

Melville United Church  
Sunday, June 25, 2017  
3rd Sunday after Pentecost



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\* *Congregation please stand as you are able.*

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding Today: Rev. Marion Loree & Jen Auger

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Sharing the Light**

**Call to Worship:** Come, Now Is the Time to Worship (sung)

**Opening Prayer:** (*Honouring the 4 directions as per the Cree nation*)

Come Great Spirit, as we gather in your name.

We face East:

to your symbol colour Red, the hue of revelation;

to your animal symbol the Eagle, strong and nurturing;

to your lessons calling us to the balance of your Spirit

in Harmony with brothers and sisters;

to invoke your wisdom and grace, the goodness of the ages,

We pray;

**Come Holy Spirit, come.**

We turn to face South:

To your symbol colour Gold for the morning star.

To your symbol Brother Sun that enlightens our intellect and brings light on our path to live responsibly;

To your lessons calling us to balance of Mind in the Spirit of humility;

To invoke your spirit of illumination and far sighted vision;

Help us to love you and one another with our whole heart,

our whole mind, and our

whole soul,

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.
E-Mail:	secretary@melvilleunited.com
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**June 25, 2017**

We pray:

**Come Holy Spirit, come.**

We turn to face West:

To your symbol colour Black, still and quiet.  
 To your animal symbol the Thunderbird;  
 To your symbol the Thunder, mighty and purposeful;  
 To your lessons calling us to balance our emotions  
 in the spirit of Gentleness and Honesty;  
 To invoke your spirit of introspection, seeing within;  
 Give us your strength and the courage to endure,

We pray:

**Come Holy Spirit, come.**

We turn to face North:

To your symbol colour white of clarity and brightness.  
 To your animal symbol the swan which brings us  
 in touch with Mother Earth and growing things;  
 To your lessons calling us to balance of our body  
 in the spirit of a good sense of humour;  
 To invoke your spirit of innocence, trust and love;  
 Help us to open our eyes to the sacredness of every living thing,

We pray:

**Come Holy Spirit, come.**

We turn to complete the circle and to look:

To God, our Creator who cleanses our Mother Earth  
 with snow, wind and rain;  
 To Jesus, the peacemaker who fills us  
 with the wideness of mercy and lovingly embraces all,  
 To the Holy Spirit who inspires us to action:

We pray:

**Come Holy Spirit, come. Amen.**

**Scripture:** Genesis 21:8-21 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)  
*(Hagar & Ishmael sent away)*

**Responsive Reading:** Psalm 24 (*paraphrase by James Taylor - Everyday Psalms*)  
*(Earth-rise)*

Turning and turning, our pale blue globe  
 burns bright in the blackness of eternity.

**The Earth is God's, and all that is in it -  
 all life embodied in the only home we know.**

God created life in the oceans,

**and nourishes it with nutrients from the mountains.**

Trace the course of a river to its source;

**stand among the mountains and marvel.**

Who would dare defile this paradise?

**God sees through our deceit and pretense;**

we cannot claim innocence when we have dirty hands.

**We can only know God through clean hands and pure hearts.**

Then we will see a smile on the face of God;

**then God's wisdom will be evident in the world.**

So seek the Holy Presence in high and holy places.

**Let the vast valleys throw open their arms,**

let the summits stand tall in pride,

**for this is the body of our God!**

With all the glory of the universe to choose from,

**with all of creation quivering in expectation**

the Source of life picked this planet as home.

**So throw open your valleys, oh earth!**

Spread wide your plains to welcome God!

**For the God of all creation lives here.**

**VU 296****\*Hymn: This Is God's Wondrous World**

1 This is God's wondrous world,  
and to my listening ears  
all nature sings, and round me rings  
the music of the spheres.  
This is God's wondrous world;  
I rest me in the thought  
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,  
God's hand the wonders wrought.

2 This is God's wondrous world:  
the birds their carols raise;  
the morning light, the lily white,  
declare their Maker's praise.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
God shines in all that's fair;  
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,  
God's voice speaks everywhere.

3 This is God's wondrous world:  
O let me ne'er forget  
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,  
God is the ruler yet.  
This is God's wondrous world:  
why should my heart be sad?  
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:  
God reigns, let earth be glad!

**Scripture:** Genesis 9:8-17 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)  
(*God establishes a covenant with Noah*)

**Story:** Blue Child

**Offering:**

**Ministry of Music:** Creation Calls

**\*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:**

**We bring our gifts this day, Great Spirit. We seek to honour you while sharing a portion of the bounty with which we have been given. Take and bless all of our offerings - our time, talent and resources - that they, and we, may be a blessing to others. 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:** May the God of Hope Go With Us **VU 424**  
1 May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
to a world restored, to human life renewed.

Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

**\*Blessing:**

We are God's beloved people.

**We are created in God's image.**

God chooses us to transform the world.

**We will work for justice.**

Jesus modeled how to live God's love in the world.

**We will follow Jesus's example.**

Spirit is with us always to guide and to teach.

**We will be open to the Spirit's prompting.**

Go in peace, knowing God is with you - always!

**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:**

**Prayer of the Week:**

Loving God, may we think on how much you love the Creation and remind ourselves of your care for us. May we be open to courageous yet compassionate action when you call us. May we feel the love you continue to have for our imperfect selves. Amen.

**Partners in Prayer:** Unitarian Universalist Association

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Streetsville, Mississauga

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:**

Eleanor Johnston, Joan and John Cuming,  
Doreen and Larry Broome

**Counters:**

Eleanor Johnston, Kaillie Rawn

