

Melville United Church
Sunday, July 16, 2017
6th Sunday after Pentecost

Baptism



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding Today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

How shall we come to worship today?

Shall we come in our Sunday best with our manners in tow?

Shall we come all buttoned up and tight-lipped with the "truth"?

Shall we come with our game-face on, primed to put on a great show?

Shall we come prim and pressed with no hair out of place?

We come as we are.

We come searching for an authentic and genuine relationship with God.

Come, let us worship God together.

***Hymn:** Let Us With a Gladsome Mind

VU 234 vs 1,2,4,5

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

Holy One, as we gather for worship this day,

may we come united in your love.

May we seek wholeness in your Spirit.

May we find peace in your presence.

May we absorb the kindness found in our neighbours.

May we come ready.

May we come with contrite hearts

knowing we have been careless with our birthright of Creation.

We have hidden our true intentions in order to achieve personal gain.

We have hurt and betrayed the trust of others.

We pray that your spirit might touch our hearts

and banish those things which separate us from you and each other.

Amen.

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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July 16, 2017

Words of Assurance:

We are all loved in spite of ourselves. God is with us, holding us in love as we struggle to repair what is broken and bring reconciliation and harmony.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Sacrament of Baptism

Being accepted into the Christian family of faith today is

Janita Rose Miner,

daughter of William and Katharine Miner.

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 Janita Rose Miner 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 by the parents:

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 her to grow in her own faith and to seek confirmation?

Yes I will, God being my helper.

Commitment by Congregation *(congregation stands)*

We are to receive this child as part of our faith community. In so doing, we remember our calling to share life together, and to be open to the future that she contains. We are also called to support this family and this child with love and with Christian teaching. Are you willing, as you are able to share in this responsibility?

We are willing, God being our helper.

Let us remain standing as we repeat together our statement of faith "A New Creed".

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

Prayer

Loving God of grace, pour out your Spirit upon us and upon this water, that this font may become your womb of new birth, our fount of blessing and source of grace. May it be a sign and promise of new life, not only for the one who will be baptized this day, but also for all who pass through the waters of baptism. We pray in the spirit of Christ, who was himself baptized. Amen.

The Baptism

Janita Rose Miner, you are baptized in the name of God our mother and father whose arms are open wide;
 in the name of Jesus, the Son, who teaches us how to love;
 and in the name of the Holy spirit, whose wings will encourage and guide you.

Sign of the Cross and Blessing

Janita, child of God, we bless you with water and the sign of the cross. A symbol of the love of Christ. May you never forget, that you are a precious child of God.

Laying on of Hands/Blessing

May God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you. May God look upon you with kindness and bring you peace.

Lighting of the Baptismal Candle

Your parents will now light your candle. The candle represents the light of Christ which shines in you and in each one of us and it reminds us that the light of God's presence is with us always.

Sung Blessing: I Have Called You by Your Name MV 161

Prayer

Gracious God, keep this child in your grace as she grows in mind and body. Keep her parents in your love as they give guidance to their children. Keep us all that we may be always faithful to you. Through Christ. Amen.

Presentation of Baptismal Certificate and Gifts

Scripture: Genesis 25:19-34 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(Esau sells his birthright)

These are the generations of Abraham's son Isaac. Isaac was the son of Abraham. At the age of forty Isaac married Rebecca, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan-aram, and sister of Laban the Aramean.

Isaac prayed to YHWH on behalf of Rebecca, for they had no children. God listened to the prayers and Rebecca conceived. The babies in her womb struggled with each other. Rebecca said, "If this is the way it is to be, why go on living?" So she went to ask God and God said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, two tribes in your belly who will be rivals. One will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger."

When the time came for her to deliver, she gave birth to twin boys. The first to enter the world was very ruddy, and had so much hair on his body that he looked as if he was wearing a fur coat. So they named him Esau, "Rough One." When the second came out, he was grasping Esau's heel, so they named him Jacob, "Heel-Grabber." Isaac was sixty years old when Rebecca delivered the twins.

The children grew up. Esau became a skilled hunter and enjoyed the open country, while the quiet Jacob preferred to stay at home. Isaac, who especially enjoyed wild game favoured Esau while Rebecca favoured Jacob.

One day, when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from hunting, famished. He said to Jacob, "I'm starving - let me have some of the red stuff, that red stew." This is why he was also called Edom, "Red One."

Jacob replied, "Not until you sell me the rights you own from being firstborn."

Esau replied, "Here I am ravenous for food. What good is my birthright to me now?"

Jacob said, "Swear to me first!"

So Esau swore to Jacob and sold his birthright. Only then did Jacob give Esau some bread and the lentil stew. He ate and drank, then got up and left. This is how little Esau valued his birthright.

Reflection:

Scripture: Romans 8:1-11 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(*The law of the Spirit brings freedom*)

There is no longer any condemnation, however, for those who are in Christ Jesus. The law of the Spirit- the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus - has freed you from the law of sin and death. What the Law was powerless to do because human nature made it so weak, God did - by sending the Chosen One in the likeness of sinful flesh as a sin offering, thereby condemning sin in the flesh. In this way, the just demands of the Law could be fulfilled in us, who live not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh have their mind set on the things of the flesh; those who live by the Spirit, on things of the Spirit.

The mind of the flesh is death, but that of the Spirit is life and peace. The mind of the flesh stands in opposition to God; it is not subject to God's law - indeed, it cannot be, since those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Those who do not have the Spirit of Christ do not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, then though the body is dead because of sin, the spirit lives because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, then the One who raised Christ from the dead will also bring your mortal bodies to life though the Spirit dwelling in you.

Reflection:

***Hymn:** For the Fruit of All Creation

VU 227

Offering:

***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 are grateful for the love that is ours despite our imperfections, O God. We share in an abundance of grace and love as part of this wondrous Creation and we respond by dedicating ourselves to being real expressions of love and grace in our real world. 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:** All the Way My Saviour Leads Me

VU 635

***Blessing:**

Who we are is a given:

we are children of God's creation.

Who we are is also a choice:

will we be a source of joy for others?

Who we will become is a given:

we will be loved of God and invited into life-giving relationship.

Who we will become is also a choice:

will we return God's love by living with love?

Go into the world knowing that you are loved
and that Spirit is with you - always!

Amen!

***Parting Song:** Go Now in Peace

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

Gracious God, you never turn away from us. In all that we are and all that we do, even as we make mistakes and stumble, we are your beloved. Knowing that fact gives us hope, strength and courage to do whatever we need to do to contribute to the bettering of the world in our care. With grateful hearts we pray. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Belwood/Metz Pastoral Charge

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Trillium

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Isabel Weaver, Bob Zirk,
Joyce Keizerwaard

Counters: Lynne Lamb, Phil Brown