

Melville United Church
Sunday November 19, 2017
24th Sunday After Pentecost



** 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:

We lift our eyes and raise our hearts

and are met by the Holy Presence in worship.

We stretch out our arms and open our hands

in the hope of finding blessing.

In our stretching, we are met by the kind eyes and warm hands

of companions on the way.

May we be aware of the signs of love

that are always with us.

Come, let us worship the Source of Love together.

***Hymn:** Sing Praise to All (tune **VU 220** -words G. Vosper)

Sing praise to all that has offered us life and sustains us -

All that has opened our hearts to the love borne within us:

Family and friends,

Beauty we see without end -

Gifts that our lives lay before us.

Sing praise to all that has opened our minds to new vistas -

All that has called us to seek out new truths through the ages:

Vision and word,

Music that sought to be heard

These are the gifts that will mold us.

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:	
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
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**Sing praise to minds that will fashion our bold new tomorrows -
 Yesterday's wisdom released from its dogma and credos.
 Evermore free
 To live out what we believe
 Walking the path that life hallows.**

Opening Prayer:

Today and every day,

may we build each other up in love.

Today and every day,

may our faith protect us from utter despair.

Today and every day,

may our love for you and each other strengthen us.

Today and every day,

may our hope in your message of love

give us the courage to follow Christ into the future. Amen.

Prayer for Inner Healing:

Holy Oneness, sometimes we abandon our hopes, our dreams, our plans -

and then get angry when things don't turn out as we had hoped.

Sometimes we leave others in charge of things,

and then put them down for how they took care of it.

Sometimes we are greedy.

Sometimes we give up.

In all these times, and more besides, forgive us, O God.

Your grace saves,

Your compassion gives life,

Your justice restores.

Investing God, call us to risky adventures,

to touch the lives of neighbours and strangers.

In faith, hope and love,

we risk for you. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

God has blessed each one of us with a unique way to contribute.

God offers grace, forgiveness, healing, freedom, talent, life and new life.

Let us embrace the life that God gives.

Theme Conversation:

Hymn: A Place In the Choir

Chorus:

All God's critters got a place in the choir.

Some sing low. Some sing higher.

Some sing out loud on the telephone wire.

And some just clap their hands or paws

or anything they got now.

**Listen to the bass. It's the one on the bottom
 where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
 moans and groans with a big t'do,
 and the old cow just goes "Moo."**

Chorus:

**The dogs and the cats they take up the middle
 while the honey bee hums and the cricket fiddles.
 The donkey brays and pony neighs
 and the old coyote howls.**

Chorus:

**Listen to the top where the little birds sing
 on the melodies with the high notes ringing.
 The hoot owl hollers over ev'ry thing
 and the jay bird disagrees.**

Children's Prayer:**Dear God,****help our lips to praise** (*touch lips*)**help our hands to serve** (*hold out hands*)**help our heart to love** (*fold hands across chest*)**Amen.****Scripture:** Matthew 25:14-29 (*The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Translation*)*(Parable of the talents)*

"Again, it's like a wealthy landowner who was going on a journey and called in three workers, entrusting some funds to them. The first was given five thousand dollars, the second two thousand, and the third one thousand, according to each one's ability. Then the landowner went away. Immediately the worker who received the five thousand went and invested it and made another five. In the same way, the worker who received the two thousand doubled that figure. But the worker who received the one thousand instead went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried the money.

"After a long absence, the traveler returned home and settled accounts with them. The one who had received the five thousand came forward bringing the additional five, saying, 'You entrusted me with five thousand; here are five thousand more.'

"The landowner said, 'Well done! You are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!'

"The one who had received the two thousand then stepped forward with the additional two, saying, 'You entrusted me with two thousand; here are two thousand more.'

"The landowner said to this one, 'Cleverly done! You too are a good and faithful worker. Since you were dependable in a small matter, I will put you in charge of larger affairs. Come, share my joy!'

"Finally the one who had received the one thousand stepped forward and said to the land owner, 'Knowing your ruthlessness - you who reap

where you did not sow and gather where you did not scatter - and fearing your wrath, I went off and buried your thousand dollars in the ground. Here is your money back.'

"The landowner exclaimed, 'You worthless, lazy lout! So you know that I reap where I don't sow and gather where I don't scatter, do you? All the more reason to deposit my money with the bankers, so that on my return I could have had it back with interest! You, there! Take the thousand away from this bum and give it to the one with the ten thousand.'

"Those who have will get more until they grow rich, while those who have not will lose even the little they have."

Responsive Reading: Psalm 121**VU 844***(Where do we look for help?)***Reader:** Graeme Chalmers**Scripture:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*(The Inclusive Bible: the First Egalitarian Translation)**(Build each other up)*

But as to specific times and eras, sisters and brothers, you don't need me to tell you anything - you know very well that the Day of God is coming like a thief in the night. Just when people are saying, "At last we have peace and security." then destruction will fall on them with the suddenness of labour pains, and there will be no escape.

But you, sisters and brothers, are not in the dark. The Day of God will not catch you like a thief. No, you are all children of light and children of the day. We don't belong to the darkness or the night. So let's not be asleep as others are - let's be awake and sober! Those who sleep do so at night, and those who get drunk do so at night. But we belong to the day, so let us be sober. Let us put on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of the hope of salvation.

God has destined us not to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Saviour Jesus Christ, who died for us so that, whether awake or asleep, we might live together with Christ. So encourage each other

and build each other up, just as you're already doing.

Message: Five Things the Church Should Say More

Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide **MV 145**

Offering:

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

***Offertory Prayer:**

We give thanks for this community and for the responsibility of being your people, Great Mystery. Forgive us for the times when we have tucked away and hidden our gifts and talents from the world. As a community of faith, help us to support and encourage each other so that we can share all of our gifts with a world in need. Bless our offerings, both seen and unseen, that they might be a blessing to others. 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:** The Church Is Wherever God's People **VU 579**

***Blessing:**

Go now into a world waiting and in need of what only you can offer.

We go without fear to use our gifts and talents eagerly.

Go, knowing that the love of God, the peace of Christ,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit is with you now - and always!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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

Postlude:

Prayer of the Week:

God, often, despite ourselves, we rise or sink to meet high or low expectations. Help us to create high expectations for ourselves and others, and grant us the stamina and imagination to strive to achieve them. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Unitarian Universalist Association

Prayer Cycle for Hamilton Conference: Dublin St., Guelph

Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Lorna Ziegler, Isabel Weaver,
Joyce Keizerwaard, Diane Maloney

Counters: Norma Martin and Art Russell