

Melville United Church
Sunday, April 30, 2017
3rd Sunday of Easter



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude: Improvisation

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

Come and see: signs of the risen Christ are all around us!

We come to worship God.

Come and know: the presence of the risen Christ in this community!

We come to worship God.

Come and believe: the risen Christ is with us now and always.

We come to worship God.

Come, let us worship together.

***Hymn:** Sing a Happy Hallelujah

VU 224

Opening Prayer:

God of our journeying, as we follow the way of Jesus, who makes sense of our wonderings and our wanderings, open our eyes and our hearts to recognize him in scripture, in our lives, in each other, and when we worship together. May we live in and share the light of the Resurrection, knowing that we journey with and towards you. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

As the leaves return to the trees and flowers open,

so your love blooms in our hearts.

As the warmth returns to the land,

so your grace embraces us.

As the geese and ducks return to familiar waters,

so we look forward to summer activities.

God of new 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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**help us to turn from the things
which distract us
and leave us feeling separated from you.**

Let us migrate to your ways,

to your embrace of love. Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

No matter where we find ourselves on life's journey,

Jesus comes and travels with us.

We are offered new life at every turn of the path.

Whenever we turn to God, we are welcomed and forgiven.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

The Sacrament of Baptism

Being baptized today - Bronx Eric Alfred Glen McGinnis,
son of Greg McGinnis and Michelle Winkler.

Statement of Purpose:

The sacrament of baptism proclaims and celebrates the grace of God. By water and the Spirit, we are welcomed as children of God, we are claimed by Christ, we are united with the Christian community of every time and place and we are commissioned to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

Presentation of the One to be Baptized

On behalf of the congregation of Melville United Church I present Bronx Eric Alfred Glen McGinnis for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

(family comes forward)

Scripture: Galatians 3:27-29 (The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation)

Each one of you is a child of God because of your faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who have been baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus. Furthermore, if you belong to Christ, you are the offspring of Abraham, which means you inherit all that was promised.

Profession of Faith and Promises:

You have brought your child here for baptism. In baptism we are joined to the Christian family through the sign and seal of God's eternal love. Do you believe in God and God's love?

Yes, I do so believe.

Do you believe that God is revealed to us in Jesus the Christ who lived and died, and who lives on in the Christian church?

Yes, I do so believe.

Do you believe that God, through the Holy Spirit, is active in the world to direct and to strengthen you?

Yes, I do so believe.

Will you do your best to provide a Christian home for your child, encouraging him to grow in his own faith and to seek confirmation?

Yes I will, God being my helper.

Commitment by Congregation (*congregation stands*)

As Melville United Church, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture this child within a community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

We do, God being our helper.

Let us remain standing as we affirm our faith together.

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed VU 918

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Blessing of the Water: *(children bring water and people call out blessings)*

Prayer:

The Baptism:

Sign of the Cross and Blessing:

Laying on of Hands/Blessing:

Lighting of the Baptismal Candle and Presentation of Certificates & Gifts

Sung Blessing:

VU 965

**The Lord bless you, and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you.
May God lift up her countenance upon you,
and give you peace. Amen.**

Prayer:

Scripture: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 (NRSV)

(Three thousand new followers of the Way)

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them. "Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified."

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter

said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone who our God calls."

And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

(from Everyday Psalms, James Taylor)

(Gratitude)

God knows how to listen.

Others hear only their own voices;

they recognize only the empty echoes of their own desires.

But God heard me when I cried out.

I will never forget that.

I had given up hope.

As a last resort, I called to God.

"Save me," I cried. "Rescue me from this mess!"

How can I thank God?

Since I owe God every breath of my new life,

I dedicate every breath to God -

every glass of water, every bite of bread.

I will not be silenced.

I shall pry open the shells of privacy

that people build around themselves;

In crowded elevators or on windblown corners

I will whisper my message

into ears stoppered with self-interest.

I will say "God loves each and every one of us.

Every person is precious to God."

I have nothing to lose.

All that I am, I owe to God.

I don't care what my convictions cost me;

From the edges of civilization to the centre of the universe,

I will proclaim this God who saves.

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35 (*The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Edition*)

(Jesus' appearance on the road to Emmaus)

That same day, two of the disciples were making their way to a village called Emmaus - which was about seven miles from Jerusalem - discussing all that had happened as they went.

While they were discussing these things, Jesus approached and began to walk along with them, though they were kept from recognizing Jesus, who asked them, "What are you two discussing as you go your way?"

They stopped and looked sad. One of them, Cleopas by name, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have happened these past few days?"

Jesus said to them, "What things?"

They said, "About Jesus of Nazareth, a prophet powerful in word and deed in the eyes of God and all the people - how our chief priests and leaders delivered him up to be condemned to death and crucified him. We were hoping that he was the One who would set Israel free. Besides all this, today - the third day since these things happened - some women of our group have just brought us some astonishing news. They were at the tomb before dawn and didn't find the body; they returned and informed us that they had seen a vision of angels, who declared that Jesus was alive. Some of our number went to the tomb and found it to be just as the women said, but they didn't find Jesus."

Then Jesus said to them, "What little sense you have! How slow you are to believe all that the prophets have announced! Didn't the Messiah have to undergo all this to enter into glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, Jesus interpreted for them every passage of scripture which referred to the Messiah. By now they were near the village they were going to, and Jesus appeared to be going further. But they said eagerly, "Stay with us. It's nearly evening - the day is practically over." So the saviour went in and stayed with them.

After sitting down with them to eat, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, then broke the bread and began to distribute it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized Jesus, who immediately vanished from their sight.

They said to one another, "Weren't our hearts burning inside us as this one talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?" They got up immediately and returned to Jerusalem, where they found the Eleven and the rest of the company assembled. They were greeted with, "Christ has risen! It's true! Jesus has appeared to Simon!"

Then the travelers recounted what had happened on the road, and how they had come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Message: Meeting Jesus

***Hymn:** We Meet You, O Christ

VU 183

Offering:

Ministry of Music: D. E. Wagner - Be Aware of Wonder

***Offering Hymn:** What Can I Do?

MV 191

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can 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. (Repeat)

***Offertory Prayer:**

May these gifts make change possible. May our offerings fill a need in our community. May our lives reflect the light and love of the one we follow - Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Be Still and Know

MV 77

Be still and know that I am God.

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** As We Walked Home at Close of Day **VU 184** (vs 1-4)

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

May Christ who is with us in our joys and sorrows,
at all times and in all places,
shine the light of his presence on the road ahead,
surrounding you with his grace and upholding you
with his peace and purpose for your lives.

We go in the peace and love of Christ. Amen!

***Parting Song:** Melville Benediction

**Let's go out from here and take our place.
Respect creation sharing all God's grace.
Treasure the past and things we have done.
Open our minds for new things yet to come.
God will be with us below, around above,
Bless all our doings. Let us go and love!
Bless all our doings. Let us go and love!**

Postlude: D. Buxtehude: Prelude in F

Prayer of the Week:

At unplanned (by us) moments you come and walk beside us, loving God. You accompany us into unknown places; you challenge us to look at things in new ways; you remind us that we are never alone. Thank you. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Elora Canadian Reformed Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Sheridan, Mississauga

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Ruth Sproule, Eleanor Johnston,
Isabel Glennie and Chris Hopewell

Counters: Kaillie Rawn and Chris Hopewell