

Melville United Church
Sunday October 22, 2017
20th after Pentecost Sunday

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding Today: Marion Loree

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing the Light

Call to Worship:

In this sacred place we leave behind
the world of thoughtless unanimity

and we hear the voice of God say to each one of us,
I know you by name.

Show us your glory, O God.

In this sacred place we encounter sign and symbol
in font and pulpit, bread broken and shared,

and we hear the voice of God say to us,
My presence goes with you, and I will give you rest.

Show us your glory, O God.

In this sacred place we give thanks
for this community of faith

bound together by a common ministry
and affirmed by God who says
you have found favour in my sight.

Show us your glory, O God.

Come, people of God, let us worship together.

***Hymn:** Let Us Build a House

MV 1

Opening Prayer:

Holy One, we have been called together to do your work,

to be a church with purpose:
faith nurtured and hearts comforted,
gifts shared for the good of all,
resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize,
fierce love in the face of violence,



Melville United Church
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Team Ministry

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care	Rev. Marion Loree
Minister of Faith Formation & Outreach	Jen Auger
Minister of Music:	
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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human dignity defended,

members of a community helped and inspired by God,
corrected and comforted,
instruments of the loving Spirit of Christ,
creation's mending.

**We will need your help, God,
for your way is challenging. Amen.**

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Remember us, O God, when you show favour to your people;

deliver us from our mistakes and wrong choices,
for we, like our ancestors, have trespassed against you.

We have committed iniquities.

We have failed to consider your wonderful works.

We have forgotten your abundance and steadfast love.

We have put you to the test.

Forgive us, God. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Friends, God's glory is wild and everlasting, and God's grace is bountiful and free. Be assured that God's grace and glory cannot be hidden or taken from us, and that we will always be loved by the Great Mystery that is the ground of our being.

Thanks be to God!

Ministry of Music: Where No One Stands Alone

Scripture: Exodus 33:12-23 (*The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Translation*)
(*Moses converses with God*)

Moses said to YHWH, "Look, you have told me to lead this people, but you have never told me who you will send with me. You have said to me, 'I know you by name,' and 'You have found favour with me.' So if I have found favour with you, teach me your ways so that I might truly know you, and that I might find favour in your eyes. Remember that these people are the nation you have chosen as your own."

YHWH replied, "My Presence will go with you. Let this set your mind at ease."

Moses continued, "If your Presence does not come with us, do not

send us from this place. How can it ever be known that we have found favour in your eyes - I, and your people - if you do not accompany us? It is your Presence alone that will mark us - I, and your people - from all others of the people on the earth."

And YHWH said to Moses, "As you have asked, I will do, for you have found favour in my eyes, and I have known you by name."

Then Moses said, "Please, show me your glory!"

YHWH said, "I will make all of my goodness pass before your eyes, and I will pronounce my Name, I AM, in your presence: I will show my grace to whom I will show my grace, and I will show my compassion to whom I will show my compassion. But you cannot see my face, "God continued, "No human can see my face and live."

Then YHWH said, "Look - here is a place beside me, where you can stand on a rock. When my glory passes you, I will place you in a cleft in the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. When I remove my hand you will see my back; but my face, you must not see."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 99 (*paraphrase - James Taylor, Everyday Psalms*)
(*God embodies all that is right & good*)

Raise your sights from the ruts of routine;

look up, look up, to God who stands above everything.

For God is greater than any abstract theory,
any set of principles or moral values.

God embodies all that is right and good.

Whatever is true, honest, and just,

whatever is pure, lovely, and admirable -

if it deserves praise or commendation, it is of God.

But we mortals keep our heads down.

Like ants at a picnic, we busy ourselves with crumbs
and miss the bigger picture.

God is too great for us to grasp.

We know God through the lives of those who have known God.

Our spiritual ancestors

stumbled over God's unexpected presence;

when they stubbed their toes, God forgave them
because they were willing to learn.

God watched over them, guiding their feet.

In God, we find the ultimate example of how we should act towards others.

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 1-10 (*The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Translation*)
(*We always give thanks to God for you*)

From Paul, Silas and Timothy, to the people of the church in Thessalonica, who belong to Abba God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: May grace and peace be yours.

We always thank God for all of you and remember you in our prayers. We call to mind before our God and Creator how you are proving your faith by your actions, labouring in love, and showing constancy of hope in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We know, sisters and brothers beloved of God, that you have been chosen. Our preaching of the Gospel was not a mere matter of words. It was done in the power of the Holy spirit and with complete conviction. You know very well the sort of life we led when we were with you, which was for your sake.

You, in turn, followed the example set by us and by Jesus - receiving the word, despite great trials, with the joy that comes from the Holy spirit. In this way, you've become a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia.

The word of Christ has been resounding from you - and not only in Macedonia and Achaia: the news of your faith in God is celebrated everywhere, which makes it unnecessary for us to say anything more. They themselves report to us what kind of reception we had among you, how you turned from idols to God, to be faithful witnesses of the living and true God, and to await the appearance from heaven of Jesus, the Only Begotten, whom God raised from the dead and who will deliver us from the wrath to come.

Message: 5 Things I Still Believe About Church

Hymn: We Have This Ministry **VU 510**

Offering:

Ministry of Music: Point of Light

***Offering Hymn:** For the Gift of Creation **VU 538**

***Offertory Prayer:**

O God, it is up to us to share the good news of your love.

It is up to us to learn our whole story, as your whole people.

May these gifts empower us and others to do your work.

The work of sharing love and welcoming all who seek to know you.

Amen!

Joys and Concerns:

Prayer Prelude: Holy Sacred Spirit **MV 15**

**Holy sacred Spirit,
breathe your breath on us.**

**Holy sacred Spirit,
breathe your life in us. (Repeat)**

Prayers of the People:

Prayer of Jesus:

***Hymn:** We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song) **VU 595**

***Blessing:**

Go boldly into the world.

Go seek out new ways to be God's holy ones.

Go into the world with God's good news.

You are the message.

Be the message.

Do the message.

Live the message.

As you go know that the love of God,

the peace of Christ,

and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit goes with you.

Amen.

***Parting Song:** You Shall Go Out with Joy **VU 884**

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

Draw closer to us, God our creator, for sometimes in our desire to be accepted and loved, we try to be someone else; forgetting that we are wholly loved and uniquely made. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Central Pentecostal Church

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Central, Welland

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers:

Vivian and Havey Andrews,
Lynne Lamb, Karen Smillie

Counters:

Kaillie Rawn, Lynne Lamb