

Melville United Church  
Sunday, September 3, 2017

\* Congregation please stand as you are able.

**Bold print invites congregational response.**

Presiding today: Jen Auger



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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**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 (from Gathering 2016)**

All creation is made of star-stuff.

From the basic building blocks of the universe,  
come fire, air, earth, and water.

**And all creation sings praise  
to the Creator of all.**

Baptized by the waters of the sky,  
standing firm on the earth,  
breathing deep the breath of life,  
warmed by this flame.

**we go where Christ's light shines!**

Alleluia!

**Alleluia, amen!**

**\*Hymn: VU 409** Morning Has Broken

**Opening Prayer & Prayer for Inner Healing**

Creator, the fountain of life,  
Christ, the pulse of life,  
Spirit, the breath of life,  
We come into your presence today  
to worship in this sanctuary called Earth,

**A planet filled with your presence,  
quivering in the forests,  
vibrating in the land,  
pulsating in the wilderness,  
shimmering in the rivers.**

God, reveal yourself to us in this place  
and show us your face in all creation.

Eternal Wisdom, whom we partly know and partly do not know  
Eternal justice, whom we partly acknowledge and never fully obey  
Eternal love, whom we love a little but fear to love too much:

**open our minds that we may understand  
work in our wills that we may obey  
kindle our hearts that we may love as you do.**

#### **Assurance**

We are not alone. We live in God's World.  
God, who has created and is creating.  
And who works in us by the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Readings:** *"The Message"*

#### **Psalm 139:7-18**

7-12 Is there anyplace I can go to avoid your Spirit?  
to be out of your sight?

If I climb to the sky, you're there!

If I go underground, you're there!

If I flew on morning's wings

to the far western horizon,

You'd find me in a minute-

you're already there waiting!

Then I said to myself, "Oh, he even sees me in the dark!"

At night I'm immersed in the light!"

It's a fact: darkness isn't dark to you;

night and day, darkness and light, they're all the same to you.

13-16 Oh yes, you shaped me first inside, then out;

you formed me in my mother's womb.

I thank you, High God-you're breathtaking!

Body and soul, I am marvelously made!

I worship in adoration-what a creation!

You know me inside and out,

you know every bone in my body;

You know exactly how I was made, bit by bit,

how I was sculpted from nothing into something.

Like an open book, you watched me grow from conception to birth;

all the stages of my life were spread out before you,

The days of my life all prepared

before I'd even lived one day.

17-18 Your thoughts-how rare, how beautiful!

God, I'll never comprehend them!

I couldn't even begin to count them-

any more than I could count the sand of the sea.

Oh, let me rise in the morning and live always with you!

#### **Acts 17:22-29**

22-23 So Paul took his stand in the open space at the Areopagus and laid it out for them. "It is plain to see that you Athenians take your religion seriously. When I arrived here the other day, I was fascinated with all the shrines I came across. And then I found one inscribed, to the god nobody knows. I'm here to introduce you to this God so you can worship intelligently, know who you're dealing with.

24-29 "The God who made the world and everything in it, this Master of sky and land, doesn't live in custom-made shrines or need the human race to run errands for him, as if he couldn't take care of himself. He makes the creatures; the creatures don't make him. Starting from scratch, he made the entire human race and made the earth hospitable, with plenty of time and space for living so we could seek after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him. He doesn't play hide-and-seek with us. He's not remote; he's near. We live and move in him, can't get away from him! One of your poets said it well: 'We're the God-created.' Well, if we are the God-created, it doesn't make a lot of sense to think we could hire a sculptor to chisel a god out of stone for us, does it?

**Reflection:** World Day of Prayer for Creation

**\*Hymn MV 37** Each Blade of Grass

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering Response: VU 227** For the Fruit of All Creation (vs2)  
**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.**  
**In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.**  
**In our world-wide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,**  
**in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

#### Offering Prayer

**Creator, in you we find abundance. From this abundance, we give back. Returning these gifts to the process of your creation; to be shared and used in abundant love.**

#### Joys and Concerns

**Prayer Prelude VU 376** 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

To bring new life to the land  
 To restore the waters  
 To refresh the air  
**We join with the earth and with each other.**

To renew the forests  
 To care for the plants  
 To protect the creatures  
**We join with the earth and with each other.**

To celebrate the seas  
 To rejoice in the sunlight  
 To sing the song of the stars  
**We join with the earth and with each other.**

To recall our destiny  
 To renew our spirits  
 To reinvigorate our bodies

**We join with the earth and with each other.**

To recreate the human community  
 To promote justice and peace  
 To remember our children

**We join with the earth and with each other.**

**We join together as many and diverse expressions of one loving mystery: for the healing of the earth and the renewal of all life.**

*(silence)*

**... Our Father...**

**\*Hymn VU 226** For the Beauty of the Earth

#### Sending and Blessing

**Parting Song VU 884** You Shall Go Out With Joy

**You shall go out with joy  
 and be led forth with peace;  
 the mountains and the hills  
 will break forth before you;  
 there'll be shouts of joy,  
 and all the trees of the field  
 will clap, will clap their hands!**

**And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
 (clap, clap)  
 the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
 (clap, clap)  
 the trees of the field will clap their hands  
 (clap, clap)  
 while you go out with joy.**

**Partners in Prayer:** Grand River Community Church

**Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference:** Rock Chapel

**Prayer Tree Captain:** Alison Rainford

**Welcomers:** Vivian, Havey and Mark Andrews

**Counters:** Norma Martin, Les Frayne