



* Congregation please stand as you are able.

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Ruth Cooke

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Prelude/Centering Time

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 34):

Come. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

Happy are those whose refuge is in God.

O fear the Lord, you children of the Holy One!

Those who seek God lack no good thing.

O magnify the Lord.

Let us exalt God's name together!

*Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness

VU 288

Opening Prayer (Unison):

Come to us, Holy God, as we gather before you; encircle us with your love. Bless us with your sustaining presence; surround us with grace. Draw us round your living word, and bind us to one another as disciples of Christ, whose Spirit is in our midst. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image.

Melville United Church

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Team Ministry

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Rev. Marion Loree

Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach

Jen Auger

Minister of Music:

Matthias Schmidt

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Custodian:

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Chair of Church Council:

Allan Hons

Pastoral Care

Alison Rainford, Rev. Marion Loree

Chair of Pastoral Care

Alison Rainford

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Word of Assurance:

God is the love that over and around us lies;
the grace that is totally unearned;
and the healing that makes the earth whole.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: What a Friend We Have In Jesus **VU 664**

Epistle Reading: Romans 8:31-39 (The Message-MSG)

So, what do you think? With God on our side like this, how can we lose? If God didn't hesitate to put everything on the line for us, embracing our condition and exposing himself to the worst by sending his own Son, is there anything else he wouldn't gladly and freely do for us? And who would dare tangle with God by messing with one of God's chosen? Who would dare even to point a finger? The One who died for us—who was raised to life for us!—is in the presence of God at this very moment sticking up for us. Do you think anyone is going to be able to drive a wedge between us and Christ's love for us? There is no way! Not trouble, not hard times, not hatred, not hunger, not homelessness, not bullying threats, not backstabbing, not even the worst sins listed in Scripture:

They kill us in cold blood because they hate you.
We're sitting ducks; they pick us off one by one.

None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing—nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable—absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.

Psalm: Psalm 23 (Sung) **VU 747**

Gospel Reading: John 14:1-3 (The Inclusive Bible-First Egalitarian Edition)

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith in me as well. In God's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I will come back to take you with me, that where I am, you may be as well."

Meditation: Defense against the Dark Arts

***Hymn:** All the Way My Saviour Leads Me **VU 635**

Offering:

Offering Song: What Can I Do? **MV 191**

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I 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.**

***Offertory Prayer: (Unison)**

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:** Abide With Me **VU 436**

***Blessing/Sending Forth:**

Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid:
for it is the Lord your God who goes with you,
God will not fail you or forsake you.

Amen!

***Parting Song: Go Now In Peace**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, within, around, above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen

Postlude**Prayer of the Week:**

Holy Creator, you made us in your image and promised you would always be with us. Walk with us on our road, whether we travel on the mountaintops of joy or in the valleys of despair, and help us to understand the truth that nothing can make you stop loving us, that nothing can separate us from you. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: The Door Youth Centre

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Underwood-Wesley

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Isobel Glennie, Karen Smillie and Mark Andrews

Counters: Les Frayne and Karen Smillie