and a time for pulling down. In this holy season of Lent, as we journey to the cross, help us to discern in our lives what we must lay down and what we must begin. Give us grace to lead a disciplined life, in glad faithfulness and with the joy which comes from a closer walk with Christ. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: New Credit - Delaware

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Centre Wellington Food Bank

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Eleanor Johnston, Graeme Chalmers,
Isabel Weaver, Joyce Keizerwaard

Counters: Eleanor Johnston, Chris Hopewell