

Melville United Church
Sunday, July 23, 2017
7th Sunday after Pentecost



** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding Today: Rev. Marion Loree

Prelude Peyton O'Brien, Suzanne Flewelling

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

Let us gather our hearts and minds

from busy-ness and bothering,

from worry and weariness,

from distraction and despair.

Let us gather our hearts and minds

for prayer and praising,

for singing and swaying,

for wonderment and joy.

Come, let us worship God together.

***Hymn:** Morning Has Broken

VU 409

Prayer of Approach & Confession: *(part from Holy Breath, Prayers for Worship & Reflection, Gretta Vosper)*

We name this holiness deep within us

"You, " "Holy One," "Love."

We call this holiness - the centre of our being -

"Spirit," "Creator," "Abba," "Divine."

May we learn more than words this day.

May we learn pictures, and music, and hearts that soar

so we can come to a deeper and richer awareness

of the Presence of Holiness in our lives.

God, some of us come today needing to be forgiven,

others come needing to forgive.

We all come knowing that through your love

Melville United Church

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Team Ministry

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Rev. Marion Loree

Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach

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Minister of Music:

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Custodian:

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Chair of Church Council:

Allan Hons

Pastoral Care

Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree

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we are empowered with the peace and grace for both.

Let us feel your loving and forgiving presence with us
wherever we go, whatever we do. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Hear this good news - nothing can separate us from the love of God - not hardship, not distress, not illness, not even death, not one thing. We are forgiven, loved, and cherished.

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Theme Conversation:

Song: We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder

**1 We are climbing Jacob's ladder
 We are climbing Jacob's ladder
 We are climbing Jacob's ladder
 Children of our God.**

**2 Every rung goes higher, higher,
 Every rung goes higher, higher,
 Every rung goes higher, higher,
 Children of our God.**

**3 If you love God, why not serve God?
 If you love God, why not serve God?
 If you love God, why not serve God?
 Children of our God.**

**4 We are climbing higher, higher,
 We are climbing higher, higher,
 We are climbing higher, higher,
 Children of our God.**

Scripture: Genesis 28:10-19a (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(Jacob's dream)

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Haran. When he reached a certain place, he passed the night there. He took a rock and used it for a headrest and lay down to sleep there. During the night he had a dream:

there was a ladder, standing on the ground with its top reaching to heaven; and messengers of God were going up and coming down the ladder. YHWH was there, standing over him, saying, "I am YHWH, the God of Sarah and Abraham, and the God of Rebecca and Isaac. Your descendants will be like the specks of dust on the ground; you will spread to the east and to the west, to the north and to the south and all the tribes of the earth will bless themselves by you and your descendants. Know that I am with you. I will keep you safe wherever you go, and bring you back to this land; I will not desert you before I have done all that I have promised.

Then Jacob woke and said, "Truly, YHWH is in this place, and I never knew it!" He was filled with trembling and said, "How awe-inspiring this place is! This is nothing less than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven!" Jacob rose early the next morning, and took the stone he had used as a headrest and set it up as a monument, and anointed it with oil. Jacob named the place Bethel which means "House of God".

Reflection: Holy Places

Scripture: Psalm 139:1-18, 23,24 (*Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition*)
(God, you have searched me and known me)

YHWH, you've searched me, and you know me. You know if I am standing or sitting, you read my thoughts from far away. Whether I walk or lie down, you are watching; you are intimate with all of my ways. A word is not even on my tongue, YHWH, before you know what it is: you hem me in, before and behind, shielding me with your hand. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, a height my mind cannot reach!

Where could I run from your Spirit? Where could I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Death, you are already there. I could fly away with wings made of dawn, or make my home on the far side of the sea, but even there your hand will guide me, your mighty hand holding me fast. If I say, "The darkness will hide me, and night will be my only light," even darkness won't be dark to you; the night will shine like the day - darkness and light are the same to you.

You created my inmost being and stitched me together in my mother's womb. For all these mysteries I thank you - for the wonder of

myself, for the wonder of your works - my soul knows it well. My frame was not hidden from you while I was being made in that secret place, knitted together in the depths of the earth; your eyes saw my body even there.

All of my days were written in your book, all of them planned before even the first of them came to be. How precious your thoughts are to me, O God! How impossible to number them! I could no more count them than I could count the sand. But suppose I could? You would still be with me!

Examine me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts - see if there is misdeed within me, and guide me in the way that is eternal.

Reflection: Where God Is

***Hymn:** In the Quiet Curve of Evening **VU 278**

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:**

When we are called to be followers of the Christ, we sometimes think you, God, are doing all the asking - for our time, our money, our commitment, our very lives. We forget that without you, we are, and have, nothing at all. You ask only for what we are willing to freely return to you. Accept and bless our freely given gifts today. 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:** How Great Thou Art (vs 1, 2, 4)

VU 238

***Blessing:**

As you go from this place,

may God's love hold you,

may the Christ light guide you,

and may Spirit's presence free you.

We go into the world reminded

of God's unwavering presence in our lives.

Amen!

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

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

God, you open the door to the sacred and invite me in. You offer me peace and reassure me that I am always in your loving embrace. And I am grateful. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Centre Wellington Foodbank

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Trinity, Elmira

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Dick Haas, Mark,

Havey and Vivian Andrews

Counters:

David Gohn, Art Russell