

Melville United Church
Sunday, August 13th, 2017

* Congregation please stand as you are able.

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today: Jen Auger



Welcome, Life and Work of the Church

Prelude, Sharing the Light

There was once someone who offered such radical hope that people started to follow him. But they didn't know who he was, so they asked. And he said, "I am the light of the world"

Call to Worship:

On a hot summer day

In the dust of the streets,

God is there.

In a warm summer rain

While running for shelter,

God is there.

On a beach by the shore

Where water sparkles or waves roar,

God is there.

In a wide open sky

Filled with stars past counting,

God is there.

In a car on a journey

When home is far and the destination is not close enough,

God is there.

Here in this place

Between friends and strangers,

God is here.

Let us open our hearts to God's presence

To God in each moment and place in our lives.

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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***Hymn:** VU 625 I Feel the Winds of God

Opening Prayer:

We take a moment to pause in your presence God. A moment to quiet our inner selves: our thoughts, our feelings, our doubts, our hopes. For this brief moment God, we set these down beside us and focus on the still small voice of grace buried deep within ourselves. Taking some deep breaths, we fill ourselves with fresh life. Releasing each breath with peace.

Gently, we take a moment to consider a moment for which we are grateful. A simple moment, perhaps unexpected. A moment of release, peace, hope. Taking some deep breaths, we fill ourselves with fresh life. Releasing each breath with thanks.

Without judgement, we take a moment to consider a time when we behaved badly. A moment for which we are not quite reconciled. Taking some deep breaths, we fill ourselves with fresh life. Releasing each breath with hope.

Words of Assurance:

“God is saving all of us by divine mercy, no exceptions. We can all live in hope, in spite of ourselves.” **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Readings: Looking Back (based on Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28)

I know it wasn't right, what we did. Now, seeing my father's pain and anguish, I feel bad. It started off as a practical joke – a joke that very quickly escalated out of control. Next thing we knew, we'd done something horrible.

You see, Joseph always found a way to get the rest of us in trouble. We'd be out in the field shepherding the flocks. Sure, maybe we weren't working as hard as we were supposed to, but we always did our jobs; yet, Joseph still found a way to get us into trouble.

And as much as he made us all jealous – seeing how much our father loved him, compared to the love our father showed the rest of us – we were able to deal with it. However, what really sent things over the edge was when our father bought Joseph that elaborate coat. It was unlike anything any of us had ever seen before – let alone anything our father had ever given any of us. It was very expensive, the kind of coat you wear when you're clearly too important to do manual work. Obviously, it never made any of us happy to see Joseph being treated so differently than the rest of us; but the coat...the coat just took things to a whole new level.

That day when we were all out with the flock and we saw Joseph coming, we just couldn't take it anymore. We thought we'd gone far enough away that he wouldn't find us, but he did. In some ways, I wish he hadn't found us that day – then maybe none of this would have happened.

I can't remember who it was that suggested we kill Joseph. The severity of those words sent a shiver down my spine. I was so relieved when Reuben opposed the idea. I don't think I would have had enough integrity to do what Reuben did – to say no. But I sure am glad he did.

Instead, we decided to throw Joseph into a pit. We took his precious robe off him, and threw him into that pit. He yelled a bit – not a lot though. Mostly he just cried. We knew we were hurting him.

Then, that caravan of Ishmaelites came by and Judah had the idea that instead of just leaving Joseph in that pit, we would sell him to the Ishmaelites and make a profit. So that's what we did. Before we knew it, our brother Joseph was gone – on his way to Egypt.

Looking back on it now, I am sure we were often instigators of our own troubles with Joseph. Maybe he wasn't that bad after all...but what good will those feelings do me now? We have to live with what we've done. He's gone and we will never see our brother Joseph again.

Matthew 14:22-33

Reflection: We Offer Radical Hope (part 1)

***Hymn:** VU 289 It Only Takes a Spark

Invitation to Offering:

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

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.

Offering Prayer:

Loving God, these gifts are our thanksgiving for your many blessings.

These gifts are our commitment to your Kin-dom. These are our gifts,

these are our selves, offered to do your work of Love.

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: VU 379 Spirit of the Living God (vs.2)

Spirit of the Living God, move among us all;

Make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:

Humble, caring, selfless, sharing.

Spirit of the Living God, fill our lives with love!

Prayers of the People, Prayer of Jesus:

***Song:** MV 138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines

***Sending and Blessing:**

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

Partners in Prayer: St. James's Anglican Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Westminster

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Joan and John Cuming

Counters: None