

Melville United Church
Sunday, August 27th, 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:

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 for swaying,

For wonderment and joy.

Let us worship God in the beauty of holiness.

***Hymn VU 820** Make a Joyful Noise

Opening Prayer:

Jesus, we claim you as Saviour and friend.

This may seem a bold claim,
yet we know your grace and love
and so we speak it boldly.

**We fix our vision on you so that we
see the world with the clear sight
of your discerning Spirit.**

We seek to know your mind
and lay ourselves open to walking your path.

**We ask that you gather us in your warm embracing kindness,
this day and always.**

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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As Moses' mother lay her precious son into your hands, we too would come to you with our prayers of confession and lay our cares and concerns into your hands. *(Silence)*

As Moses' mother overcame fear to protect her son, we would lay our fears and anxieties into your hands. *(Silence)*

As Miriam stood hiding in the bushes, uncertain of what was to come, we would lay our uncertainties and insecurities into your hands. *(Silence)*

As Miriam watched longing for her brother's salvation, we would lay our longings and hope for deliverance into your Hands. *(Silence)*

Words of Assurance:

As Pharaoh's daughter raised Moses up from the river and rescued him, so God rescues us. God is saving all of us by divine mercy, no exceptions. We are all saved in spite of ourselves, good and bad alike.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Readings:

Exodus 1:8–2:10

8 Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. 13 The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, 14 and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 16 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' 17 But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the

boys live. 18 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' 19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' 20 So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. 22 Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

1 Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. 2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. 3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. 4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. 6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. 7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' 8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. 10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

Romans 12:1–8

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6 We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7 ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8 the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Reflection These Hands

***Hymn MV 136** When Hands Reach Out and Fingers Trace

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:

Gracious God, you have given us so much and you have loved us so steadfastly.

In response, we seek to be bearers of your love in the world. We return a little of what you have given us. May these gifts impact those who receive them in truly meaningful ways. Amen.

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:

Liberating God, we know that what we don't stand up against, we let happen. We seek to be those who stand up. We know the power of people who work together for good. We seek to join hands with all your saints, from all times and in all places and be those who work for good.

We pledge our hands to your service and our hearts to your love, joining our voices in the prayer Jesus taught his followers... **Our Father...**

Hymn VU 579 As a Fire is Meant for Burning

***Sending and Blessing:**

We are the visible signs of God's loving kindness. May we be vigilant as we observe the world, diligent in our work for peace and justice, and confident that light and hope will never be defeated. Let us go from here knowing with God's goodness in our hearts, and assured that we are loved. Amen

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

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go 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

Partners in Prayer:

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Counters: