

Melville United Church
Sunday, July 9, 2017
5th Sunday after Pentecost



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
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** 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:

Come, for the one who so delighted in creating all that is abides with us and within us.

We trust, we dare, we follow.

Come, as God invites us to venture into unknown places.

We trust, we dare, we follow.

Come, all who labour and are heavy-laden and find rest in God's presence.

We trust, we dare, we follow.

Come, let us worship the One who challenges us, and comforts us.

***Hymn:** Each Blade of Grass

MV 37

Prayer of Approach & Confession:

God, whose beauty is revealed in a summer rose,

we praise your creative perfection.

God, whose joy is revealed in the reunion of old friends,

we praise your never-failing presence.

God, whose concern is revealed in the tough struggles,

we praise your compassionate love.

Sometimes our lives seem out of control

and we are torn between doing what is right and doing what is popular.

Other times we hide from doing what is right,

hoping it won't be noticed.

We rejoice in the knowledge that you forgive us, O God,

and offer the opportunity to begin

again and again and again. Amen.

July 9, 2017

Words of Assurance:

Jesus says, "Come to me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Jesus says, "take my yoke upon you, and you will find rest for your souls."

Jesus says "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Thanks be to God. Amen!

Theme Conversation: Rebecca's Story

Song: Roll Over the Ocean

- 1. It's me. It's me. It's me who builds community.**
It's me. It's me. It's me who builds community.
It's me. It's me. It's me who builds community.
It's me who builds community.

Chorus:

Roll over the ocean. Roll over the sea.
Roll over the ocean in the deep blue sea.
Roll over the ocean. Roll over the sea.
Go and do your part to build community.

2. It's you. It's you. It's you who builds community....

3. It's us. It's us....

4. It's God. It's God....

5. It's love. It's love....

Scripture: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

*(Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition)
(Rebecca is found as a wife for Isaac)*

"I am Abraham's steward," he said. YHWH has greatly blessed Abraham. He is now a wealthy person. God has given him flocks, herds, silver, gold, attendants, camels, and donkeys. Sarah, Abraham's spouse, bore a son late in life, and he is Abraham's heir. Abraham swore me by an oath, saying, 'You must not allow my son to marry any of the Canaanites, in whose land we live. Go to the land of my mother and father, to my kin, to find a spouse for Isaac.'

"Today, when I came to the spring, I prayed, 'O God of my elder Abraham, let my journey be a successful one. Let it happen like this - here I am at the spring, and when a young woman comes to draw water, I will ask her, 'Please let me have a drink of water from the spring.' If she answers, 'Have a drink, and I will water your camels as well,' let it be that she is the woman whom YHWH has chosen to become the spouse of Abraham's heir Isaac.'

Before I had finished praying, I saw Rebecca approaching the spring, shouldering her water jar. She went down to the spring to draw water, and I asked her, 'May I please have a drink of water?' She immediately put the jar into the spring and said, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels as well.' So I drank while she watered the camels.

"Then I asked her about her parentage. She replied, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel, ben-Milcah and Nahor'; whereupon I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms, and I bowed down and worshiped YHWH. I praised YHWH, the God of my elder Abraham, who led me to the right place to find the granddaughter of Abraham's brother for Isaac. Please tell me that you will show this kindness and loyalty to Abraham! If not, just say so, and I will go to other places."

They called Rebecca and put the question to her. She replied, "Yes, I am ready to leave." So Rebecca and her attendant went with Abraham's steward and his entourage.

They blessed Rebecca and said to her: "You are our sister, and you will increase to thousands and tens of thousands! May your descendants take possession of the gates of their foes!"

Rebecca and her attendants got ready, then mounted their camels to follow Abraham's steward. The steward took Rebecca, and they set off on their journey.

Isaac had gone to live in the region of the Negev. One day toward evening he went out in the field to meditate, and as he looked around, he saw that camels were approaching.

When Rebecca saw Isaac, she alighted from her camel and asked the steward, "Who is that man out there, walking through the field toward us?"

"That is indeed Isaac" he replied. She then covered herself with her veil.

The steward recounted to Isaac all that had been done. Then Isaac led Rebecca into Sarah's tent, and she became his wife, and he loved her.

That is how Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

Reflection: Who knew?

Scripture: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

(Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition)

(My yoke is easy; my burden is light)

“What comparison can I make with this generation? They are like children shouting to others as they sit in the marketplace, ‘We piped you a tune, but you wouldn’t dance. We sang you a dirge, but you wouldn’t mourn.’ For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He is possessed.’ The Chosen One came, eating and drinking, and they say, ‘This one is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ Wisdom will be vindicated by her own actions.”

Then Jesus prayed, “Abba God, Creator of heaven and earth, to you I offer praise; for what you have hidden from the learned and the clever, you have revealed to the youngest children. Yes, Abba, everything is as you want it to be.”

“Jesus continued, “Everything has been handed over to me by Abba God. No one knows the Only Begotten except Abba God, and no one knows Abba God except the Only Begotten - and those to whom the Only Begotten wants to give that revelation. Come to me, all you who labour and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Here you will find rest for your souls, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light.’

Reflection: If the yoke fits...

Scripture: Romans 7:15-25a *(Inclusive Bible - The First Egalitarian Edition)*

(I do not do the good I want to)

I don’t understand what I do - for I don’t do the things I want to do, but rather the things I hate. And if I do the very thing I don’t want to do, I am agreeing that the Law is good. Consequently, what is happening in me is not really me, but sin living in me.

I know that no good dwells in me, that is, in my human nature; the desire to do right is there, but not the power. What happens is that I don’t do the good I intend to do, but the evil I do not intend. But if I do

what is against my will, it is not I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. This means that even though I want to do what is right, a law that leads to wrongdoing is always at hand. My inner self joyfully agrees with the law of God, but I see in my body’s members another law, in opposition to the law of my mind; this makes me the prisoner of the law of sin in my members.

How wretched I am! Who can free me from this body under the power of death? Thanks be to God - it is Jesus Christ our Saviour! This, is the problem: I serve the law of God with my mind, but I serve the law of sin with my flesh.

Reflection: The Desire to Do Right

***Hymn:** I Heard the Voice of Jesus

VU 626

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 bring our gifts, Spirit of Creation. They come from the labour of our hands and the love of our hearts. Use them to do your work, we pray. Amen.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Be Still and Know

MV 77

Be still and know that I am God.

Prayers of the People:

...You invite the weary to come, O God.

Response:

I give you my burden.

And I take your love upon me.

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** Bless Now, O God the Journey

VU 633

***Blessing:**

May the love that brought you into being fill you with hope.

May the peace that passes understanding be upon you.

May the joy that lives where justice is be alive in you.

We go joyfully, knowing God is with us - always! Amen!

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

Postlude:**Prayer of the Week:**

All-wise God, help us to discern the times in which we live, and to live faithfully within them. Open our hearts to the delight of the creation and your love upon us. Bless us as we serve in the responsibilities you gently lay upon our shoulders, and lead us to find our rest and strength in you. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Alma United Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Thorold South/Allanburg

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Isobel Glennie, Doreen and Larry Broome

Counters: Kaillie Rawn, Larry Broome