

**Melville United Church**  
**Sunday, July 2, 2017**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**




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*\* Congregation please stand as you are able.*  
**Bold print invites congregational response.**  
 Presiding Today: Jen Auger

**Prelude**

**Welcome, Life & Work of the Church**

**Call to Worship, Sharing the Light**

We gather today for worship marking the 150th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada.

**As we gather, we recognize that a history of a people is not all glory.**  
 The history of Canada has both joy and sorrow, both triumph and tragedy.

We have much to celebrate, much to lament, and much to dream.

Come, **let us gather in the presence of God, our Creator.**

Come, **let us worship the Creator in whom we, and all of creation, are one.**

Come, **let us be filled with the Spirit's vision as we worship today.**

Come, **let us follow the Christ-light of hope.**

**Opening Song: VU 523 O God of All the Many Lands**

O God of all the many lands,  
 we lift our hearts in prayer,  
 for this our land of Canada,  
 a country wide and fair;  
 for mountain heights and northern lights,  
 for prairie lake and sea,  
 for every blessing from your hand  
 bestowed so lavishly.

We thank you for the people  
 that first dwelt upon this land

<p><b>Melville United Church</b>                  St. Andrew Street West, Fergus, ON: 519-843-1781                  Team Ministry</p>	
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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When others came they welcomed them,  
 offered a helping hand  
 Their many cultures rich and fair  
 we celebrate today  
 May right-relations grow anew  
 we humbly hope and pray

We thank you that from many lands  
 with varied gifts they came,  
 to pledge their love and loyalty  
 where scarlet maples flame.  
 May justice here belong to all,  
 and may our nation play  
 its rightful role in ushering in  
 the peace for which we pray.

May we be worthy of our land  
 and seek its highest good,  
 shaping a noble destiny  
 of truest nationhood.  
 May this fair land, our Canada,  
 your people bless abundantly  
 from seas to Arctic sea.

### Opening Prayer

*Sung response Psalm 78, VU 792*

**We will tell new generations of the wonders God has done.**

Dreamers, planners, elders, and children;  
 Bricks, mortar, fur, wood, and innovations;  
 Artists, engineers, healers, sages, and leaders;  
 Faith, hope, determination, co-operation, and Spirit -  
 We rejoice at all those people and things gathered to make a country:  
 The original people of these lands, our ancestors who came before us,  
 Those around us here today, friends and family who cannot be here,  
 The call of the gospel, and the wonder of Holy Love.

*Sung response Psalm 78, VU 792*

**We will tell new generations of the wonders God has done.**

Even as we celebrate, we repent:

For all the ways we have not been faithful as a people or a country,  
 The times we have not responded to the call of the gospel;  
 For all the ways and times this country has hurt people,  
 Those who are still here and especially those who are not;  
 For our failings, our slowness, and our fearfulness as a country,  
 We confess and offer sorrow.  
 Help us to find our way, to stand up for your dream, O God,  
 And share the grace we have received.

*Sung response Psalm 78, VU 792*

**We will tell new generations of the wonders God has done.**

### Assurance

God works with us for the mending of the world  
 And the mending of our lives.  
 This is the Good News!  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### Readings:

Luke 1:46–55  
 2 Corinthians 5:17–21

**Hymn:** MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky

**Reflection** Tapestry of Cultures

### Invitation to Offering

**Offertory Response:** MV 191 What Can I Do?

### Offering Prayer

**With joy and in gratitude, we present the many gifts we have to offer  
 for the work of Holy Love. May these are gifts, both seen and unseen,  
 inspire, comfort, strengthen, unite, and heal.**

### Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the People, Jesus' Prayer

**Creating God,**

**As we mark the 150th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada,  
we remember and give thanks  
for the people who have been the stewards of this land  
since time immemorial,  
and commit ourselves to the work of justice, healing, and  
reconciliation.**

**Together we dream about the country that we hope to become,  
a country where all are free to be their best selves.**

Everlasting Companion, we pray for...

We give voice to these prayers with the words that Jesus taught, **Our  
Father...**

Final Hymn: **This Land is Your Land**

This land is your land, This land is my land,  
From Bonavista, to Vancouver Island  
From the Arctic Circle to the Great Lakes waters,  
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking that ribbon of highway,  
I saw above me that endless skyway;  
I saw below me that golden valley  
This land was made for you and me.

The sun came shining, and I was strolling,  
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling;  
As the fog was lifting, a voice was chanting,  
This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land, this land is my land,  
From Bonavista to Vancouver Island,  
From the Arctic Circle to the Great Lakes waters,  
This land was made for you and me.

**Sending and Blessing**

**Parting Song:** Go Now in Peace

**Postlude**

**Partners in Prayer:** Elora/Bethany Pastoral Charge  
**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Syndenham St., Brantford  
**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Vivian and Havey and Mark Andrews

**Counters:** Lorna Bevcar and David Gohn