

Melville United Church
Sunday, April 23, 2017
2nd Sunday of Easter



** 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:

A pastor was speaking to a group of second-graders about the resurrection of Jesus. One student asked,

"What did Jesus say right after He came out of the grave?"

The pastor said,

"The Gospels do not tell us what Jesus said."

The hand of one little girl shot up. "I know what Jesus said: He said, 'Tah-dah!'"

***Hymn:** The Spring Has Come **VU 187**

Opening Prayer:

O Great Laughing God,

we come into your presence with joy and longing to be surprised.

We thank you that you have given to us the gift of laughter and delight.

These things give hints as to the nature of your purpose for us and for all the earth.

May we find that in giving up to laughter there is healing and hope and abundance and blessing.

Tickle our souls with the brush of your Spirit to renew our worship and our living. Amen.

(courtesy of Bay of Quinte Conference website)

Prayer of Confession:

You know better than we do, Amused God, what important people we believe we are.

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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**Believing we have to be serious all the time,
we miss out on the joy of your creation.**

**Choosing to feast on the pain of the world,
we skip the picnic offered in paradise.**

**Clinging to the despair which is our best friend,
we ignore Jesus, who can bring us home to your heart.**

**Forgive us, Heart of Joy,
and make us open to the startling, and upside-down,
ways in which you work.**

**Fill us with Easter's laughter;
fill us with your healing joy;
fill us with the love poured into us
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

(courtesy of Liberty Grove United Methodist Church)

Word of Assurance:

The Gospels tell us over and over again of the joy which comes to us through Christ. When Jesus was around, lives were changed, the sick were healed, the sorrowful began to laugh with joy. The good news is that this joy is now given to us.

**Through the Holy Spirit, we are gifted with joy.
We are sent forth to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bring healing to the broken,
to anoint everyone with the oil of gladness.
Thanks be to God, we are forgiven. Amen.**

Chorus: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks (chorus only) **VU 179**

Hallelujah, hallelujah.

Give thanks to the risen Christ;

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Give praise to God's name.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 2:4b-9; 15 (Inclusive Bible)

At the time when YHWH made the heavens and the earth, there was still no wild bush on the earth, nor had any wild plant sprung up, for YHWH had not yet sent rain to the earth, and there was no human being to till the soil. Instead, a well of water would well up from the ground and irrigate the soil.

So YHWH fashioned an earth creature out of the clay of the earth, and blew into its nostrils the breath of life. And the earth creature became a living being.

YHWH planted a garden to the east, in Eden—“Land of Pleasure”—and placed in it the earth creature that had been made. Then YHWH caused every kind of tree enticing to look at and good to eat, to spring from the soil. In the center of the garden was the Tree of Life, and the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Then YHWH took the earth creature and settled it in the garden of Eden so that it might cultivate and care for the land.

Reader: Barb Gregory

Meditation I: In the Garden

***Hymn:** Touch the Earth Lightly **VU 307**

Minute for Mission:

Scripture Reading: Mark 16:1-8 (NRSV)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man,

dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Meditation II: Give to Us Laughter

***Hymn:** Give to Us Laughter **VU 624**

Ministry of Music: Jon Rutter - For the Beauty of the Earth

Offering:

Offering Song: What Can I Do? **MV 191**

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

Laughing God, you bring us the joy of salvation! By your Spirit, help us as we reach out to share your good news with our neighbors in Fergus and around the world. We dedicate our tithes and offerings in the name of Jesus the Christ, who taught us that we are all one. 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:

(Holy Humour Sunday Version, Oakton United Methodist Church)

Our Father in heaven,
let Your holy name be known,
let Your kingdom come, and Your will be done
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today the bread that we need,
and forgive us our wrongs, and OK,
we'll forgive those who have done wrong to us, too.

Do not lead us into trial, but save us from evil.
For we want for You alone to rule in our hearts.
You have power to transform,
and in the light of Your smile is Your glory. Amen.

***Hymn:** You Shall Go Out With Joy **VU 884**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

But death was not the last word.
**God raised Jesus from death,
turning sorrow into joy,
despair into hope.**

We sing of Jesus raised from the dead.

We sing hallelujah.

(from "A Song of Faith")

***Parting Song: Melville Benediction**

Postlude: F. Mendelssohn - Prelude in G

Prayer of the Week: Dear God, so far today, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped or lost my temper. I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, or self-centered. But in a few minutes I'm going to be getting out of bed and then I'm going to need a lot of help. Thank you! Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Grace Christian Fellowship, Fergus

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Selkirk

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Betty Wood, Bob Zirk,
Vivian and Havey Andrews

Counters: Les Frayne, Norma Martin